

Report to:	EXECUTIVE
Relevant Officer:	Andrew Foot, Head of Housing
Relevant Cabinet Member	Councillor Mrs Christine Wright, Cabinet Member for Housing
Date of Meeting	17 July 2017

HOUSING PLAN FOR THE AGEING POPULATION

1.0 Purpose of the report:

- 1.1 To consider the final version of a new strategy that seeks to ensure that people in Blackpool have appropriate and safe housing as they grow older.

2.0 Recommendation(s):

- 2.1 To adopt the Housing Plan for the Ageing Population.

3.0 Reasons for recommendation(s):

- 3.1 To initiate action by the Council and its partners to deliver the right housing and support for older residents.

- 3.2a Is the recommendation contrary to a plan or strategy adopted or approved by the Council? No

- 3.2b Is the recommendation in accordance with the Council's approved budget? Yes

- 3.3 Other alternative options to be considered:

Not to approve the policy which would result in the Council not having a cross-cutting plan for housing and related services for older people in Blackpool.

4.0 Council Priority:

- 4.1 The relevant Council Priority is:

“Communities: Creating stronger communities and increasing resilience”

5.0 Background Information

- 5.1 The Council's Housing Strategy team has led the development of an older persons housing strategy – Blackpool Council's Housing Plan for the Ageing Population 2017-2020 by working in partnership with key stakeholders, including Adult Social Care, Blackpool Coastal Housing and Public Health. The strategy sets out a plan for the future provision of housing for older people, enabling them to live independently and healthily. Resulting actions should help reduce the need for social care and acute health services, helping housing providers to understand what is needed and setting a clear framework that encourages appropriate investment.
- 5.2 The Vision for the strategy is "To promote individual well-being, good health and aspirations for older people in Blackpool by shaping future services to meet their needs. To co-ordinate accommodation and housing related support enabling older people to maintain their independence and improving the overall quality of life experience". Associated outcomes that we are seeking to achieve are:
1. All older people living in Blackpool have access to warm, safe, secure and affordable homes which enables them to live independently wherever possible.
 2. Information and advice is available to all older people empowering them to make appropriate lifestyle choices.
 3. Homes and neighbourhoods meet the current and future needs of Blackpool's older population and supports independence, health and wellbeing.
- 5.3 To achieve these outcomes there are six objectives driving Blackpool Council's Housing Plan for the Ageing Population:
1. Ensure residents have access to clear and accurate information on housing options and support services so they are able to make informed decisions on their future needs.
 2. Deliver cost effective housing related services in a more co-ordinated way for older people
 3. Ensure general housing needs stock meets the changing needs and aspirations of older people
 4. Ensure older people's homes continue to meet their needs by providing appropriate support and provisions of care
 5. Improve and make better use of existing sheltered housing stock designed specifically for older people
 6. Provide a strategic framework for commissioning new specialist housing to meet the growing needs and aspirations of older people

5.4 Key actions have been developed against each objective area and are set out in Annex 2 of the Plan. As the Plan seeks to establish the coordination of services around housing for older people, it is important that there are effective arrangements in place to ensure that actions are delivered, and delivery will be subject to oversight by corporate governance arrangements for the Council Plan. Improving housing is the first priority of the Blackpool Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2016, so it is expected that delivery will also be monitored by the new Integrated Commissioning Board under the Health and Wellbeing Board.

5.5 Does the information submitted include any exempt information? No

5.6 **List of Appendices:**

Appendix 3a - Housing Plan for the Ageing Population 2017-2020, together with Annex 1 (Older Person’s Consultation) and Annex 2 (Action Plan) of the plan.

Appendix 3b - Equality Impact Assessment

6.0 **Legal considerations:**

6.1 This high-level Plan seeks to develop actions that would help meet obligations under a range of legislation, including the Care Act 2014, Housing Act 2004, and the Homelessness Reduction Act 2017, but does not set out any specific changes to services that would jeopardise the Council’s ability to continue to meet its statutory responsibilities. The Plan seeks to use established powers from the Council’s role as a Strategic Housing Authority.

7.0 **Human Resources considerations:**

7.1 There are no specific proposals that place additional pressure on human resources within the Council. The Plan seeks to align activity so that demand for acute services is reduced.

8.0 **Equalities considerations:**

8.1 An Equality Impact Assessment has been completed and is attached at Appendix 3b. This found that no one with any of the protected characteristics should be adversely affected by the new Plan. Given the focus of the Plan, people who are older should benefit significantly from improved coordination of services and investment to meet their housing needs.

9.0 Financial considerations:

9.1 The actions arising from the Plan are intended to make better use of available revenue resources and where appropriate to stimulate further capital investment by housing providers. The Plan reflects the current resources available to the Council and its partners and makes no specific commitments of further resources. Any new developments or services that are designed as a result of the Plan will each need to ensure that they are financially sustainable before commitments are made.

10.0 Risk management considerations:

10.1 The Plan seeks to ensure better coordination of services and capital investment to help support increasing numbers of older residents. Without this coordination there would be a risk of fragmented services and lost opportunities for appropriate housing to mitigate the pressures on health and social services.

11.0 Ethical considerations:

11.1 The Plan reflects the Council's values and corporate priorities to improve support for its most vulnerable residents.

12.0 Internal/ External Consultation undertaken:

12.1 As part of the development of the Plan, two events with residents and stakeholders were facilitated by the Infusion in-house research team in September 2016. Details are set out in Annex 1 of the Plan.

A consultation draft Plan was subject to public consultation for six weeks and further discussion with key stakeholders. There were few changes to the focus of the Plan as a result but it did lead to further development of the actions.

The development of the Plan has also been reported at key stages to the former Strategic Commissioning Group of the Blackpool Health and Wellbeing Board.

13.0 Background papers:

13.1 None

14.0 Key decision information:

14.1 Is this a key decision? Yes

14.2 If so, Forward Plan reference number: 4/2017

14.3 If a key decision, is the decision required in less than five days? No

14.4 If **yes**, please describe the reason for urgency:

15.0 Call-in information:

15.1 Are there any grounds for urgency, which would cause this decision to be exempt from the call-in process? No

15.2 If **yes**, please give reason:

TO BE COMPLETED BY THE HEAD OF DEMOCRATIC GOVERNANCE

16.0 Scrutiny Committee Chairman (where appropriate):

Date informed: 7 July 2017 Date approved:

17.0 Declarations of interest (if applicable):

17.1

18.0 Executive decision:

18.1

18.2 Date of Decision:

19.0 Reason(s) for decision:

19.1 Date Decision published:

20.0 Executive Members in attendance:

20.1

21.0 Call-in:

21.1

22.0 Notes:

22.1