

Appendices

[Insert number]



**NORTHAMPTON**  
BOROUGH COUNCIL

Item No.

## CABINET REPORT

<b>Report Title</b>	<b>Housing Strategy 2010 - 2015</b>
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**AGENDA STATUS: PUBLIC**

<b>Cabinet Meeting Date:</b>	9 <sup>th</sup> June 2010
<b>Key Decision:</b>	Yes
<b>Listed on Forward Plan:</b>	Yes
<b>Within Policy:</b>	Yes
<b>Policy Document:</b>	Yes
<b>Directorate:</b>	Housing
<b>Accountable Cabinet Member:</b>	Councillor Sally Beardsworth
<b>Ward(s)</b>	All

### 1. Purpose

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1.1 This report summarises the main priorities of the Housing Strategy 2010-2015.

### 2. Recommendations

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2.1 To approve the Housing Strategy 2010-2015

### 3. Issues and Choices

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#### 3.1 Report Background

3.1.1 The 2006-2011 Housing Strategy focussed on the Council's role as the largest landlord in the Borough and did not give sufficient consideration to the private sector. The Council's landlord function and investment plans are now covered in a separate document, the Housing Asset Management Strategy 2010 - 2015.

3.1.2 The Housing strategy recognises the wider strategic role that Northampton Borough Council has in place shaping, and the co-ordination role to facilitate the delivery of future housing growth and the maintenance of existing dwellings.

### **3.2 Issues**

3.2.1 The Homes and Communities Agency (HCA) want to see authorities working in partnership to inform the 'Single Conversation', and this strategy will help provide the evidence and priorities for Housing in Northampton. This will help shape the West Northamptonshire Local Investment Agreement and Local Investment Plan with the HCA by March 2011.

3.2.2 As part of the wider strategic vision for housing in Northampton, this Housing Strategy will encapsulate the key housing issues from the West Northamptonshire Joint Core Strategy, and also the Council's Central Area Action Plan. This document will provide the detailed actions to help deliver the growth identified in the Joint Core Strategy, in addition to the Affordable Housing and regeneration that is required to transform the town centre area of Northampton.

3.2.3 With a new change of Government, there are possibilities that National housing priorities may change, and this could affect the current priorities set in the Housing Strategy. Until any new announcements, the existing priorities will continue to be progressed. The Housing Strategy Steering Panel will monitor the strategy and part of the terms of reference is to update the Housing Strategy on an annual basis following any changes by Government nationally.

### **3.3 Priorities**

3.3.1 The priorities for the Housing Strategy 2010-2015 are as follows:

- Managing supply and growth for the future of Northampton;
- Create resilient and cohesive communities;
- Deliver well-designed, high quality homes, neighbourhoods and services; and
- Improve customer access, opportunity and choice

## **4. Implications (including financial implications)**

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### **4.1 Policy**

4.1.1 This strategy pulls together all the main strategies within the Housing Directorate, and assists in understanding the links between the National, Regional and Sub-regional issues. From a housing perspective the key documents it relates to are the Housing Asset Management Strategy 2010-2015 and the Homelessness Strategy 2008-2013.

## **4.2 Resources and Risk**

4.2.1 All of the key objectives within the Housing Strategy have financial budgets in place to deliver them or have external funding to support them. Certain key objectives will be delivered with existing staffing budgets.

## **4.3 Legal**

4.3.1 There are no legal issues arising from the development of the Housing Strategy

## **4.4 Equality**

4.4.1 A Full Equality Impact Assessment has been carried out and the actions are contained within the Housing Strategy Action Plan.

## **4.5 Consultees (Internal and External)**

4.5.1 As part of the development of this strategy and the consultation process, the following have been engaged:

- Portfolio Holder for Housing (Copy of Draft Strategy)
- Director of Housing (Copy of Draft Strategy)
- Director of Planning & Regeneration (Copy of Draft Strategy)
- Director of Finance (Copy of Draft Strategy)
- Borough Solicitor (Copy of Draft Strategy)
- Managers (Visioning Days at Managers Session in March 2009)
- Members of the public (Housing Strategy Launch Event, 12-week consultation period)
- External Stakeholders (E-mailed a copy of the Draft Strategy, but also used the workshop events before the 12-week consultation period started)

4.5.2 In Appendix 4 of the Housing Strategy, there is a detailed section on the consultation process, with a table of the comments received as part of the entire consultation period.

## **4.6 How the Proposals deliver Priority Outcomes**

4.6.1 Priority 2 – Housing Health and Wellbeing  
Priority 4 – Partnerships and Community Engagement

## **4.7 Other Implications**

4.7.1 None

## **5. Background Papers**

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5.1 Northampton Borough Council Housing Strategy 2010-2015

**Gary Parsons, Housing Strategy Manager, x7970**