

COMMUNITY, HOUSING & ASSETS OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Date of Meeting	Wednesday 10 November 2021
Report Subject	Housing Strategy and Action Plan
Cabinet Member	Cabinet Member for Housing
Report Author	Chief Executive
Type of Report	Strategic

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

To provide Community, Housing and Assets Overview and Scrutiny Committee (CHAOSC) with the annual 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 Community, Housing and Assets Overview and Scrutiny Committee review the Progress Action Plan October 2021 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 affordable housing, provide the relevant support to its residents and ensure it creates sustainable homes.
1.02	The Housing Strategy and Action Plan
1.03	<p>The Housing Strategy identifies 3 priorities with key areas for action within in each priority:</p> <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 people with specialist needs 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 revised the Welsh Development Quality Requirements (WDQR 2021) that relates to all new affordable housing and that sets out space standards and aims to progress towards homes being carbon zero.
1.13	Progress Action plan October 2021
1.14	A progress report was last completed October 2020 and presented to COT and Informal Cabinet.
1.15	The Action Plan (appendix 1) has been updated and responsible Officers have provided commentary to explain how the actions are being developed and work is evolving.
1.16	During 2020/21 and into 2021, the COVID-19 pandemic remains to cause significant challenges in delivering Council services. There has been an impact on resources and for some services a shift in priorities as immediate challenges had to be dealt with e.g. providing temporary accommodation to homeless people, providing support and assistance to those shielding. The pandemic has been ongoing for an extensive amount of time, causing uncertainty and the Council has had to react to a rapidly changing environment. This unsettled period has resulted in delays and significant adjustment in all areas of housing and further delays may occur with levels of uncertainty continuing throughout the rest of 2021.
1.17	Despite this, the Action Plan demonstrates there has been progress and the Council has successfully adapted to new ways of working and achieved continuation of services for Flintshire residents during an unprecedented time of change.
1.18	The Action Plan will be presented annually to COT and Cabinet and Housing Association partners via the RSL Strategic Housing Group.

2.00	RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS
2.01	<p>Revenue: the Housing Strategy Action Plan is a strategic document, there are no implications for the approved revenue budget for either the current financial year or for future financial years.</p> <p>Capital: the Housing Strategy Action Plan is a strategic document, there are no implications for the approved capital programme relating to the Strategy or Action Plan.</p> <p>Human Resources: there are some actions within the Action Plan that refer to the potential for new posts to be recruited that will help to deliver additional services. The feasibility for this is being explored as part of the Housing Services Review and restructure and will be reported on via a separate report to COT.</p>

3.00	IMPACT ASSESSMENT AND RISK MANAGEMENT	
3.01	Impact Assessment	
3.02	The Housing Strategy Action Plan is a progress report rather than a new policy, therefore an impact assessment is not deemed as necessary.	
3.03	Risk Management	
3.04	The impact of Covid-19 continues to pose a risk to delivering the Local Housing Strategy actions and this is likely to continue for the remainder of 2021/22. It is difficult to mitigate this risk due to the level of uncertainty.	
3.05	Many of the actions will require funding to progress and therefore should funding be unavailable this will impact deliverability.	
3.06	The Housing Strategy action plan will be monitored annually by the Housing Programmes Team and shared with internal and external stakeholders for feedback and review.	
3.07	Ways of Working (Sustainable Development) Principles Impact	
	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.
	Well-being Goals Impact	
	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.
	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.

4.00	CONSULTATIONS REQUIRED/CARRIED OUT
4.01	Responsible officers who deliver services within the Action Plan have been consulted and asked to provide their feedback against the actions which have formed the basis of the responses in appendix 1.

5.00	APPENDICES
5.01	Appendix 1 - Housing Strategy Action Plan Progress Report October 2021

6.00	LIST OF ACCESSIBLE BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS
6.01	Flintshire Housing Strategy and Action Plan 2019-2024

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.
8.02	Social Housing Grant – Welsh Government funding that may be available to housing associations and developing Local Authorities. It is to help fund new affordable housing e.g. for social rent. To qualify for grant homes must comply with Welsh Government Development Quality Requirements (WDQR) .