

19/55
DECISION
NOW MADE



Notice of KEY Executive Decision

Subject Heading:	Housing Delivery Test Action Plan
Cabinet Member:	Councillor Damian White Leader of the Council
SLT Lead:	Sue Harper Interim Director of Neighbourhoods
Report Author and contact details:	Tim Solomon - Planner, Planning Policy Tel. 01708432237 Email. Tim.Solomon@haverling.gov.uk
Policy context:	National Planning Policy Framework (2019) London Plan (2015 - Consolidated with alterations) Havering Local Development Framework (2008) Havering Corporate Plan (2019/2020) Havering Local Plan submission version (2018) Havering Local Plan Submission version with tracked changes (Jan 2019) Housing Position Statement May 2019: Technical Update
Financial summary:	There are no direct financial implications as a result of publication of the Housing Delivery Test Action Plan. The actions identified are already part of the Council's work programme or are able to be

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	implemented as part of the normal operation of the policy planning team.
Reason decision is Key	Significant effect on two or more Wards
Date notice given of intended decision:	28 June 2019
Relevant OSC:	Towns and Communities
Is it an urgent decision?	No
Is this decision exempt from being called-in?	No

The subject matter of this report deals with the following Council Objectives

Communities making Havering	✓
Places making Havering	✓
Opportunities making Havering	✓
Connections making Havering	✓

Part A – Report seeking decision

DETAIL OF THE DECISION REQUESTED AND RECOMMENDED ACTION

1.0 Background

1.1 The Government has introduced a new National Planning Policy Framework 2019 (NPPF) which includes a 'Housing Delivery Test' (HDT). The HDT serves as a mechanism to monitor housing delivery locally and set out consequences for local planning authorities that fail to deliver sufficient homes. The test measures net additional homes delivered against the local requirements for new homes resulting in a percentage of delivery and reflects the Government's emphasis on housing delivery as a key national priority.

1.2 In line with Government requirements, the HDT focusses on **overall** housing delivery against the relevant housing target for an authority. For Havering, this is the current London Plan annual target of 1,170 new homes per year). The HDT does **not** require that matters of tenure (including affordable housing), dwelling mix and size are addressed in the HDT assessment. For information, and although not linked directly to the HDT, these matters have been addressed in detail in Section 5 of the Council's Housing Position Statement 2019: Technical Update. This is a key document in the suite of documents supporting the Havering Local Plan and was submitted to the Examination for the Local Plan. The Housing Position Statement will inform the review of the Local Plan which is expected to start soon after its adoption in line with the comments of the Inspector at the Local Plan Examination in Public.

1.3 One of the consequences of the HDT is that Local Planning Authorities whose delivery over the previous 3 years is less than 95% of their housing targets are required to prepare and publish an Action Plan which identifies reasons for under-delivery, explores ways to reduce the risk of under-delivery and sets out measure the authority intends to take to improve levels of delivery.

1.4 Havering's housing delivery for the three years between 2015/16 and 2017/18 has been less than 95% of its housing targets and therefore an Action Plan has been prepared. The Action Plan sets out the barriers for housing delivery which are not just experienced by Havering but many other local authorities throughout the country. It also outlines the current and future actions the Council is taking as part of its proactive and comprehensive approach to improving the delivery of high quality, sustainable homes in the borough. Much of the information and actions contained within the Action Plan have been drawn from the Housing Implementation Strategy in the Housing Position Statement 2019 which forms part of the Council's evidence base for its emerging Local Plan.

2.0 Recommendation

2.1 The attached Housing Action Plan is approved and published on the Council Website.

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AUTHORITY UNDER WHICH DECISION IS MADE

3.0 Authority for this decision is contained within Part 3, section 2.5 of the Constitution which delegates to individual Cabinet members the ability to (q) agree minor matters and urgent or routine policy matters and (r) approve supplementary planning guidance and policies.

STATEMENT OF THE REASONS FOR THE DECISION

4.0 There is a requirement to publish this Action Plan in accordance with the National Planning Policy Framework 2019.

OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED

5.0 There is a requirement to publish this Action Plan in accordance with the National Planning Policy Framework 2019.

PRE-DECISION CONSULTATION

Briefing with Leader. Themed Board. Relevant Senior Officers.

NAME AND JOB TITLE OF STAFF MEMBER ADVISING THE DECISION-MAKER

Name: Tim Solomon

Designation: Planner

Signature: 

Date: 7/8/19.

Part B - Assessment of implications and risks

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS AND RISKS

6.0 Paragraph 75 of the National Planning Policy Framework 2019 states that where the Housing Delivery Test indicates that delivery has fallen below 95% of the local planning authorities housing requirement over the previous three years, the authority should prepare an action plan in line with national planning guidance.

6.1 Paragraph 073 of the Housing and economic land availability assessment guidance (ID: 3-073-20180913) states that the action plan should be published within 6 months of the publication of the Housing Delivery Test results.

6.2 Havering's delivery has fallen below 95% of its housing requirement and therefore a Housing Delivery Test Action Plan should be published.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS AND RISKS

7.0 The Housing Delivery Test Action Plan contains actions that are either already underway or are able to be undertaken as part of the planning policy work programme. Currently there is no budget allocation for work on the policy planning work programme. £0.600m has been identified from the Business Risk Reserve for 2019/20. Any costs associated with the work above £0.600m will be met from existing resources. Approval is being sought corporately for the funding of future years. No work beyond this financial year will be commissioned unless and until additional funding has been agreed.

HUMAN RESOURCES IMPLICATIONS AND RISKS (AND ACCOMMODATION IMPLICATIONS WHERE RELEVANT)

8.0 Whilst some of the actions identified in the Housing Delivery Test Action Plan will be able to be undertaken within the constraints of current staff resources, due to the nature of the work that is required to be undertaken there may be a requirement for some of the work to be undertaken by external consultants who will be engaged via an appropriate procurement route using the Councils existing procedures and in line with the financial implications set out above.

EQUALITIES AND SOCIAL INCLUSION IMPLICATIONS AND RISKS

9.0 The Public Sector Equality Duty (PSED) under section 149 of the Equality Act 2010 requires the Council, when exercising its functions, to have due regard to:

- (i) the need to eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other conduct that is prohibited by or under the Equality Act 2010;

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- (ii) the need to advance equality of opportunity between persons who share protected characteristics and those who do not, and;
- (iii) foster good relations between those who have protected characteristics and those who do not.

9.1 Note: 'Protected characteristics' are: age, sex, race, disability, sexual orientation, marriage and civil partnerships, religion or belief, pregnancy and maternity and gender reassignment.

9.2 The Council is committed to all of the above in the provision, procurement and commissioning of its services, and the employment of its workforce. In addition, the Council is also committed to improving the quality of life and wellbeing for all Havering residents in respect of socio-economics and health determinants.

9.3. Where actions identified in the Housing Delivery Test Action Plan impact on people, equality impact assessments are either already in place or will be developed as the projects progress, if they have an impact on people.

9.4 In particular, a full Equality Impact Assessment was undertaken of the Local Plan as set out in the Cabinet and Council reports for the Submission Havering Local Plan in March 2018. This concluded that there were no known negative equalities implications on protected persons listed in the Equality Act 2010.

9.4 The Submission Local Plan provides the Council with a strategic framework to help deliver a range of outcomes including new homes, jobs, local economic growth and improved social infrastructure for all residents across Havering including those who share the characteristics protected by the Equality Act 2010. As such ensuring that the Local Plan has addressed these has been a priority in its preparation throughout the process since 2015. As the Local Plan has a key role in influencing the built environment and how people use it, a key aspect of the EIA is to ensure that access issues for people with disabilities is considered.

9.5 The Housing Delivery Test Action Plan identifies a number of actions that form part of the planning work programme outlined in the Local Development Scheme (LDS). As work progresses on forthcoming documents listed in the LDS further review and updating as necessary of the equalities impact assessment will take place.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

None

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Part C – Record of decision

I have made this executive decision in accordance with my authority as the Leader of the Council and in compliance with the requirements of the Constitution.

Decision

Proposal agreed

Details of decision maker

Signed



Name: Councillor Damian White

Title: The Leader

Date: 15 August 2019

Lodging this notice

The signed decision notice must be delivered to the proper officer, Debra Marlow, Principal Democratic Services Officer in Democratic Services, in the Town Hall.

For use by Committee Administration

This notice was lodged with me on 15/8/2019

Signed

