

Housing Strategy Project Plan

Statement of purpose

A Housing Strategy for Tonbridge and Malling will set out the Council's priorities and approach to housing in the Borough. Legislative and policy changes have created a challenging housing context to which we need to respond appropriately for our level of need and changing demand profile. Adopting a Strategy will help shape our strategic response to focus limited resources efficiently and establish priorities in a local context.

Background

The current West Kent Housing and Homelessness Strategy runs until this year (2016-2021), members agreed in February 2020 that TMBC would develop it's own Housing Strategy for the next period of strategic planning.

Project Team

Project sponsor: Director of Planning, Housing and Environmental Health

Project manager: Housing Strategy & Enabling Manager

Project Team
Housing Strategy & Enabling Manager
Head of Housing and Health
Housing Improvement Manager
Housing Solutions Manager
Planning Policy rep.
Legal rep.
Finance rep.

Objectives/outcomes

A Housing Strategy will:

- Establish priorities and target resources
- Provide broad strategic framework for delivery of housing functions and services
- Outline actions to deliver the objectives of the Strategy: an action plan will shape a programme of policy and project work
- Be informed by the Housing Needs research commissioned by the Council.
- Be informed by the House Condition Stock Modelling commissioned by the Council.

The Housing Team will have a programme of policies to support delivery of the strategy, covering the following areas:

- Homelessness prevention and assistance
- Temporary Accommodation
- Housing Allocations Scheme

- Private sector
- Affordable Housing delivery and partnership working.

Expected benefits

Benefit	Measure
Clear strategic plan relating to housing	Strategy published by an agreed date, in plain English and easy to access
Local focus from a Housing Strategy for TMBC	Utilise findings of the Housing Needs Survey and stock condition modelling to inform the Strategy
Strategic context for future funding bids	Successful funding bids

Equality and Diversity Implications

An EqIA will be required for the Housing Strategy to assess potential impacts on residents in protected characteristic groups.

Milestones

Task	Who	When
Planning		
Equality Impact Assessment	Housing Strategy & Enabling Manager	March 2020
Project Plan approved	CHAB	Feb 2020
Revised Project Plan	CHAB	July 2021
Equality Impact Assessment review	Housing Strategy & Enabling Manager	July 2021
Research & drafting		
Housing Needs Research – analysis & data	Arc ⁴	July – Sept 2021
Research and staff engagement	Housing Strategy & Enabling Manager	July-Sept 2021
Member engagement via workshops	Housing Strategy & Enabling Manager	August – October 2021
Draft Strategy & take to members for endorsement (ahead of public consultation)	Project team	CHAB Nov 2021
Public consultation and stakeholder engagement	Housing Strategy & Enabling Manager	Nov 2021-Jan 2022
Finalise Strategy	Project team, Housing Strategy & Enabling Manager lead	Jan 2022
Approval		
Communities and Housing Advisory Board – for endorsement	Housing Strategy & Enabling Manager	Feb 2022
Cabinet – for approval	Housing Strategy & Enabling Manager	March 2022
Implementation		

Housing Strategy Project Plan

Communications – members and staff	Housing Strategy & Enabling Manager and Media team	Spring 2022
Publication & update website	Housing Strategy & Enabling Manager	Spring 2022
Policy plan (to deliver all housing policies by end of 2022)	Project team	Feb 2022
Planned finish date: Spring 2022		