

<h1>BRIEFING</h1>	TO:	Ian Spicer, Director of Adult Care, Public Health, and Housing Directorate Leadership Team
	DATE:	12/09/24
	LEAD OFFICER:	James Clark, Assistant Director of Housing Sarah Watts, Strategic Housing Manager, Strategic Housing and Development
	TITLE:	Delegated Officer Decision: Housing Strategy Consultation 2025-28 (retrospective decision)

1. Background

1.1	<p>Rotherham’s 30-year vision for housing was established in 2013; and the Housing Strategy is refreshed every three years to ensure priorities reflect current views.</p> <p>The Housing Strategy 2022-2025 is the fourth chapter of the 30-year strategy. It was approved by Cabinet in June 2022 and published in July 2022. This strategy is due to expire early 2025 so a review is required.</p> <p>Good progress has been made against the current three-year strategy period, but the landscape of the housing sector has seen huge change over the past three years, particularly in relation to the cost of living, increased demand on services, market response, regulation and the overall cost of developing new homes.</p> <p>There is currently no specific requirement to seek permission from Cabinet to commence consultation with the public in preparation for a strategy refresh. However, the 30-Year Housing Strategy was approved by cabinet in 2012 to align with the HRA Business Plan until 2043, and it was agreed at that time that this would be refreshed every three years.</p> <p>Cabinet Report: Housing Strategy 21 November 2012</p> <p>Following discussions with Cabinet member it was agreed that consultation should commence quickly to ensure momentum continues to address such issues.</p>
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2. Key Issues

<p>The refresh of the Housing Strategy requires a significant period of research and consultation. A minimum 12-week formal consultation period is required for any key strategy or policy. Consultation on the Housing Strategy will be captured via an online public survey, supplemented with feedback from attendance at internal / external meetings, forums, targeted focus groups, and data analysis.</p> <p>The landscape of the Housing Sector has seen huge change over the past three years, particularly in relation to the cost of living, increased demand on services, market response, regulation, and the overall cost of developing new homes.</p> <p>A General Election has just concluded, and a period of policy change is expected to follow. This is likely to add to the economic uncertainty, so it is prudent to allow time for any change to be understood and reflected in the new strategy.</p>
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Following the implementation of the Social Housing White Paper, the Housing Service is now subject to a new inspection regime, and preparation for this is adding significant pressure on all service areas.

Options were presented to Cabinet Member for Housing, Cllr Allen 26th July 2024.

1. Refresh the current strategy and commence consultation immediately – complete within a 9 month period.
2. Refresh the current strategy and commence consultation immediately – complete within 15-18 months. Includes an extended period of consultation but leaves a gap between chapters.
3. Extend the current strategy principles for a further 12 months to allow for socialisation at cabinet prior to consultation. The refreshed strategy would be delayed by at least 18 months, leaving a significant gap.
4. Refresh the strategy without consultation.

Consultation is key to developing a strategy that reflects the needs of the borough. Cabinet Member supported the option to consult; ensuring delivery can continue against the current priorities, whilst leaving sufficient time to thoroughly consult the public and partners.

James Clark, Assistant Director for Housing approved the decision to consult.

3. Next steps

DLT should note that the decision to consult has been made and that a retrospective Officer Decision will be submitted (Appendix 1).

Appendix 1.



ROTHERHAM METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL RECORD OF OFFICER EXECUTIVE DECISION

Date of Decision:	26 th June 2024
Title:	Housing Strategy 2025-2028 Consultation
Decision Maker:	James Clark, Assistant Director of Housing
Details of Specific Cabinet Delegation or Delegation contained in the relevant Sub-Scheme of Delegation.	The 30-Year Housing Strategy was approved by cabinet in 2012 to align with the HRA Business Plan until 2043, and it was agreed that this would be refreshed every three years. Cabinet Report: Housing Strategy 21 November 2012
Decision:	Refresh the current strategy and commence consultation immediately – complete within 15-18 months.

Reasons for the Decision:	<p>Rotherham's 30-year vision for housing was established in 2013; and the Housing Strategy is refreshed every three years to ensure priorities reflect current views.</p> <p>The Housing Strategy 2022-2025 is the fourth chapter of the 30-year strategy. It was approved by Cabinet in June 2022 and published in July 2022.</p> <p>Good progress has been made against the current three-year strategy period but the landscape of the housing sector has seen huge change over the past three years, particularly in relation to the cost of living, increased demand on services, market response, regulation and the overall cost of developing new homes. Following discussions with Cabinet member it was agreed that consultation should commence quickly to ensure momentum continues to address such issues.</p>
Details of alternative options considered and rejected:	Refresh the current strategy without consultation.
Conflicts of interest declared by any Cabinet Member consulted by the decision maker which relates to the decision:	None
Dispensations Granted: (If any)	None
Reports or parts of reports considered	None

I certify that this is a true record of the executive decision to

add the decision again here, or if the decision text is very long, a sentence that provides a summary overview of the decision.

Signed by the Decision Maker

Dated: / / (DLT)

Name: James Clark

Job Title: Assistant Director of Housing

If you require any assistance in the completion of the decision record please contact the Governance Team governance@rotherham.gov.uk