

Appendix 2: Local Housing Strategy Consultation Report

Background

The Local Housing Strategy (LHS) is the sole strategic document for housing. In order to support a joined up and connected housing system the LHS must reflect the broad range of issues and faced by our partners, stakeholders and, most importantly, our communities.

The Housing (Scotland) Act 2001 requires local authorities to consult on their proposed LHS. In addition, the statutory Equality Duty on public bodies requires the involvement, consultation and engagement with as wide a range of local residents as possible.

Guidance from the Scottish Government (2014) on preparation of the LHS states local authorities should conduct wide and effective consultation with tenants, service users, communities, partner organisations such as housing associations, and other interested parties. The LHS should be a corporate document agreed and supported by all relevant local authority departments. It should reflect the views and contribution of stakeholders, including members of the Community Planning Partnership (CPP), as well as demonstrating the contribution housing can make to the delivery of wider CCP outcomes.

Method of Consultation

All stages of the LHS development were overseen by the Angus Housing Partnership which is a multi-disciplinary group. Engagement commenced early in the LHS development to ensure the final strategy is genuinely shaped by the views of stakeholders and partners.

The Consultation Plan had three key stages; evidence testing, priority setting and final agreement. Wide consultation with stakeholders during the evidence gathering phase ensured the data and analysis which underpins the LHS is sound. Following this, engagement with the wider community in Angus was undertaken to agree the priorities for housing and housing related services which recognise the needs of different communities. The Angus Housing Partnership approved the final outcomes and actions before publication of the Consultative Draft LHS.

To maximise responses to the consultation a range of methods were used to consult with partners, stakeholders and residents, including:

- email and web-based forums
- working groups
- focus/ localities groups
- public meetings
- questionnaire

The Consultation Timetable

Consultation began in April 2016 and has continued throughout the LHS development process. The Consultation Timetable is outlined in Appendix 1.

Shaping the LHS Through Consultation

The approach to consultation has ensured the views and priorities of partners, stakeholders and communities shaped development of the strategy through every stage. This inclusive and methodical approach to consultation ensured the priorities and action plan are based on robust evidence and reflective of a range of views on how best to tackle the housing issues in Angus.

The views and priorities expressed by partners, stakeholders and local communities fell into a number of broad themes which have been addressed in the Action Plan.

Issue	Response
A lack of affordable housing options and long waiting times for social housing are the main barriers for people accessing suitable housing	The LHS priorities increasing the supply of affordable housing across all tenures
Bring empty homes back into use	Through the LHS empty home owners will be supported to bring properties back into use
There needs to be more information and advice available regarding housing options	The LHS will prioritise actions which help people access suitable housing and consider their housing options
Need to improve options for individuals requiring specialist housing	The LHS sets a target for the provision of specialist housing and seeks to improve strategic planning arrangements between partners
Raise awareness and provide information and advice about fuel poverty, energy efficiency and housing quality issues to both residents and landlords	The LHS includes actions to increase awareness of energy efficiency and property condition issues

Formal Consultation

A formal consultation period will run from 23 January to 16 April 2016. This will enable Elected Members, stakeholders, residents and other Community Planning Partners to provide views on the extent to which the LHS demonstrates the priorities of communities and stakeholders. This will inform the final strategy.

Interested parties will be invited to provide comments on the Consultative Draft LHS and a set of consultation questions are set out in Appendix 2.

In addition to local consultation the Consultative Draft LHS will also go through a Scottish Government Peer Review Process. A panel of Scottish Government and local authority representatives will assess the LHS against Scottish Government criteria and provide comments which can be used to further strengthen the final strategy. The Peer Review Process is a valuable part of the LHS development process.

Appendix 1: Partnership Working, Consultation and Engagement to Develop Consultative Draft Angus LHS 2017-22.

Consultation Phase	Date	Nature of Consultation / Engagement	Purpose	Target Audience
Evidence Testing	April 2016	Publication of evidence papers	Gather views on validity and relevance of data and analysis, identify any gaps in data and collate views on strategic priorities for LHS	Housing Market Partnership
	May to June 2016	Stakeholder events: Supply of Housing and Place Making, Independent Living and Specialist Provision and Property Condition, Fuel Poverty and Climate Change.	Gather views on validity and relevance of data and analysis, identify any gaps in data and collate views on strategic priorities for LHS	Housing Market Partnership
	June 2016	Publication of stakeholder event feedback papers	An overview of the pre-identified issues, along with additional issues and actions identified during the stakeholder events	Housing Market Partnership
Priority Setting	September 2016	Publication of questionnaire	Gather views on validity and relevance of data and analysis formed from evidence papers and stakeholder events	Citizen's Panel, local residents and other Community Planning Partners
	September 2016	Locality Events (x4) during national Housing Week	Consult with communities on priorities for local areas	Local residents, stakeholders and other Community Planning Partners
	October 2016	Migrant Workers event	Gather migrant workers views on housing related issues, and raise awareness and encourage participation	Migrant workers, Local communities/residents
Final Agreement	September 2016	Housing, Health & Social Care Group	Draft strategic outcomes and action plan, providing update to group of consultation process	Group updated with progress; discussion regarding Action Plan / Outcome setting
	October 2016	Angus Housing Partnership Workshop	Agree strategic outcomes and supporting action plans	Angus Housing Partnership
Formal Consultation Period	January to April 2017	Formal consultation period	Consult with stakeholders and communities on Consultative Draft LHS and action plan	Elected Members, local residents, stakeholders and other Community Planning Partners
	January to April 2017	Peer Review Process	Review of Consultative Draft LHS by Panel of Scottish Government and Local Authority representatives to assess against Scottish Government LHS criteria	Peer Review Panel

Appendix 2: Consultation Questions

Introduction and Local Context

- To what extent do the introductory sections set the scene for the LHS?
- Does the local context accurately represent Angus and provide a background to the issues the LHS must respond to?

Outcome 1: Increase the supply of good quality, affordable housing across all tenures.

- Do you agree with the key issues and priorities identified?
- Do the actions against Outcome 1 address the housing need and supply issues?
- Do you agree that at least 10% of new affordable housing should be to wheelchair standard?
- Are there any housing supply related issues that you think the LHS should address?

Outcome 2: People can access a range of housing options and related services to meet their needs.

- Do you agree with the key issues and priorities identified?
- Do the actions against Outcome 2 address housing access, homelessness and support issues?
- Are there any housing access related issues that you think the LHS should address?

Outcome 3: Improve stock condition across all tenures, ensuring we tackle fuel poverty and energy efficiency issues and contribute toward climate change targets.

- Do you agree with the key issues and priorities identified?
- Do the actions against Outcome 3 address the fuel poverty, energy efficiency and housing stock condition issues?
- Are there any fuel poverty, energy efficiency and housing condition related issues that you think the LHS should address?

Local Priorities

- Are there any other issues within your local area you think the LHS should address?