



To: Cabinet
Date: 12 August 2020
Report of: Housing and Homelessness Panel
Title of Report: Housing Delivery Plan

Summary and recommendations	
Purpose of report:	To present Housing and Homelessness Panel recommendations concerning the Housing Delivery Plan
Key decision:	Yes
Scrutiny Lead Member:	Councillor Nadine Bely-Summers, Chair of the Housing and Homelessness Panel
Cabinet Member:	Councillor Alex Hollingsworth, Cabinet Member for Planning and Housing Delivery
Corporate Priority:	Meeting Housing Needs
Policy Framework:	Oxford Local Plan 2036
Recommendation: That the Cabinet states whether it agrees or disagrees with the recommendation in the body of this report.	

Appendices
None

Introduction and overview

1. At its meeting on 03 August 2020, the Housing and Homelessness Panel considered the report to Cabinet regarding the Housing Delivery Plan, detailing the Council's plans as to how it would encourage delivery of its planned housing requirement.
2. The Panel would like to thank Councillor Alex Hollingsworth for attending the meeting and presenting the report, Caroline Ploszynski, Planning Policy and Place Manager, for authoring the report and supporting the meeting, and Tom Rice, Principal Planner for co-authoring the report.

Summary and recommendation

3. Councillor Alex Hollingsworth, Cabinet Member for Planning and Housing Delivery, introduced the report. A Housing Delivery Plan was a government requirement for councils whose housing completions were below 95% of their housing requirement over the past three years. It was unclear whether the Council fell into this category because central government to date had been unable to clarify which historical measures the Council should be measured against. Regardless of whether it was mandated by central government or not, the Council had decided to develop one. Doing so had proven a particularly useful exercise in making clear the importance of ensuring the sites identified for development in the Local Plan are indeed completed; to meet its housing requirement (not including the unmet need met by neighbouring councils) Oxford would have to see 100% of its sites developed each year to 2036. The main housing sources arose from the Council, Oxford University, colleges within the University, and private developers, and the plan sought to identify and defuse any barriers to delivery before they could result in a shortfall in housing delivery.
4. The Panel raised questions regarding the actions being taken to support the delivery of specific sites, the reasons behind the significant disparity between the Council's delivery on different measures, levels of response to the Council's outreach activity, and the impact of possible future changes to the planning system.
5. In response to the report presented the Committee wished it to be formally expressed that it was impressed by the detail and effort that was being taken to ensure planned houses were completed, and that it commends the report.
6. The Panel makes one recommendation, requesting additional detail over timelines for activity.

Timelines for Activity

7. The Panel recognised that Covid-19 had caused widespread disruption and significant uncertainty. That disruption manifested itself in delays to the delivery of, and a reduction in the specificity of the Council's plans as referenced in Table 2 of the report: Programme of engagement and progress to date. The Panel was informed Covid impacts had necessitated a prioritisation within the programme of engagement, focusing primarily on individual meetings with developers. Whilst prioritisation measures were an appropriate and indeed correct course of action, it was suggested by Panel members that remote working had had time to become normalised and that it would be beneficial to all stakeholders were the Council to indicate the dates by which paused activity would be recommenced. The Panel recommends that this is done.

Recommendation 1: That the Council updates its programme of engagement and progress to date to include dates for commencement of paused activities.

Further Consideration

8. It is not anticipated that the Panel will seek further consideration of this item.

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Cabinet response to recommendations of the Housing and Homelessness Panel made on 03/08/2020 concerning the Housing Delivery Plan

Provided by the Cabinet Member for Planning and Housing Delivery, Councillor Alex Hollingsworth

<i>Recommendation</i>	<i>Agree?</i>	<i>Comment</i>
1) That the Council updates its programme of engagement and progress to date to include dates for recommencement of paused activities	Yes	Previously paused workstreams are restarting over the next few weeks, and the updated information on these will be added to the Housing Delivery Test Action Plan before submitting to MHCLG