

Equality Analysis - Housing Strategy Implementation Plan

Impact	Medium Impact	Lead Officer	Paul Herbert
Date of EqA	27/10/14	EqA Review Date	31 December 2015
What are the main purposes of the policy, strategy or service area?			
<p>The strategy covers the strategic approach of the District Council towards the provision of affordable housing in South Somerset. It outlines overall policy and suggests a series of discrete actions to help bring about the objectives listed. The plan describes the issues, considers our options and proposes actions. It is set out in accordance with the following four objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Objective 1 - Health and Wellbeing for all - Objective 2 - To increase the supply of affordable housing to support economic growth and development - Objective 3 - To make effective use of South Somerset's housing stock - Objective 4 - To meet the housing and accommodation-related support needs of Somerset's most vulnerable and least resilient residents by working in partnership <p>Wherever possible the options and proposed actions include where we could or should be working with neighbouring councils or other agencies in a collaborative way to save resources, become more effective or both.</p>			
Evidence			
<p>An internal project team was created, led by the Corporate Strategic Housing Manager and included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Members of the Strategic Housing Unit • The Environmental Health Manager • The Empty Homes Officer • A member of the Spatial Policy team • A team leader from the Benefits team and • The Council's Equalities Officer <p>The Housing Options team were also invited to send officers to the project team and were kept informed of progress at all stages.</p>			

The following pieces of evidence were reviewed to consider their relevance to and consistency with the county-wide housing strategy framework:

- Gypsy & Traveller Accommodation Strategy (2006 -2009)
- Private Sector Housing Strategy (2007 – 2012)
- Empty Property Strategy (Jointly with Mendip) (2010)
- Temporary Accommodation Strategy (2011)
- Council Plan (2012-2015)
- Somerset Tenancy Strategy (2012)
- Health & Wellbeing Strategy (2012-2015)
- Youth Housing Strategy (2012-2015)
- Rural Housing Action Plan (2013)
- Somerset Homelessness Strategy (2013 – 2016)
- Asset Management Strategy (2014)
- Strategic Housing Market Analysis
- Data from the live Housing Register
- Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessment
- Home Truths document, National Housing Federation
- Home Energy Conservation Act report (2013)
- Relevant housing legislation

Consultation began on 9th July 2014 and ran for ten weeks, closing on 17th September. Copies of the consultation draft were distributed to all county, district and parish councillors in South Somerset and to all major local stakeholders, including housing associations, community land trusts, relevant charities and organisations, architects and developers. An online survey was created and opened to the public and a press release was also published on South Somerset District Council's website.

On 5th September 2014 there was also a Portfolio Holder briefing, in which councillors discussed each question and provided their own feedback. Finally, the draft was considered by the Equalities Steering Group on 21st October 2014.

See also Appendix B for other sources of evidence used to create the document.

Supporting Documentation/Links

Printed%20minutes%2002nd-Sep-2014%2010.00%20Scrutiny%20Committee.pdf?T=1, Minutes%2006-03-2014%20(de10m_-public.pdf).pdf

Please comment/explain how you will meet the General Equality Duty (GED)?

The operational delivery of the Housing Strategy Implementation Plan will fulfil the Council's General and Specific equality duties under the Equality Act 2010 (advance equality of opportunity, eliminate discrimination, harassment and victimisation, and foster good relations). It is envisioned that the strategy will support a number of positive outcomes for groups within the protected characteristics.

Each individual action within the strategy will form part of service plans, all of which will be individually assessed where necessary for equalities and monitored on TEN (internal Performance Monitoring System).

Lead Officer Sign Off	Paul Herbert, Housing Policy Officer	Date	27/10/14
Equalities Steering Group Comments	The Housing Strategy Implementation Plan was presented to and approved by the Equalities Steering Group on 21 October 2014.	Date	27/10/14
Equalities Officer Approval Comments	Jo Morgan	Status	Approved