

Supplement **2** to the agenda

Connected Communities Scrutiny Committee

Wednesday 10 July 2024, 10.00 am

Conference Room 1 - Herefordshire Council, Plough Lane Offices, Hereford, HR4 0LE

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5.	Questions from members of the public Purpose: To receive any written questions from members of the public. A document is attached, containing a question received and the response.	3 - 4
7.	Affordable and social housing in Herefordshire Purpose: To consider an overview of affordable and social housing in Herefordshire. A presentation is attached, 'Affordable housing and housing need in Herefordshire'.	5 - 18

Questioner:	Peter McKay, Leominster
Question: In December 2022 I suggested some specific highway and path record issues be a topic for scrutiny December 2022. In April 2024 I asked this committee if it would ensure that it included this topic in its work programme. The committee chair replied that they would respond to the substance of my question at the next meeting of the committee. However this matter is not included in your agenda or work programme, when will my suggested topic be considered for inclusion in your work programme? Response from the Chairperson: I have determined that public rights of way are not a matter for this committee but for the Environment and Sustainability Scrutiny Committee. I understand too that the Environment and Sustainability Scrutiny Committee will be scrutinising the council's work around public rights of way at its next meeting on 22 July, I will therefore pass on your question from February to the chair of that committee to help inform their work.	

Affordable housing and
Housing need in
Herefordshire

10 July 2024

An overview

- What is affordable housing
- Where are we now
- What have we got
- What do we need

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What is affordable housing?

Affordable housing includes homes for sale or rent and is for people whose needs are not met by the private market.

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Affordable housing tenures

- Rented
 - Social rent
 - Affordable rent
 - Rent to buy
 - Intermediate Rent
- ∞ • Home ownership
 - Shared ownership
 - Low cost market/ discounted market
 - First Homes

[Affordable housing – Herefordshire Council](#)

Current housing situation in the County

- There is a shortage of affordable homes and a cost of living crisis
- The council have all the statutory duties but no powers
- 1957 households on the waiting list for general needs affordable housing
- 67 households on the accessible register for wheelchair accessible accommodation
- • Additional need for learning disabilities, mental health, G&T's, older persons, children's services
- 120 households in a form of Temporary Accommodation arranged by the local authority, a 100% increase on pre pandemic levels
- 23/24 temporary accommodation cost the council approx. £3.5m with an overspend of £1.3m
- There are currently 18 individuals who are street homeless and provided with support

Who delivers housing/ services in Herefordshire

- Housing Solutions – the operational team responsible for homelessness, temporary accommodation and outreach support
- Home Point – the social housing register which is a choice based lettings system in Herefordshire
- Strategic Housing – negotiate and deliver affordable housing, write and publish the housing related strategies and bid for grant funding
- Registered Providers - own and deliver affordable housing
- Charities/ private sector – own accommodation and provide support services

How do we deliver additional housing in the County?

- As a local authority we do not hold stock and therefore we are reliant on our registered provider partners and private developers to build the appropriate housing that meets the councils needs.
- We must have a strong evidence base and a good understanding of what housing we need and where we require the housing to be situated.
- We need to be proactive and understand our future needs. That way we can plan for future developments.
- Through the planning system. However, it takes a long time to bring a new housing development to start on site and there are usually several processes.
 - Pre-app advice.
 - Outline/Full.
 - Reserved Matters
 - Start on Site
 - Practical Completion. Units delivered
- Grant funding received from DLUHC for specific projects to purchase units off the open market.
- Working with and supporting private landlords and charities.
- Bring empty properties back in to use.

Delivery figures 2019-2024

- From April 2019 – March 2024 Strategic Housing have supported and enabled the delivery of 1447 affordable dwellings. Delivery has been through various means such as S106 delivery, 100% RP affordable sites and property acquisitions by the council. The council have also brought 149 empty properties back into use through advice and assistance.

Year	How many affordable units delivered	Yearly Target
2018/19	203	200
2019/20	213	210
2020/21	228	220
2021/22	248	220
2022/23	287	230
2023 Year to date	268	250
Total	1447	

- 3 year pipeline – 1475 additional affordable housing properties negotiated

Variety of completed scheme

- Veterans Self Build, Leominster, 20 dwellings of which 9 are for veterans
- Conversion of a council property to create 6 self contained apartments for homelessness, 2 further properties are in the process of conversion
- Purchase of 12 x 1 beds for dispersed homelessness accommodation, funding to purchase a further 9
- Purchase of a chalet for a traveller family with a terminally ill family member
- Purchase and refurbish of a property to provide 4 self contained apartments and a crisis pad for children services
- A new extension and refurbishment of the homeless night shelter including siting of 2 pods
- Long term leases with private landlords for temporary accommodation

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Setting the context

Did you know:

- Herefordshire is 841.7 sq miles with a population of almost 190,000.
- The median age in Herefordshire is 44 which is higher than any other area in the West Midlands and the rest of England both at 40.
- Average (median) gross salary £29,900 compared to £33,176 nationally
- Average house price £294k compared to £310k in England, £217k in Wales and £185k in Scotland
- North and South county divide £310,000 - £248,000
- House price affordability ratio is 9.8 compared with 8.3 nationally and 7.2 for the West Midlands, we are the worse out of the 14 West Midland authorities

Information from the Office for National Statistics or Census data 2021

Setting the context

Did you know:

- Average private rental is £967 for a 3 bedroom property
- Approx. 12,500 affordable properties in the County
- 1 in every 7 households lives in social rented accommodation (13.7% of the population) compared to 18.8% living in private rented accommodation.
- One of the highest proportions of detached dwellings in the country
- One of the highest rates of households without central heating in the country

Information from the Office for National Statistics or Census data 2021

What are we doing about it?

- Strategies setting out the strategic vision
- Delivery Programme of additional accommodation
- A single Framework for suppliers of TA & B&B
- Prevention – a strong focus on prevention and early contact with people at risk
- Developing a multi agency approach – a member of the national Making Every Adult Matter (MEAM) network
- Developing a Trauma Informed approach to working with the client group
- Developing a pool of experts by experience to support our strategic direction
- Prevention!

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What do we need

- Access to accommodation where we have full control and can manage, this will enable us to meet our statutory functions, deliver accommodation to the most vulnerable and reduce the spend on temporary accommodation in the private sector.

Thank You.

Questions?

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