

Committee(s): Housing Management and Almshouses Sub-Committee – For Decision Community and Children’s Services Committee – For Decision	Dated: 03/06/2024 05/07/2024
Subject: Housing Strategy 2025-2029	Public
Which outcomes in the City Corporation’s Corporate Plan does this proposal aim to impact directly?	1, 2, 3, 4, 9,10, 11,12
Does this proposal require extra revenue and/or capital spending?	N
If so, how much?	N/A
What is the source of Funding?	N/A
Has this Funding Source been agreed with the Chamberlain’s Department?	N/A
Report of: Judith Finlay, Executive Director Children and Community Services	For Decision
Report author: Gerri Scott, Housing Consultant	

Summary

The purpose of this report is to present the draft Housing Strategy 2024-2029 for approval. The Housing Strategy outlines the City of London Corporation’s vision for the successful delivery of housing services to residents of social housing and future supply of new housing.

The strategy focuses on improving the quality of housing services, improving housing quality, engaging, and listening to residents, improving building safety, and increasing the supply of housing.

The strategy aligns with national housing priorities and aims to address the challenges posed by the housing crisis, particularly in terms of affordability, quality, and safety.

Key priorities include improving customer service, investing in repairs and maintenance, engaging residents in decision-making, ensuring compliance with building safety regulations, and increasing the supply of affordable housing.

The strategy also emphasises the need for ongoing monitoring and governance to track progress and ensure accountability for the delivery of actions.

Recommendations

Members are asked to:

- Approve the Housing Strategy
- Agree that oversight and scrutiny of delivery is via an annual report setting out progress against each of the priorities. This report should be presented to the Community and Children's Services Grand Committee.

Main Report

Background

The previous housing strategy ended in 2023 and the new Housing Strategy sets out the City of London Corporation's vision for the successful delivery of housing services to social housing residents and the supply of new housing.

The strategy aligns to national housing priorities and provides clear strategic direction for housing services.

Five draft priorities were developed in consultation with members, officers, and residents. The draft priorities were presented for consultation via an online questionnaire, two webinars with residents, and staff consultation events.

Current Position

There was broad consensus from both residents and staff that the draft priorities reflected the main areas of focus for housing from the customer and colleague perspective.

The online questionnaire attracted 58 responses from residents, with the main themes being improving the repairs and maintenance service, both day-to-day and long-term investment in homes, and improving customer service.

The strategy includes actions to achieve the delivery of each of the priorities. It is recommended that oversight of the housing strategy delivery should be via an annual monitoring report to the Community and Children's Services Grand Committee.

Corporate & Strategic Implications

Strategic implications – The Housing Strategy aligns to the aspirations of the Corporate Plan, which sets the overarching context for the City of London Corporation's ambition for its existing and future housing provision and service delivery.

Financial implications - None

Resource implications – None

Legal implications - None

Risk implications - None

Equalities implications – Consultation around the priorities for the Housing Strategy was inclusive and open to a wide and diverse audience who had an opportunity to participate via an online questionnaire, webinar, or face-to-face. The Housing Strategy sets out our ambition to ensure that housing services are inclusive, fair and equitable, with a particular focus on supporting residents with vulnerabilities.

Climate implications – the Housing Strategy notes the importance of achieving net zero in all new build housing, reducing emissions in existing housing, and sustainable energy efficient solutions in retrofitting.

Security implications - None

Conclusion

The Housing Strategy sets out the ambition for the City of London Corporation's housing services over the next 5 years within the context of the new external regulatory framework.

It builds upon the current transformation programme and provides a clear focus and direction for the successful delivery of housing services.

Appendices

- Appendix 1 – Housing Strategy 2024-2029

Gerri Scott
Housing Consultant

T: 07973 507286

E: gerri.scott@cityoflondon.gov.uk

