

Appendix A - Strategic Housing and Homelessness Group Terms of Reference September 2019

Context

The Housing Strategy and associated action plan is the corporate document that pulls all things “housing” into a single coherent strategy.

The Housing Strategy was adopted by Full Council on 1st December 2015, and provides a clear statement of the Council’s vision and aims for all housing related matters across the County for a five year period. The current Housing Strategy therefore ends in December 2020 and is due to be reviewed/renewed.

The Housing Strategy is produced, coordinated and led by Planning & Public Protection. The operational responsibilities for delivering a range of housing issues contained within the Housing Strategy are delivered via the relevant Services e.g. Local Authority Social Housing is delivered and managed by Facilities Assets & Housing Service. Addressing Homelessness is delivered and managed by Community Support Services.

Community Support Services have led on the production of the Homelessness Strategy and associated Action Plan. To some degree the approach to homelessness has become slightly separated from the Housing Strategy.

Homelessness however is a corporate issue best addressed through effective partnership working across all relevant DCC Services and partners organisations. The Housing Strategy will provide the strategic framework for addressing homelessness, and will be the vehicle for agreeing homelessness priorities and monitoring progress against them. This will enable better integration and provide more corporate ownership to the work on homelessness.

Role and Purpose

- The prime role of the Strategic Housing & Homelessness Group is to enable a more corporate more strategic/corporate approach to Homelessness and the review of the Housing Strategy. The Housing Strategy and Homelessness Action Plans are currently being reviewed and updated as necessary. The Group will monitor and review progress on the Housing and Homelessness Strategy and Action Plan.
- The Group will monitor and review progress on the delivery of identified actions once the new action plan has been established with regular progress reports to Scrutiny and other committees as necessary.
- The Group will review the Programme Development Plan (PDP) for the projected spending of Social Housing Grant. Regular updates on the Council’s development/acquisition programme will be provided.

- The Group will meet every 2 months and the frequency of meetings will be reviewed after a year has elapsed.
- Agendas and any accompanying papers will be circulated to the Group one week prior to the meeting.
- Meeting notes will be produced for each Group meeting and distributed to the group. Notes will focus on action points going forward.

Membership

One section of the agenda will discuss broad Housing Strategy priorities such as empty homes, affordable housing supply, SARTH etc. This will be chaired by Councillor Tony Thomas as the Lead Member for Housing, Regeneration and the Environment.

The other section of the meeting will specifically discuss issues in terms of Homelessness and be chaired by Councillor Bobby Feeley – Lead Member for Well-being and Independence.

Membership of the Group will comprise those Lead Members with responsibility for an area of housing within their portfolios, relevant Heads of Service and the Strategic Planning & Housing Manager:

The attendees for the group are:

Councillor Tony Thomas – Cabinet Lead Member for Housing & Communities (Chair for the Housing Strategy part of the meeting)
 Council Bobby Feeley – Cabinet Lead Member for Well-being and Independence (Chair for the Homelessness part of the meeting)
 Councillor Julian Thompson-Hill (Deputy Leader & Cabinet Lead Member for Finance, Performance and Strategic Assets)
 Councillor Mark Young – Cabinet Lead Member for Planning, Public Protection and Safer Communities
 Councillor Brian Blakely – Homelessness champion
 Graham Boase – Corporate Director: Economy and Public Realm
 Emlyn Jones – Head of Planning and Public Protection
 Phil Gilroy – Head of Community Support Services
 Liz Grieve – Head of Customers, Communications and Marketing
 Paul Barnes – Business Support Manager
 Ann Lloyd – Principal Manager – Support Services
 Abbe Harvey – Service Manager – Community and Business Services
 Angela Loftus – Strategic Planning and Housing Manager
 Gareth Roberts – Built Environment and Public Protection Manager
 Geoff Davies – Lead Officer (Customers, Communications and Marketing)
 Mark Dixon – Housing Development Manager
 Nicola Kneale – Strategic Planning Team Manager
 Diana Dewhurst – Practice Leader, Education
 Matthew Jones – Public Relations and Communications Officer
 Jane Abbott/Sue Lewis – Strategic Planning and Housing