

**Draft Local Housing Strategy – Outline Consultation Plan**

<b>What is the Housing Strategy and why do we need it?</b>	<p>Developing a local housing strategy provides local authorities with a strategic opportunity to consider the operation of the housing system in its area and to plan strategically for meeting current and future need and demand, and the effective delivery of housing-related services over the lifetime of the strategy.</p> <p>The local housing strategy used to be a statutory document, but is now considered best practise. The document brings all of the strands of our housing related delivery together in one place.</p>
<b>Why are we undertaking a community consultation?</b>	<p>The need for a safe, warm and affordable home is central to all of our lives. The council has a range of roles in ensuring that this is an opportunity that everyone has access to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Assess local housing needs and understand the local housing market.</li> <li>• Develop effective partnerships to increase the supply of affordable housing.</li> <li>• Prevention and relief of homelessness.</li> <li>• Improve conditions in the private sector.</li> <li>• Enable people to live independently in their own homes.</li> <li>• Ensuring safe and controlled development of new homes across the county through the Core Strategy.</li> </ul> <p>We have used up to date information about the overall housing market in Herefordshire, but this quantitative information does not include people’s individual experiences or the wider communities’ views about housing priorities in Herefordshire.</p>
<b>Who are we going to consult with during the consultation period?</b>	<p>As well as the public, we will be consulting with our delivery partners including registered housing providers, private landlords and the service providers that support our residents. We will also be undertaking some targeted consultation where possible including people with disabilities and older people.</p>
<b>What are we seeking to achieve through the consultation?</b>	<p>Housing is an issue that impacts on the lives of all the residents of Herefordshire, we want to take this opportunity to gain a better understanding of their housing experiences and how they would prioritise the objectives within the strategy.</p>
<b>Method of consultation</b>	<p>The consultation will be done via a clear and concise accessible online survey via the Herefordshire Council website – 20 questions maximum. The intelligence and communication teams are aware of the planned consultation and related timescale.</p> <p>In order to make the survey as accessible as possible we can also offer the survey in large print and easy read versions, as well as offering completion over the phone.</p>
<b>Target number of responses</b>	<p>100 responses plus.</p>
<b>Timeline</b>	<p>The consultation will go live in the first week of May and run for 4 weeks. The draft housing strategy will be updated and be presented to cabinet for a decision in July 2021.</p>

<b>What will we do with the feedback we receive?</b>	The feedback will be used to prioritise the objectives within the strategy. Any evidence about housing experiences in Herefordshire will be integrated into the main document or appended depending on the quality and quantity of information received.
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