

**Report to: Policy and Resources Committee, 21<sup>st</sup> March 2023**

**Report of: Corporate Director – Operations, Homes and Communities**

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**Subject: REFERRAL REPORT FROM COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE 15<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2023 - ADOPTION OF THE WORCESTER CITY HOUSING ENABLING STRATEGY 2023-2026**

**1. Recommendation**

**1.1 That the Committee approve the allocation of £150,000, to be met from the Housing for Vulnerable Tenants' Reserve, to recruit a Principal Strategic Housing & Enabling Officer to a 2-year fixed term post.**

**2. Background**

2.1 At the meeting on 15<sup>th</sup> March 2023, the Communities Committee considered a report on the adoption of the Worcester City Housing Enabling Strategy and Delivery Plan 2023-2026.

2.2 The Committee agreed to adopt the Strategy and Delivery Plan, as recommended in the report.

2.3 A copy of the Committee report is attached (**Appendix 1**).

**3. Preferred Option**

3.1 To deliver the Strategic Goals of the Strategy, it is considered necessary to invest in a new dedicated and specialist resource to increase the capacity and expertise of the Strategic Housing Service. Therefore, it is proposed to utilise £150,000 from the Affordable Housing Reserve and Vulnerable Tenants' Reserve to recruit a new post of Principal Strategic Housing & Enabling Officer with significant experience and knowledge of housing enabling that will be dedicated to driving this agenda forward.

3.2 In accordance with the Reserves Policy, any amendments to earmarked reserves will be reported to the Policy and Resources Committee for approval.

3.3 The Chair has agreed to consider this as an item of urgent business so that the recruitment process can commence as soon as possible.

**4. Alternative Options Considered**

4.1 See attached report.

**5. Implications**

5.1 Financial and Budgetary Implications

See attached report. For clarity, the appropriate reserve is the Housing for Vulnerable Tenants Reserve, which is part of City Plan allocated funds. The reserve has an expected balance at 31 March 2023 of £432,083, with known commitments of £32,719.

5.2 Legal and Governance Implications  
See attached report.

5.3 Risk Implications  
See attached report.

5.4 Corporate/Policy Implications  
See attached report.

5.5 Equality Implications  
See attached report.

5.6 Human Resources Implications  
See attached report.

5.7 Health and Safety Implications  
See attached report.

5.8 Social, Environmental and Economic Implications  
See attached report.

**Ward(s):**

**All**

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**Background Papers:**

**Worcester City Council – Options for Council Led Housing Development and for Fully Utilising Housing Enabling**