

COMMUNITY, HOUSING AND ASSETS OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Date of Meeting	Wednesday 20 January 2021
Report Subject	Housing Strategy Update
Cabinet Member	Cabinet Member for Housing
Report Author	Chief Officer (Housing and Assets)
Type of Report	Strategic

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

To provide Scrutiny with an update on progress towards meeting the priorities set out in the Local Housing Strategy 2019-24.

The Housing Strategy has an action plan that sets out 3 priorities with key areas for action within in each priority:

Priority 1: Increase supply to provide the right type of homes in the right location

Priority 2: Provide support to ensure people live and remain in the right type of home

Priority 3: Improve the quality and sustainability of homes

RECOMMENDATIONS

1	That Scrutiny review the Action Plan progress and provide feedback and comments.
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REPORT DETAILS

1.00	EXPLAINING THE HOUSING STRATEGY AND ACTION PLAN
1.01	Flintshire's Housing Strategy and Action Plan sets out the vision for how the Council with its partners, will deliver its affordable housing needs, provide the relevant support to its residents and ensure it creates sustainable homes.
1.02	The Housing Strategy and Action Plan
1.03	The Housing Strategy identifies 3 priorities with key areas for action within in each priority: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Priority 1: Increase supply to provide the right type of homes in the right location • Priority 2: Provide support to ensure people live and remain in the right type of home • Priority 3: Improve the quality and sustainability of our homes
1.04	Priority 1
1.05	Priority 1 aims to address the lack of supply of affordable housing to meet demand, which is evident on the Single Access Route to Housing (SARTH) for social housing and on the Affordable Housing Register - Tai Teg.
1.06	The action plan sets out how we ensure that the right type of homes to meet people's needs are provided in the right locations.
1.07	Priority 2
1.08	Priority 2 aims to ensure we have the right type of housing related support in place to prevent issues that can cause vulnerable people to become homeless.
1.09	The principle of housing related support is to support a person to access, maintain and manage their accommodation by assessing and developing or maintaining the necessary skills and confidence to live as independent a life as possible. The priority will focus on prevention and intervention, and complements the priorities set out in the Regional Homelessness Strategy and local action plan.
1.10	It is, however, wider than homelessness and the action plan identifies interventions for different vulnerable groups including disabled and older people.
1.11	Priority 3
1.12	Priority 3 aims to improve the quality of existing housing stock and develop innovative, energy efficient new stock to contribute towards target of reducing the emissions of greenhouse gases by 3% per year as set out in the Climate Change Strategy for Wales Delivery Plan for Emission

	Reduction. Decarbonisation is an evolving agenda and Welsh Government has recently produced a consultation document on improving energy efficiency in existing dwellings, which will all need to be taken into account over the lifetime of the strategy and reflected in the action plan.
1.13	Progress
1.14	A short summary of the action plan is included at Appendix 1 and the updated action plan is included at Appendix 2 and provides a progress commentary to explain how the actions are being developed and work is evolving.
1.15	COVID-19 has had a significant impact on Council resources since March 2020. In some areas work and resources have been redirected to respond to immediate challenges e.g. providing temporary accommodation to homeless people, providing support and assistance to those shielding. The majority of Council staff have been working remotely and have had to adjust to new ways of working. This has resulted in some actions not being progressed as quickly as anticipated and some delays have occurred e.g. within the construction sector.
1.16	Despite this, the Action Plan demonstrates there has been significant progress, innovation and resourcefulness in a rapidly changing environment.
1.17	The Action Plan will be reported into Cabinet every 6 months.
1.18	Where possible information will be extracted from the CAMMS reporting system to avoid duplication. Actions that do not relate to CAMMS will require commentary from responsible officers.

2.00	RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS
2.01	Revenue: there are no direct revenue implications as a direct result of this report. Capital: there are no direct revenue implications as a direct result of this report. Human Resources: there are no direct revenue implications as a direct result of this report.

3.00	IMPACT ASSESSMENT AND RISK MANAGEMENT
3.01	Risk Management
3.02	The impact of Covid-19 poses a risk to delivering the Local Housing Strategy actions during 2020/21 and potentially into the following year. It is difficult to mitigate this risk due to the evolving nature of the pandemic and level of uncertainty.

3.03	Many of the actions will require funding to progress and therefore should funding be unavailable this will impact deliverability.																	
3.04	The Housing Strategy action plan will be regularly monitored by the Housing Programmes Team and shared with internal and external stakeholders for feedback and review.																	
3.05	<p>Ways of Working (Sustainable Development) Principles Impact</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="320 465 1380 1173"> <tr> <td data-bbox="320 465 740 577">Long-term</td> <td data-bbox="740 465 1380 577">Positive - more affordable homes will be provided in the right location</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="320 577 740 730">Prevention</td> <td data-bbox="740 577 1380 730">Preventing - preventing people becoming homeless through ensuring there is relevant services and accommodation</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="320 730 740 880">Integration</td> <td data-bbox="740 730 1380 880">Positive – the delivery of a range of affordable homes will contribute to integration within communities</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="320 880 740 1025">Collaboration</td> <td data-bbox="740 880 1380 1025">Positive – the strategy’s premise is on delivering in partnership with relevant stakeholders.</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="320 1025 740 1173">Involvement</td> <td data-bbox="740 1025 1380 1173">Positive - individual decision making will involve all partners with strategic oversight by the Strategic Housing Partnership.</td> </tr> </table> <p>Well-being Goals Impact</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="320 1323 1380 2085"> <tr> <td data-bbox="320 1323 740 1619">Prosperous Wales</td> <td data-bbox="740 1323 1380 1619">Positive - Providing good quality affordable homes, aiming for low / zero carbon. Also ensuring the homes are in the place that people need them and will meet their housing needs. Maximising local employment and training opportunities for local people.</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="320 1619 740 1805">Resilient Wales</td> <td data-bbox="740 1619 1380 1805">Positive - Developing low / zero carbon homes though adopting modern methods of construction and other relevant technologies.</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="320 1805 740 2085">Healthier Wales</td> <td data-bbox="740 1805 1380 2085">Positive - Ensuring our homes are fit for purpose and will enable people to stay in their home for longer, and ensuring we have homes that meet the needs of all people in our society including those who are most vulnerable supporting their well-being.</td> </tr> </table>		Long-term	Positive - more affordable homes will be provided in the right location	Prevention	Preventing - preventing people becoming homeless through ensuring there is relevant services and accommodation	Integration	Positive – the delivery of a range of affordable homes will contribute to integration within communities	Collaboration	Positive – the strategy’s premise is on delivering in partnership with relevant stakeholders.	Involvement	Positive - individual decision making will involve all partners with strategic oversight by the Strategic Housing Partnership.	Prosperous Wales	Positive - Providing good quality affordable homes, aiming for low / zero carbon. Also ensuring the homes are in the place that people need them and will meet their housing needs. Maximising local employment and training opportunities for local people.	Resilient Wales	Positive - Developing low / zero carbon homes though adopting modern methods of construction and other relevant technologies.	Healthier Wales	Positive - Ensuring our homes are fit for purpose and will enable people to stay in their home for longer, and ensuring we have homes that meet the needs of all people in our society including those who are most vulnerable supporting their well-being.
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	More equal Wales	Positive - Providing good quality and decent homes for the most vulnerable people in society including temporary, single household, adapted etc.
	Cohesive Wales	Positive - Contributing to attractive, viable, safe and well-connected communities through promoting good design and collaborative delivery.
	Vibrant Wales	Positive - Ensuring our communities are diverse through good communication of housing opportunities and support.
	Globally responsible Wales	Positive - The outcomes of the strategy will contribute to improving the economic, social, environmental and cultural well-being of Wales.
3.06	<p>The Housing Strategy contributes towards meeting the Council's Well-being objective 'caring council' through:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensuring a supply of affordable and quality housing of all tenures. • Making early interventions to support healthy and independent living. 	

4.00	CONSULTATIONS REQUIRED/CARRIED OUT
4.01	No consultation carried out for this report.

5.00	APPENDICES
5.01	Appendix 1 – Short summary of the action plan Appendix 2 - Housing Strategy Action Plan Progress Report October 2020
6.00	LIST OF ACCESSIBLE BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS
6.01	https://www.flintshire.gov.uk/en/PDFFiles/Housing/Flintshire-Housing-Strategy-and-Action-plan-2019-2024.pdf

7.00	CONTACT OFFICER DETAILS
7.01	<p>Contact Officer: Sarah Faire, Housing Strategy Manager Telephone: 07788389661 E-mail: sarah.faire@flintshire.gov.uk</p>

8.00	GLOSSARY OF TERMS
8.01	Single Access Route to Housing (SARTH) Policy – the regional common policy for all major social landlords allocating social housing properties across Flintshire.