

# Report to Overview and Scrutiny Committee

**Date of meeting: 21 November 2023**

**Portfolio: Leader of the Council (Cllr Chris Whitbread)**  
**Subject: Place Delivery Strategy for Epping Forest**



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## Recommendations/Decisions Required:

- 1) To consider the attached draft Place Delivery Strategy for Epping Forest District and make such comments as the Committee considers appropriate for the Council's Cabinet to consider at its meeting on 18 December 2023.**

## Report:

1. The Council has a range of roles and responsibilities in providing services to the community of Epping Forest District. It also has a range of land and property assets ranging from social housing through to commercial properties and open spaces. How it manages and uses those land and property assets in the short, medium and long term is a critical component in achieving the Council's ambitions for Epping Forest District.
2. The purpose of developing a Place Delivery Strategy for Epping Forest District is to provide a 'high-level' corporate framework which draws on a range of existing and plans and strategies in order to support the delivery of the Council's ambitions through the use of its land and property holdings. It also provides the opportunity moving forward to inform the development of other plans and strategies which are relevant to the use of those land and property assets whether they are within its direct ownership or through its delivery arm Qualis.
3. The draft Place Delivery Strategy is intended to support the delivery of the place-based ambitions of the Council and its partners. A number of plans and strategies have informed the development of the draft Place Delivery Strategy for Epping Forest including:
  - Your Epping Forest: The Corporate Plan for 2023 -2027
  - Epping Forest District Local Plan 2011-2033
  - Epping Forest Health and Well-being Strategy 2022-2026
  - Climate Change Action Plan
  - Housing Strategy 2023 – 2027
  - Nurturing Growth 2020-2025
4. The draft Place Delivery Strategy identifies approaches that the Council proposes to take forward in managing its property and land assets either directly or through Qualis.
5. The draft Place Delivery Strategy will be considered by the Council's Cabinet at its meeting on 18 December 2023 for endorsement. The Council will then develop an Action Plan which will set out the activities needed to take forward the implementation of the Strategy including how the 'Place Plans' referred to in the draft Strategy will be developed. The Action Plan will also identify any relevant operational practices which may need to be reviewed to support the delivery of the draft Strategy and the

processes for doing so.

6. It is important to note that the draft Place Delivery Strategy for Epping Forest District builds on the Vision and Objectives of the Epping Forest District Local Plan 2011-2033 and the Harlow and Gilston Garden Town. The use of the Council's land and property assets will be considered within this context and the draft Strategy is intended to be complimentary to these decision-making planning frameworks.

**Reason for proposed decision:**

Making the best use of the Council's land and property assets and influencing how place-based partners use these are key to achieving the ambitions of the Council as articulated through, in particular, the Corporate Plan 2023 -2027 and the adopted Epping Forest District Local Plan 2011 – 2033. The comments of this Committee will assist in ensuring that the draft Strategy creates a positive and deliverable framework for delivery of the Council's ambitions and will be reported to Cabinet for its consideration at its meeting on 18 December 2023.

**Options considered and rejected:**

There is no legal requirement to develop such a strategy. However, the Council has a custodial responsibility to make the best use of its assets. As such the Council has determined to take a leadership role in delivering of this responsibility. To not develop a framework to provide an integrated approach to delivering the Council's ambitions for the district's communities would limit its ability to do so in the most proactive and effective way.

**Consultation undertaken:**

The development of the draft Strategy has drawn on plans and strategies that have previously been the subject of extensive consultation with relevant stakeholders depending on the nature and purpose of those strategies.

**Resource implications:**

The draft Strategy supports the efficient and effective use of the Council's resources.

**Legal and Governance Implications, Relevant Statutory Powers:**

There are no legal or governance implications. The Strategy can be delivered within the context of the relevant statutory powers.

**Corporate Plan Implications:**

The draft Strategy will support the achievement of a number of Corporate Plan activities.

**Background Papers:**

N/A

**Risk Management:**

No specific risks arise as a result of this report.

**Equality:**

An Equality Impact Assessment was carried out. The draft Strategy will have a positive impact on equalities objectives.

**Key Decision:** (if required):

**To be advised.**