

Objective 1 - New Homes to meet the needs of Huntingdonshire now and in the future

	Priority Action	Outcome and Progress	Timeframe	Lead Service/Officer	Comments to Q3 2021/2022	RAG Rating
1.1	Annual Achievement of Housing Delivery Targets	Annual Delivery of new homes	Ongoing	Growth Manager	The AMR key headlines from the 2019/2020 data saw the construction of 1010 net completions (1027 new dwellings completed with 17 demolitions), this exceeded the 2019 housing trajectory of 1003 dwellings and the Council's annual housing target of 804 dwellings. The 2020/2021 data shows a total of 1,041 net completions (1,065 new dwellings with 15 demolitions).	
1.2	Work with Developers and Registered Providers to prioritise the achievement of 40% affordable housing	Affordable Housing Numbers delivered	Ongoing	Growth Manager / Housing Strategy Manager	There continues to be strong performance in securing 40% Affordable Housing on eligible sites and there are few viability challenges. 274 homes were completed in 2020/21 which compares well with historic performance. Additionally there is a significant pipeline (some under construction) of 100% Affordable Housing developments expected to deliver approximately 600 affordable homes over the next two years.	
1.3	Explore the potential and barriers for delivery of starter homes and other discounted market housing	Report to CMT on options when Housing Manager in post	2022/2023	Housing Strategy Manager	This was not a priority for the first year action plan and needs to be considered following the introduction of First Homes.	
1.4	Deliver at least 1 entry level exception site	At least one site in progress or completed	2022/2023	Housing Strategy Manager	This is deferred pending examination of First Homes introduced by government since this significantly changes entry level exception site criteria. Assessment of First Homes is under way.	
1.5	To evaluate alternative entry level housing alongside shared ownership	Include in report for 1.3	2022/2023	Housing Strategy Manager	This will be explored alongside policy changes required due to First Homes	
1.6	Explore options for institutional investment in the Private Rented Sector	Dependent on Opportunities	2022/2023	Housing Strategy Manager	This was not a priority for the first year.	
1.7	Explore Options for key worker housing including on own sites	Sites identified as potential sites for new housing	2021/2022	Strategic Director/Managing Director	ManGPM have secured 95 affordable homes at Alconbury Weald, which are units outside of the S106 agreement; 80 units will be targetted to Key Workers and HDC will inform the definition of keyworker.	
1.8	Working pro-actively with Developers and Housing Associations to achieve the targets for homes built to M4(2) and	Numbers of Homes built to these standards	2022/2023	Growth Manager	At the time of adoption of the Housing Strategy this years cumulative figures were in flight and could not be retro fitted . It has been agreed that the policy team will monitor this going forward.	
1.9	Engage with Health and Social Care partners to align requirements for specialist housing with future models of care and support	Link to Local Plan process and G L Hearn report. Also Link to final CC Housing Related Support report	2022/2023	Strategic Housing Manager	The G L Hearn (SHMA) is at final draft stage and Older Persons Needs Assessment (OPANA) is still being completed. Once both documents are received we will be able to interpret any necessary policy changes.	

1.10	Continue to work with developers to maximise delivery on sustainable strategic sites	Related to effective partnership working	Ongoing	Growth Manager / Strategic Housing Manager	There continues to be strong performance in our relationship with developers in bringing forward strategic development sites this has resulted in high levels of affordable housing being provided on qualifying sites and the expectation that this years housing numbers will achieve higher than the yearly Local Plan requirement. Strong relationships with key developers continue.	
1.11	Refresh Design Guide to reflect aspirations or build standards	Refreshed document	2022/2023	Growth Manager	This was not a priority for the first year action plan.	
1.12	Support the development of rural exception sites led or supported by the community or meeting the needs of specialist housing	Follow up on interest from the road show	Ongoing	Strategic Housing Manager	A pipeline of Rural Exception sites is established. One development (Needingworth) was completed in 2020/21 delivering a total of 14 units of which 10 were affordable. One development (Bluntisham) has already completed this year (2021/22) delivering 20 units of which 11 were affordable, three more developments are on site delivering 77 units all of which are affordable at Buryfield, Ramsey St Mary and Great Staughton (CLT). We anticipate that one site at Holme will shortly be granted planning permission this will provide a total of 10 homes of which 6 will be affordable. A planning application has recently been submitted for Alconbury Weston which will provide a total of 15 homes of which 9 are affordable. A further need for 42 homes is identified via surveys conducted in Hilton, The Hemingfords, Great Paxton and Somersham and sites are either being sought or under investigation. Further work will be carried out with Parish Councils to identify need.	
1.13	Strengthen guidance and support provided to community led or supported sites to assist in accelerating delivery	Improve information and signposting on the website	2022/2023	Strategic Housing Manager / Growth Manager	This was not a priority for the first year	
1.14	Use of own assets for self build and keyworker housing where these are not suitable for larger developments	Self build sites identified and marketed. Also Council owned site identified for key worker housing	2022/2023	Development Consultant/Strategic Director /MD	The sites were agreed for the Longhurst Contract in the Summer 2021, we now have several sites which could be put forward on a self build basis. This will be pursued by the Housing Strategy Manager. Marketing of self build can include specific marketing to keyworkers	
Objective 2 - Homes to Enable people to live independently and healthy lives						
	Priority Action	Outcome and Progress	Timeframe	Lead Service/Officer		
2.1	Monitor the achievement of key objectives in the Rough Sleepers Review and Strategy through an Annual Action Plan	Achievement of objectives	2021/2022	Housing Needs and Resources	Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Review & Strategy taken through Member cycle in July and now due to go out to consultation before adoption of final version.	

2.2	Adopt a revised lettings policy	Sub regional policy to be agreed at Housing Board prior to adoption by HDC. Going through Home Link Board before each of the LA's consultation and formal adoption processes	2020/2021	Housing Needs and Resources	Completed - revised Lettings Policy went live in July 2021	
2.3	Evaluate the pilot street outreach service	Decide whether to continue	2020/2021	Housing Needs and Resources	As Street Outreach is playing a key role with rough sleepers through the various stages of lockdown, and supporting many that are accommodated under 'Everyone In' a bid was made for RS14 funding to continue and extend the service into 2021/22. This bid was successful allowing the service to continue.	
2.4	Review implications of County Council Housing Related Support Strategy	To inform an updated Older People's Housing Strategy and commissioning of homelessness services	2021-2023	Housing Strategy/Housing Needs & Resources	County Council approach is to retender young persons supported services in 2021/22 and single homelessness services in 2022/23. For Hunts a single young persons service will be let and links have been made with Longhurst and Salvation Army HA to ensure a consortium bid for the district. The contract requires an increase in the number of units for young people including a 'hub and spoke' model approach. Discussions are taking place with Longhurst and SAHA as to how to achieve this. The review did not take into consideration older persons housing related support.	
2.5	Older Peoples Housing Strategy will be updated	Report to Cabinet	2022/2023	Housing Strategy	The Older Persons Needs Assessment is being completed by the County Council and will inform policy and strategy going forward. Once the report is received the findings will be reported to Cabinet.	
2.6	Publicise the availability of Housing Options for Older People Scheme	Improve information and link on the Council's website	2021/2022	Housing Strategy	The booklet "Housing Options for Older People" was revised in May 2021 and HDC website was updated in June 2021.	
2.7	Review reasons for high Disabled Facilities Grant Spend	Reduction in spend for 2021/2022	2022/2023	Environmental Health / Communities	There was a significant reduction in spend in the last year on DFGs (£2.2 million down to £1.3 million) but this was due to the impact of Covid rather than any review or intervention. The main reason for HDC's high DFG spend is residual responsibility for properties now owned by Chorus Homes. A wider piece of work is planned under the Better Care Fund but this will not take place until 2022.	
2.8	Clear signposting to Gypsy and Traveller and Houseboat dwellers policies on website	Clear policy presentation	2022/2023	Growth	This was not a priority for the first year as the County were undertaking a housing needs assessment. This has been delayed due to Covid as it was not possible to hold face to face meetings. We understand that this work is now being carried out once completed we will then update our signposting on our website. This objective is linked to 2.9.	
2.9	Respond to conclusion of Gypsy and Traveller Review	Will depend on whether the Countywide review requires changes	2021/2022	Growth	The County wide report on the housing needs of Gypsy and Travellers has been delayed due to Covid as face to face meetings have not been possible. As of September 2021 this work had begun with expectation that the report will be available in early 2022.	

2.10	Clear policy emphasis on design and layout of new homes to improve health and wellbeing.	Will provide clarity on good design for healthy communities and inform the revision of the Local Plan	Ongoing	Strategic Housing Manager / Growth Manager	As and when opportunities arrive through the strategic housing team/growth and urban design we will continue to inform new development. This will be considered as part of policy when the Local Plan is reviewed.	
Objective 3 - Working in partnership to achieve shared objectives						
	Priority Action	Outcome and Progress	Timeframe	Lead Service/Officer		
3.1	Build and sustain long term strategic relationships with key partners in the delivery of housing ambitions	Clarity on key contacts and for and to maintain and build strong relationships including the CPCA RPS Developers other Councils in the sub region	Ongoing	MD / Leader / Strategic Director / Housing Manager	There are a number of fora which achieve this: Housing Board, Cambridgeshire Strategic Housing Group, Cambridgeshire and West Suffolk Enablers Group, CPCA Quarterly meetings, Homes For Cambridgeshire and Peterborough liaison meetings, ad hoc/periodic meetings with RPs etc. The Council also financially supports the role of the Housing Co-Ordinator and the various regional documents produced to facilitate policy and Cambs ACRE Rural Housing Service.	
3.2	Pro-active approach to securing funding to assist the delivery of housing development	Quantifiable achievements in supporting/securing funding for the delivery of housing including infrastructure funding if relevant	Ongoing	Housing Manager / Housing Strategy	For Affordable Housing, this evidenced by the work undertaken with primarily RPs, Homes England and Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority. This has enabled the investment to be secured to deliver homes over and above policy level and the 600 homes on 100% affordable housing developments	
3.3	For Council owned sites determine the optimum approach for delivery against strategic priorities	Report setting out approach agreed with Cabinet	2021/2022	Housing Development Consultant	The tender exercise for the sale of development sites was progressed and Longhurst were successful in being appointed as the Council's partner. A contract for 9 sites to deliver approximately 100 homes was signed in the Summer of 2021.	
3.4	Consider partnership proposals that provide best value and maximise the delivery of the Council's objectives	Responses to be evaluated against Council broad objectives	2021/2022	Housing Development Consultant	The tender exercise for the sale of development sites was progressed and Longhurst were successful in being appointed as the Council's partner. A contract for 9 sites to deliver approximately 100 homes was signed in the Summer of 2021.	
3.5	Owned sites not viable for development with a partner considered for self build	To follow evaluation of partnership proposals for sites	2022/2023	Housing Strategy Manager / Growth Manager / Commercial Estates Manager	The sites were agreed for the Longhurst Contract in the Summer 2021, we now have several sites which were not suitable to be taken forward which can now be considered on a self build basis. This work will be undertaken by the Housing Strategy Manager in liaison with the Growth Manager and Commercial Estate Manager.	
3.6	Collect data on the private rented sector to inform future focus	Agree priority for action for the coming year	2022/2023	Environmental Health / Housing Manager	This is an area where monitoring doesn't yet take place. Work needs to be undertaken to look into the private rented sector by the Strategic Housing Team and the Environmental Services Team to inform improvements.	

3.7	Understand reason for empty homes increase	Profile and Evaluate	Review Yearly	Communities	As of the 13.09.2021 there are: 93 properties that have been empty for 2 years or more, 24 properties that have been empty for 5 years or more and 19 properties that have been empty for 10 years or more. A total of 136, there are approximately 76,640 homes in the district and this figure therefore reflects 0.1% of all homes therefore at the present time this element of the strategy does not have a resource attributed to it.	
3.8	Continue to lead Huntingdon North Initiative and evaluate effectiveness	Reduction in ASB and crime and other tangible benefits	2022/2023	Communities	Work in this part of Huntingdon intensified in the past year, largely due to Covid. Our local Crime Partnership does not routinely monitor headline rate reduction but have advised that benefits have been realised by the community. We will obtain data from CCC and the Police in future action plan updates to show the tangible benefits being realised.	