

CABINET DECISIONS ON REPORTS PREVIOUSLY CONSIDERED BY THE COMMUNITIES AND PLACE OSC

The following report was presented to the OSC on 3 July 2019 for comment prior to determination by the Cabinet on 9 July 2019.

The following is an extract from those Cabinet minutes:

Housing Strategy for Northumberland 2019-21

The report presented members with the draft Housing Strategy for Northumberland 2019-2021, providing details of the proposed strategic objectives for the Council's Housing Service for the following three years (copy attached to the signed minutes as Appendix A, along with the report of the Communities and Place OSC).

Councillor Riddle introduced the report, highlighting the main priorities behind the Strategy of affordable housing, a greater range of supported housing for those with additional needs and making better use of existing housing stock. The Strategy set out how these aims would be met, and he advised that officers were already looking for potential sites in areas where they were needed, and at how S106 agreements with developers could be used to further this.

Councillor Jackson advised that the Authority was the first in the north of England to declare a building programme of Council housing. This would help people to find affordable homes and would provide a supply of adequate housing for the ageing population in their own communities.

The Scrutiny report had made reference to differing views on the timeframe for the Plan. The Leader suggested that the Plan be for a four year term if the portfolio holder agreed, and Councillor Riddle confirmed that this was acceptable.

Councillor Oliver commented that the focus was on individual communities and designing specific solutions for them, which was very important.

Councillor Jones felt it was important that people living with physical disabilities or mental health issues also had access to housing which was appropriate to their needs.

RESOLVED that:-

- (a) the draft Housing Strategy, which outlined Northumberland's housing vision, priorities and ambitions, be approved; and
- (b) the report of the Communities and Place OSC be noted, and the Strategy be for a four year term.