

To: Cabinet
Date: 15 March 2023
Report of: Housing and Homelessness Panel
Title of Report: Housing, Homelessness, and Rough Sleeping Strategy 2023-28

Summary and recommendations	
Purpose of report:	To present Panel of the Scrutiny Committee recommendations for Cabinet consideration and decision
Key decision:	Yes
Scrutiny Lead Member:	Cllr Paula Dunne, Panel Chair
Cabinet Member:	Cllr Linda Smith, Cabinet Member for Housing
Corporate Priority:	Deliver more, affordable housing; Support thriving communities
Policy Framework:	Council Strategy 2020-24
Recommendation: That the Cabinet states whether it agrees or disagrees with the recommendations in the body of this report.	

Appendices	
Appendix A	Draft Cabinet response to recommendations of the Scrutiny Committee

Introduction and overview

1. The Housing and Homelessness Panel met on 13 March 2023 to consider a report on the Housing, Homelessness, and Rough Sleeping Strategy 2023-2028. The report recommends that Cabinet notes the progress made to develop the Strategy and the Action Plan for Oxford following the statutory public consultation; recommends the adoption of the Strategy and its associated appendices; recommends to Council the adoption of the Strategy's Action Plan for 23-24; recommends to Council that authority be delegated to the Executive Director (Communities and People), in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Housing, to update the Action Plan when required.

Summary and recommendations

2. The Panel was grateful to Cllr Linda Smith, Cabinet Member for Housing, to Amie Rickatson, Strategy and Service Development Manager, as well as to other officers for attending to present the report and to answer the Panel's questions.
3. The Strategy and Service Development Manager introduced the report and the Executive Director (Communities and People) drew the Panel's attention to the fact that its recommendations relating to the draft Strategy in October 2022 had been accepted and incorporated. Cllr Smith congratulated officers for the work that was evident in the Strategy and for the success of the public consultation which had seen over 100 responses received as well as 60 individuals, representing 27 different organisations, attend different stakeholder events.
4. The Panel commended the breadth and depth of the strategy and was pleased that its previous recommendations, on the draft Strategy, had been accepted. The Panel recognised that there were a great number of different elements to why particular targets were adopted and that the rationale behind each one was multi-faceted. However, the Panel noted that the Council states that "by the end of this strategy period, we are seeking to ... Let the majority of the Council's new affordable homes at a social rent level, approximately 40% of the market rent."
5. The Panel recognised that there was an element of elasticity in the definition of 'majority' but considered that consideration should be given to how the Council might be able to consider moving towards having a greater proportion of the Council's new affordable homes let at a social rent level than a simple majority.

Recommendation 1: That the Council works with OX Place to consider how it might move towards having a higher percentage of new homes let at social rent level than a simple majority.

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