

Extract from minutes of the Cabinet meeting on 18 March 2015

60. A New Housing Strategy for Colchester

The Head of Commercial Services submitted a report a copy of which had been circulated to each Member.

Councillor Bourne, Portfolio Holder for Housing and Public Protection, introduced the report and stressed the importance of the Housing Strategy. It was a key strategic document that set out how the Council would meet housing need in the borough. The Council needed to provide a range of types and tenures of housing to meet the diverse housing needs of residents. The Strategy set out how these needs would be met by the Council and its partners. It had been developed through working in partnership and the Housing Strategy Partnership had identified a number of priorities to underpin the Strategy. Particular attention was drawn to the following priorities:-

- Improve the life chances of Colchester's residents including their health and well-being;
- Work to ensure that existing and new homes are healthy, safe and energy efficient.

RESOLVED that:-

- (a) The new Housing Strategy for Colchester for 2015 to 2020 be adopted.
- (b) The Housing Strategy Delivery Plan 2015 to 2020 be adopted.

RECOMMENDED TO COUNCIL that the Housing Strategy be adopted as part of the Council's Policy Framework.

REASONS

The Council has a statutory responsibility to produce and publish a Housing Strategy based on a review of housing in the borough.

ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS

To not adopt the Housing Strategy. There are however clear risks to not having a robust evidence based strategy in place such as not achieving local priorities, not being able to evidence and articulate Colchester Borough Council's wider vision for

housing and not providing a strong focus to our partners about their contribution to meeting our priorities.