

Environment and Regeneration Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Agenda

Date: Friday, 12th February, 2021
Time: 2.00 pm
Venue: Virtual

How to Watch the Meeting

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The agenda is divided into 2 parts. Part 1 is taken in the presence of the public and press. Part 2 items will be considered in the absence of the public and press for the reasons indicated on the agenda and at the foot of each report.

It should be noted that Part 1 items of Cheshire East Council decision making meetings are audio recorded and the recordings are uploaded to the Council's website

PART 1 – MATTERS TO BE CONSIDERED WITH THE PUBLIC AND PRESS PRESENT

1. **Apologies for Absence**
2. **Minutes of the Previous Meeting** (Pages 3 - 8)

To give consideration to the minutes of the meeting held on 18 January 2021.

Contact: Helen Davies
Tel: 01270 685705
E-Mail: helen.davies@cheshireeast.gov.uk

3. **Declarations of Interest**

To provide an opportunity for Members and Officers to declare any disclosable pecuniary and non-pecuniary interests in any item on the agenda.

4. **Whipping Declarations**

To provide an opportunity for Members to declare the existence of a party whip in relation to any item on the agenda.

5. **Public Speaking/Open Session**

A total period of 15 minutes is allocated for members of the public to make a statement(s) on any matter that falls within the remit of the Committee.

Individual members of the public may speak for up to 5 minutes, but the Chairman will decide how the period of time allocated for public speaking will be apportioned, where there are a number of speakers.

Note: In order for officers to undertake any background research, it would be helpful if members of the public contacted the Scrutiny officer listed at the foot of the agenda, at least one working day before the meeting to provide brief details of the matter to be covered.

6. **Household Waste & Recycling Centre- Consultation results and draft recommendations**

To review the results of the consultation relating to the Household Waste and Recycling Centre and draft recommendations ahead of review by Cabinet.

7. **Housing: Consultation Updates** (Pages 9 - 46)

To receive an update on the consultations relating to the Vulnerable and Older Persons Housing Strategy 2020-2024, and the Tenancy Strategy.

8. **Forward Plan** (Pages 47 - 60)

To give consideration to the Forward Plan.

9. **Work programme** (Pages 61 - 66)

To give consideration to the Committee's Work Programme.

CHESHIRE EAST COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the **Environment and Regeneration Overview and Scrutiny Committee**
held on Monday, 18th January, 2021 as a Virtual Meeting via Microsoft Teams

PRESENT

Councillor JP Findlow (Chairman)
Councillor Q Abel (Vice-Chairman)

Councillors L Braithwaite, S Brookfield, J Buckley, T Dean, P Groves,
M Hunter, D Jefferay, C Leach, K Parkinson and H Faddes

VISITING MEMBERS

Councillor Rachel Bailey
Councillor Janet Clowes

OFFICERS

Frank Jordan- Executive Director of Place and Deputy Chief Executive
Paul Bayley- Director of Director of Environment and Neighbourhood Services
Peter Skates – Director of Growth and Enterprise
Andrew Ross- Director of Infrastructure and Highways

41 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

There were no apologies for absence.

42 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

RESOLVED- That the minutes of the meeting 16 November 2020 be accepted as a correct and accurate record.

43 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

44 WHIPPING DECLARATIONS

No declarations of a party whip were received.

45 PUBLIC SPEAKING/OPEN SESSION

There were no members of the public present or registered who wished to speak.

46 **BUDGET 2021/2022 CONSULTATION**

Frank Jordan, Executive Director of Place introduced and presented this item to the Committee.

He advised the Committee that Cabinet have proposed a set of draft budget proposals and if approved by Full Council the proposals did indicate a balanced budget. Cabinet would consider the results of the budget consultation on the 2nd Feb and in addition to this Central Government had provided a settlement for Local Authorities.

All proposals had been listed and structured under draft Corporate Plan themes: Open, Fair and Green, and RAG (Red, Amber, Green) Rated by Cabinet Members. Any proposal marked as Red or Amber denoted Cabinet Members were minded to reconsider the proposals following consultation and the full details of the Government settlement.

Frank advised the Committee of key headlines:

- 1) The potential available for Cheshire East Council from the Government Settlement, meant the level of Council Tax (that was set by Full Council) gave rise to an opportunity to add an additional precept of 3% that would be linked to Adult Social Care on top of the Council Tax rate. This would provide more income and enable reconsideration of some of the proposals.
- 2) In terms of the cost base, there was an opportunity to freeze pay for Local Authority employees, an additional Social Care grant was to be awarded. The amount will be based on amount of funding raised locally, so it is linked to Council Tax.
- 3) New Homes Bonus will be reviewed in the medium term.
- 4) Government had changed guidance and rules around use of capital funding raised through public works and loans board if used to acquire assets for a yield. This was part of Medium Term Financial Strategy which was approved last February, this is no longer appropriate under the new guidance.

Frank presented a list of proposals for the Place Directorate under the themes of Open and Green.

Open:

Flexible Resourcing for Regulatory Services
Urban Grass Cutting
Highways Correspondence
Tourist Information Centres
Regulatory Services ICT System £9k
Constellation Partnership
Orbitas
Public Rights of Way
Everybody Sports and Recreation (ESAR)
Highways
ASDV Review
ANSA Savings of £259k
Strategic Leisure Review

Estates Transformation and Neighbourhood Service Review

Green:

Development of Transit site for Gypsy and Travellers- £27k Growth
Tatton
Asset/Service Transfer
Fixed Penalty Income
Housing Services- £45k
Waste- Tonnage and Contract inflation £810k
Environment Strategy
Trees
LED Lighting for Street Signs
Parking Strategy (37k-£955k)
Local Bus Services

The committee considered the Pre-Budget Consultation 2021/22 proposals relating to services that fell within its remit, with a view to passing on its comments, feedback and recommendations to Corporate Overview and Scrutiny (28 January 2021) to include within its final budget scrutiny feedback to Cabinet (2 February 2021).

Members asked questions and put comments in relation to;

- In respect of the Boroughwide Consultation on the Parking Strategy and the Local Transport Plan, that the consultation timeframe be extended to take into account the difficulties people without access to the internet may have experienced trying to access services such as libraries which are closed as part of the national lockdown guidance relating to the Covid-19 pandemic. Easter was given as a suggestion.
- It was noted that the budget proposals came with an attached caveat that:

Proposals marked RED / AMBER had been identified as those only being considered for consultation and any subsequent implementation if the Local Government Funding Settlement does not sufficiently increase the funding to Cheshire East Council. RED items would be removed first where possible.

The Committee agreed that for items relating to the Environment and Regeneration budget, the items marked in red and Amber could represent c£770k of savings. Recommendation from the Committee was to retain those savings regardless of the outcome of the Local Government Funding Settlement.

- The Committee proposed that a plan for rural grass cutting could be developed as there was some reported road safety issues reported in certain parts of the borough. Members were keen to note from Officers when rural grass was planned to be cut and/or sprayed and also the issue of Pavements siding out' was raised, especially on major A roads where people can't walk down.

RESOLVED –

That the committee's comments, questions and feedback on the Pre-Budget 2021/22 Consultation proposals be formalised and presented to Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee (28 January 2021) to include within its final budget scrutiny feedback/recommendations to Cabinet (2 February 2021).

47 QUARTER 2 PERFORMANCE REPORT

Frank Jordan, Executive Director for Place introduced the item. He advised the Committee to note that this performance report should be reviewed noted this is not an ordinary year.

The Committee were advised that the recovery reports highlighted: performance and that it was useful to note services have had to deliver entirely new services- e.g support with shielding, business and economic support- grants etc. Services such as enforcement and regulatory services have had to increase capacity as there had been provision of additional support for those homeless or at risk of.

Waste collection and Highways had maintained a service where possible.

The Planning department had experienced pressures working remotely, especially as the demand is increasing not decreasing.

The Council have reacted where possible, and been able to provide services not previously offered before.

The Committee commended the officers who have worked throughout the pandemic, especially those who had distributed grants to businesses.

There was some discussion that related to:

- The retention of Environmental Health officers, Frank advised that this had been tracked in previous years and additional support had been sought to meet targets but this was not a sustainable approach. Therefore, a different approach had been taken around recruitment.
- The Council worked to the Food Standards Agency (FSA) Covid-19 guidance on food hygiene and standards activities that focused on high risk areas. This stated that Local Authorities are expected to prioritise their activities through remote assessments initially, and physical onsite inspections were required for high risk and non-compliant establishments. However the FSA had stated that only physical inspections would count towards the annual inspection programme. The Council were awaiting further guidance to understand how this will affect next year's inspection programme.
- Members raised the issue about potential missed bin collections, Frank agreed to pick up this point and feed back to Members.
- The timeframe of Planning applications, Members were advised timeframes were adjusted to take into account extensions of time with applicant, these were always within the best interests of the applicant.
- The potential to add to the volunteer base for areas of work such as litter picking.
- The timeline for financial support to businesses must be high priority.
- Concerns on the number of refusals against officer recommendations that were overturned by the Planning inspector. Members were advised that

whilst fluctuations within appeals did happen, the proportion of appeals was significantly higher. Further analysis over two quarters would be needed to assess any trends or whether it was symptomatic of the applications at that time.

- Home adaptations did have a backlog of work, but this will be looked at when restrictions lifted enough to enable contractors to go into other people's homes.
- The question of digital Infrastructure and broadband being rolled out across the borough would be dealt with as part of the draft corporate plan, this would contain revised strategic objectives where performance would need to be set and reset considered as part of that.
- The Committee asked how many Cheshire East properties would benefit from the Airband agreement, Peter Skates agreed to pick up this point direct with Members.

RESOLVED: That

- Frank Jordan be thanked for his attendance and presentation to the Committee;
- Frank Jordan to feed back to Members in respect of potential missed bin collections; and
- Peter Skates to feed back to Members in respect of how many properties would benefit from the Airband agreement.

48 FORWARD PLAN

Consideration was given to the Forward Plan.

RESOLVED- That the Forward Plan be received and noted.

49 WORK PROGRAMME

The Committee considered the Work Programme.

Councillor Findlow advised the Committee that:

- the Carbon Action Plan Update was due to come before this Committee on the 15th March, however Senior Officers were waiting to give an indication as to whether the Update will go to Cabinet in April or May 2021, any later than this and it would need to be passed to the new Environment and Communities Committee;
- similarly, the Draft Quality Air Quality Plan Update also due to this Committee on the 15th March would not be ready for this meeting and would need to be passed to the new Environment and Communities Committee; and
- In regard to the Task and Finish Group for flooding, the Group was due to meet a Consultant from The Flood Hub, a funded organisation that provided advice and guidance to support householders, businesses and communities across the North West in becoming more flood resilient. This meeting was being scheduled for early February following on with a subsequent meeting that involved peers from Calderdale Metropolitan Borough Council who had direct experience with severe flooding.

RESOLVED- That

a) The Work Programme be received and noted.

The meeting commenced at 10.00 am and concluded at 12.42 pm

Councillor JP Findlow (Chairman)



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Version Number:

BRIEFING REPORT

Environment and Regeneration Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Date of Meeting: 12 February 2021

Report Title: Housing Consultation update

Portfolio Holder: Councillor Nick Mannion

Author: Karen Carsberg

Senior Officer: Frank Jordan – Executive Director - Place

1. Introduction and Policy Context

- 1.1.** In July 2020, Overview and Scrutiny committee were presented with the Vulnerable and Older Persons' Housing Strategy which was produced by the Strategic Housing service. At the time, this draft strategy was in the process of public consultation following Cabinet approval to consult.

- 1.2.** In October 2020, Strategic Housing's draft Tenancy Strategy was approved for external consultation by Cabinet, as well as the decision to present the outcomes of the consultation to committee members of Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

- 1.3.** This report provides a summary of the consultation responses and the amendments which have been made to both strategies. The Vulnerable and Older Persons' Strategy has now been amended following consultation and is due to be imminently approved in line with the delegated authority outlined within the respective Cabinet report. Amendments are being made to the draft Tenancy Strategy with a view to submit for formal adoption following the implementation of the new committee system.

2. Background

2.1. Vulnerable and Older Persons Housing Strategy - Members of the Environmental and Regeneration Overview and Scrutiny Committee were presented with the draft strategy in July 2020, following Cabinet approval to consult on a revised draft strategy in May 2020. Consultation took place between 18th May 2020 and 10th August 2020. This was an extended period due to the COVID restrictions to ensure that everyone received an opportunity to comment.

2.2. The aim of the strategy is to provide an updated version, following a review of the evidence base and the strategic priorities set out in the 2014 strategy, ensuring that it remains relevant and applicable. In addition, consideration was also given to the local and national policy frameworks, which could affect service delivery.

2.3. The revised strategy gives a clear indication of the housing needs of a number of client groups and outlines the strategic outcomes, which are as follows:

- People are supported to live in their own homes independently for longer
- When required, people can receive the support they need in a wide range of specialist, supported accommodation within the Borough
- People are able to make informed choices about the accommodation, care, and support options within Cheshire East

2.4. Tenancy Strategy - The draft strategy was approved by Cabinet for consultation in October 2020 and was circulated to a range of stakeholders including Members, Town and Parish councils, Housing Providers, and residents via an online survey/questionnaire.

2.5. The Tenancy Strategy sets out the matters that registered housing providers must consider when they are preparing their own tenancy policies. This can include:

- the types of tenancies that they will grant
- the circumstances under which different tenancies are granted
- when to grant 'fixed-term' tenancies and for how long, and
- the circumstances where a further tenancy is granted following the expiry of a fixed-term tenancy.

2.6. The objective of the new draft strategy is to ensure the best use is made of Cheshire East affordable housing stock to meet local housing need and to

benefit vulnerable households, contribute to strengthened communities, and enable households to make realistic choices based on their own circumstances.

2.7. Consultation for the Tenancy Strategy took place between 29th October 2020 and 18th January 2021

3. Briefing Information

3.1 Due to ongoing COVID-19 restrictions, advice was taken from CEC Legal Services to determine a suitable method of engagement with the consultation process. Both strategies were subject to 12 weeks consultation each, comprised of a wide range of engagement activities to ensure adequate opportunity for responses. Reports outlining the consultation responses are appended to this document.

Vulnerable and Older Persons' Housing Strategy

3.2 The Vulnerable and Older Persons' Housing Strategy was sent to all Members, all Town and Parish Council Clerks within Cheshire East, Registered Housing Providers and 3rd sector organisations who may have an interest in the draft strategy, as well as a comprehensive press release and social media campaign by CEC Communications to make the public aware of the consultation. The online survey was also listed on the Council's website.

3.3 Responses were received either via the online survey, or as an email to officers where further comment could be provided. In total, there were 32 responses via the online survey.

3.4 Responses could be specific to different client groups included within the strategy, to allow those with relevant knowledge and interest to not have to respond to the full document. Some headline responses from the consultation are included below:

- 52% of respondents felt the scope of strategy was good, 26% thought it was average and 22% felt it was not good.
- For older adults, whilst 75% thought the evidence base was either good, or gave no opinion, just over 50% felt the actions wouldn't be effective in achieving the priorities.
- For mental health, 78% felt the evidence base was good, but only a third felt the actions would be effective to achieve the priorities.
- For learning disabilities, it was positive to see that all respondents felt the evidence base was accurate, however only 40% of respondents felt the actions would be effective.

- 3.5** One of the most consistent comments across a number of client groups was in relation to the effectiveness of the actions for each client group, and whether they would address the issues outlined. As such, an overhaul of the action plan was completed and now forms part of the amended strategy. This provides significantly more information, as well as outcome measures and anticipated completion dates, to give the reader a clearer understanding of the process CEC officers will undertake.
- 3.6** Another area which has been significantly improved is in relation to supported living accommodation. This type of accommodation is relevant for a number of cohorts including learning disability, autism and mental health. Additional data was retrieved post-consultation to clearly outline the current provision by location, as well as the client group and whether the units were shared accommodation, or a single occupancy unit. The learning disability and mental health sections have been updated with this data.
- 3.7** As well as the above, additional data for a development pipeline of new supported living units was accessed and incorporated into the strategy. This breaks down development by cohort and location and allows for a clearer strategic view on where Cheshire East Council are keen to see developments, and how they should be delivered.
- 3.8** As requested at July 2020's OSC, information was added regarding the impact of COVID-19 on vulnerable groups. An update has been included to the introduction of the strategy, and additional paragraphs have been included in a number of individual chapters to provide a more tailored overview of the impacts of COVID on that particular group, as well as the local authority's response.

Tenancy Strategy

- 3.9** The Tenancy Strategy was subject to the same rigorous consultation process as the Vulnerable and Older Persons' Strategy, totalling 12 weeks and responses received via an online survey/questionnaire.
- 3.10** Similar to the Vulnerable and Older Persons' Housing Strategy, 32 responses were received, consisting of 31 responses via the survey, and 1 as a direct email to officers. Overall comments for the strategy were very positive, as below:
- 74% agreed the strategy is relevant
 - 70% agreed the strategy is good
 - 63% agreed the strategy is comprehensive
- 3.11** There were a mix of comments received during the consultation which referred to issues that weren't within the remit of a Tenancy Strategy. These mainly included references to private rent amounts, which this strategy doesn't relate to.

Whilst the comments were welcomed, these didn't form part of any amendments to the document.

3.12 Similarly, comments were made around the grounds for eviction for tenants within social housing. Concerns were raised by some responders regarding anti-social behaviour, and how these should be managed by relevant agencies. It wasn't felt necessary to include responses to these in the amendments for the strategy as housing providers will have their own procedures for tackling ASB within their housing stock. ASB can constitute a legal ground for eviction and a court must award possession of the property back to the housing provider, subject to them issuing the correct Notice Seeking Possession Order. Rent arrears were also raised, perhaps more relevant an issue now due to the potential for impacts on finances during COVID. The strategy clearly states that housing providers should make use of a Pre Action Protocol for rent arrears to seek arrears resolution, rather than ending any Fixed Term tenancy.

3.13 Amendments which are to be made to the strategy include updated Local Housing Allowance (LHA) figures to give more updated information, and additional work is ongoing regarding the types of tenancies issues for those fleeing domestic abuse. This particular amendment is to be managed internally by CEC officers, ensuring that those fleeing domestic violence are able to access safe and secure tenancies. Meetings to discuss this are currently ongoing, and the strategy will be suitably amended following this.

4. Implications

4.1. Legal Implications

There are no legal implications for the Vulnerable and Older Persons' Housing Strategy. The Tenancy Strategy is a statutory document which the local authority must publish. However, Registered Housing Providers only need to take due regard to the Council's ambition for tenancies when they are devising their own in-house tenancy procedures.

4.2. Financial Implications

There are no financial implications for either Strategy. Any workstreams included within the Vulnerable and Older Persons' Housing Strategy will be met within existing budgets, and there is no additional financial ask from either the local authority or from stakeholders

4.3. Human Resources Implications

There are no human resources implications for either Strategy. Any workstreams included within the Vulnerable and Older Persons' Housing Strategy will be met within existing staffing resources.

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A summary of responses to Cheshire East Council's

Vulnerable and Older People's Housing Strategy Consultation 2020

Summary and conclusions

Rating the strategy overall

Around half of respondents, 52%, rated the scope of the strategy as good overall, with the remainder rating it as average or not good.

General feedback on the strategy

Respondents generally agreed that the evidence base and findings in each of the sections was accurate, which is pleasing to see.

However, there was disagreement that the actions would be effective in achieving the priorities for each vulnerable group – having more effective actions may be the best way to improve the strategy overall.

Other general feedback on the strategy included that:

- Dementia should feature more prominently in the strategy, as it links to the older people, and mental health sections
- The term “vulnerable group” may be outdated and disempowering
- Clearer and more specific actions may be needed in the strategy.

Feedback for “older people”

The vulnerable group that elicited most feedback was “**older people**”, with 20 responses in total – this may reflect the fact that this group represents the largest cohort of people covered by the strategy e.g. there are many more people in Cheshire East who are elderly than who are homeless. This may also show that this group requires most consideration of all.

Few (4 out of 20) agreed the actions for this group will be effective in achieving the priorities – respondents felt there was no clear action plan for this vulnerable group.

Generally, respondents felt that “older people” should not be treated as one whole group, that housing needs to be made specifically for them, that a mix of housing in communities is vital, and that bungalows are essential. They also felt dementia needed to be given more consideration within the strategy.

Feedback for “mental health”

The next largest number of comments was for the group covered in the “mental health” section, and again respondents felt the actions here could be improved.

The main concerns for this group were around people being forced to move away from their home towns, and that people with dementia should be a bigger priority within the strategy.

Feedback for all other vulnerable groups

Each of the remaining vulnerable group section only received 7 or less responses each, and other than the actions being lower rated in each case, feedback was limited, and can be seen within the main report.

Level of response

Finally it is important to note that the number of responses to the consultation was fairly low.

Whilst consultations on lengthy strategy documents do struggle to achieve a high response, there is concern that feedback received is not representative of all stakeholders, and therefore not balanced – future consultation on this topic may need to be more engaging.

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Report produced 28 August 2020 by Ryan Hackney and Ben Buckley of the Research and Consultation Team, Cheshire East Council, on behalf of Chris Hutton of Strategic Housing.

Email RandC@cheshireeast.gov.uk for information.

Introduction

Purpose of the consultation

In 2014 Cheshire East Council approved the Vulnerable and Older People's Housing Strategy, which summarised the housing needs of specific groups of people living in the borough.

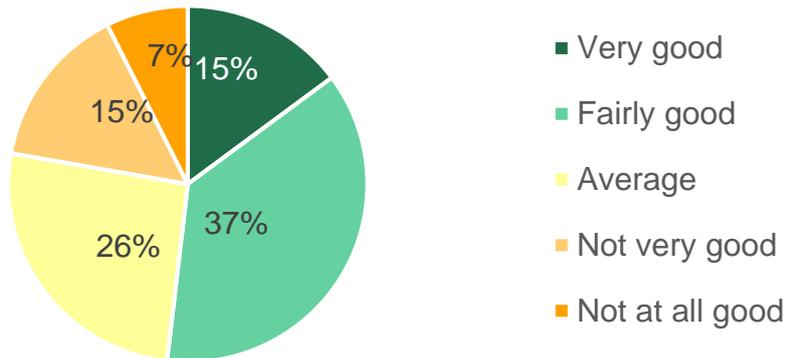
In 2019 the strategy was updated to reflect progress and changes since the strategy was first published, adopting lessons learned since the initial publication.

During June 2020, a survey was conducted to gauge what stakeholders thought about the updated strategy. The following report summarises responses to this survey – in total 32 people responded.

Overall views of the strategy

Overall just over half of respondents – 52% – felt the scope of the strategy was good. 22% felt it was not good, with the remaining 26% saying it was average.

Overall, how would you rate the scope of the strategy?



Number of responses = 27

Number of responses by vulnerable group

The updated strategy consisted of 9 different sections, with each section covering a different vulnerable group, providing evidence bases and priorities for each.

Respondents could choose which of the sections they wished to comment on in the consultation.

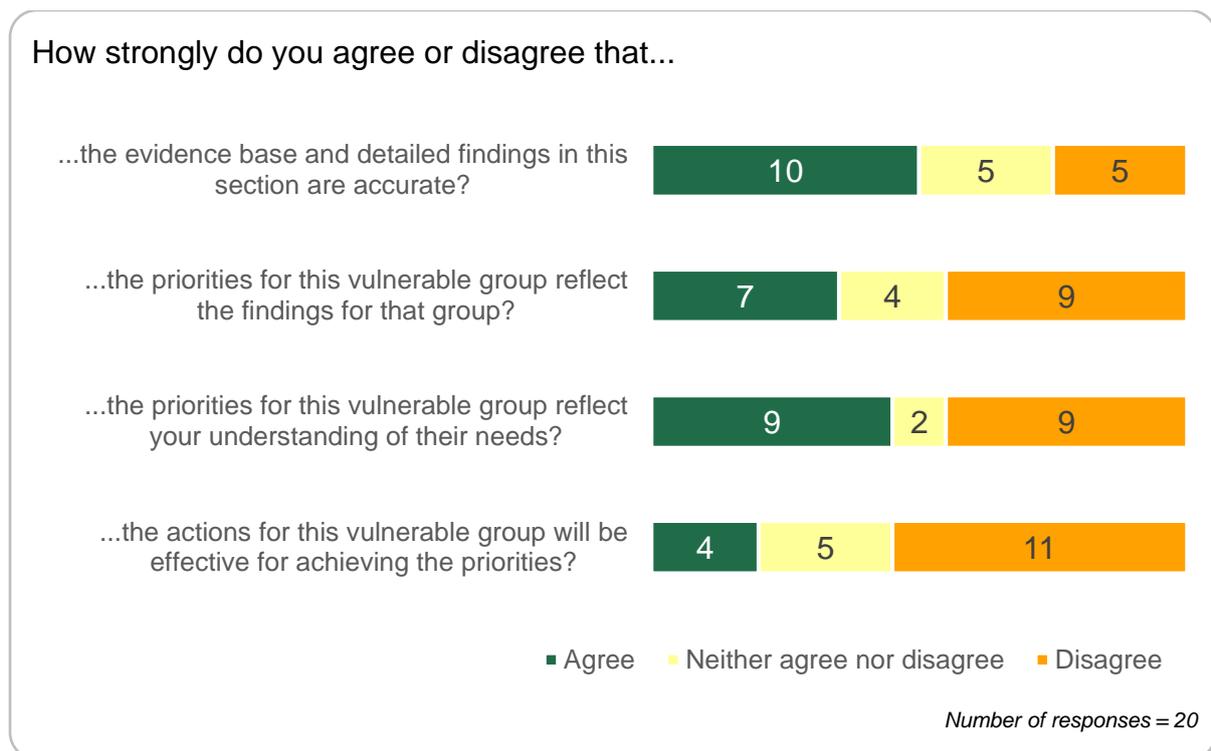
20 choose to comment on the “Older people” section, 9 on the “Mental Health” section, and 7 on the “Domestic abuse” section etc. – see below.

Vulnerable group	Number of responses
Older People	20
Mental Health	9
Domestic Abuse	7
Physical and Sensory Disabilities	6
Learning Disabilities	5
Drug and Alcohol	4
Young People in Need	3
Cared for Children & Care Leavers	3
Homelessness	3

Older people

This was the vulnerable group which had most feedback, with 20 responses in total.

Whilst half (10 out of 20) agreed the evidence base and findings for this group were accurate, less than half (9 out of 20) agreed the priorities for this vulnerable group reflect respondents' understanding of their needs, and just 4 out of 20 agreed the actions for this vulnerable group will be effective for achieving the priorities.



Respondents made a number of comments relating to this vulnerable group, these have been summarised under the below headings.

Older people:

- Older people are not all the same at a given age and thus should not be just grouped by age
- Older people aren't necessarily vulnerable – it might be helpful to separate the two groups. Some are more marginalised than others
- The starting age for accommodation should not be 55, it should start when someone is receiving their state pension, unless they have disabilities and are not working

- The chapter does not seem to acknowledge the increase in older people occupying social rented homes

Housing type:

- More affordable and social housing is needed for older people
- Specific schemes for older people are needed, with linked facilities e.g. community centres, care support, wardens etc
- A mix of housing in communities is essential - student accommodation, starter homes, family homes and post-family homes. CEC must do more to ensure this happens
- Bungalows are better than retirement flats, and make a valuable contribution towards the independence of the elderly
- Houses for older people need greater broadband provision
- People should not be forced to leave the area they have always lived in

Measuring success:

- How will you measure success of your strategy for this group?
- It doesn't really help to describe the problem in detail without coming up with an action plan
- We all agree what the problem is and we all know what the solution is - to build another 8,000 care places for our increasingly elderly population by 2030. However, there are no recommended actions in the report to address this challenge – there are no details of how many Council funded places are required out of that total, no details of how much this would cost and no details of how the costs could be met
- This document treats each group as a silo, I see no evidence of an integrated approach to addressing this issue in an holistic fashion.
- There is no evidence of a planning timeline for when these strategies will be implemented, or how they will be implemented.
- There is no communication plan in the strategy.

General comments on the strategy:

- There are research reports produced by the World Health Organisation, the Centre for Ageing Better and the HousingLIN which do not appear to have been considered
- I could not see a specific Dementia strategy incorporated in this document
- There is a demonstrable lack of evidence from within Cheshire East of the need or requirement for additional capacity in any sector of this type of care
- There is a lack of understanding and acknowledgement of the impact that additional provision has on the limited and already stretched health providers
- Developers modify schemes approved as over 55 provision to general housing, this could be viewed as a loophole in the system.

The consultation:

- Framing people as belonging to a 'vulnerable group' is outdated and disempowering. Since the implementation of the Care Act, this language should not be used for older people, or any of the other groups identified in this consultation
- I am not clear how well you have consulted older people. I couldn't find the ORS report, so I don't know how ORS consulted older people, and if they consulted a representative sample.

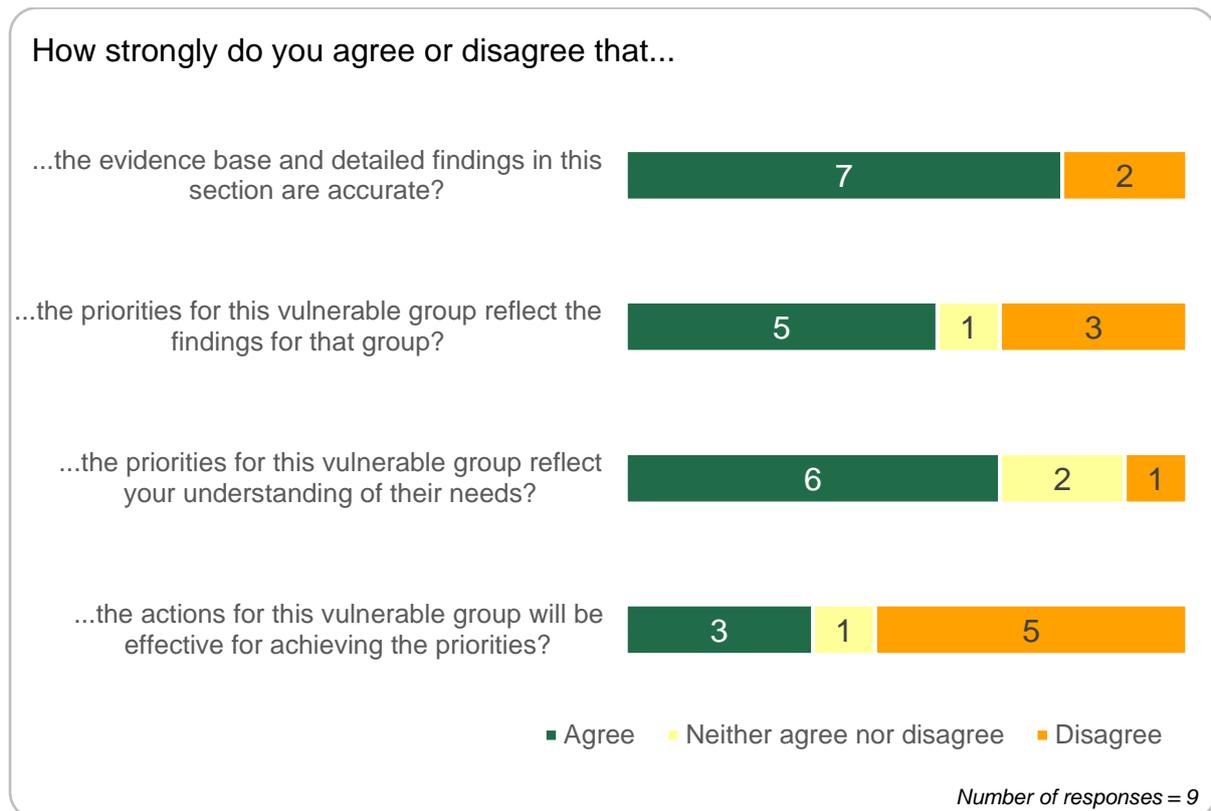
Care provision in the North of the borough:

- Care provision in Wilmslow, Alderley Edge and Handforth is well catered for, with perhaps an over provision in the private sector
- Analysis of the North of the Borough does not take into account provision and demand/supply in Stockport

Mental health

There were 9 responses for this vulnerable group.

Whilst a majority of respondents agreed the evidence base, findings and priorities were good, just 3 out of 9 agreed the actions for this vulnerable group will be effective for achieving the priorities.



Respondents made a number of comments relating to this vulnerable group, these have been summarised under the below headings.

Concerns about moving people to new locations:

- People with mental health, need to feel safe and secure – moving them away from their home town is not achieving that, it could result in more homelessness as you are taking them away a town they know and have friends
- When vulnerable people are rehoused in another location therapeutic activity and social inclusion often gets forgotten.

People with dementia need to be given more consideration:

- The numbers of those with dementia are grossly understated by a factor of 10+. Dementia should either be given a specific separate section of the strategy, or included in the older people section, since the great majority of those living with dementia are 65+
- Consider adaptation needs for housing to make it dementia-friendly – it is a lot cheaper to engineer dementia-friendliness into new builds than to backfit into existing housing.

Other comments:

- For vulnerable people decision making can prove difficult, a greater understanding of this is required, especially by Primary Care Health Service providers (NICE Guidelines 2020)
- Fathers do not appear to get parity with mothers in terms of domestic abuse refuge. Fathers that may have pre-existing mental health issues that want to maintain parenting access
- There is a lack of mental health advocacy services available Cheshire East especially relating to Welfare Benefit issues and claims
- CEC do not do enough training and education around Mental Health first Aid Matters (see www.changesplus.co.uk)
- There is not enough community collaboration and co-production – who is The Sandbach Partnership for example, who are they partnering with, and with what outcomes?

Domestic abuse

There were 7 responses for this vulnerable group.

Similar to previous groups, whilst a majority agreed the evidence base, findings and priorities were good, smaller proportions felt the actions for this vulnerable group will be effective for achieving the priorities.

How strongly do you agree that...	No. that agree
...the evidence base and detailed findings in this section are accurate?	6 out of 7
...the priorities for this group reflect the findings for that group?	5 out of 7
...the priorities for this group reflect your understanding of their needs?	6 out of 7
...the actions for this group will be effective for achieving the priorities?	4 out of 7

Respondents made the following comments relating to this vulnerable group:

- Action to address the causes of Domestic Abuse is also required otherwise the numbers are sadly only going to increase
- A concern is the 'short term' nature of much of this provision when those with complex intersecting needs often require longer interventions to become fully independent
- Domestic abuse should also be seen as a thread throughout the other areas identified
- Victims of Domestic Abuse should be made to feel safe within 12 hours of seeking help, making sure the abuser does not enter the property
- The chapter does not contain any data for DA experienced by older people. In my experience there are additional barriers for older adults who experience DA which result in under reporting and not being aware of support or accessing available services
- There is a good understanding of needs and numbers, but little else in the way of actions
- Older people, people with mental health issues, transgender people, people with significant financial issues, those with pets and larger families are often challenging to accommodate. Appropriate and flexible provision is essential.

Physical and Sensory Disabilities

There were 6 responses for this vulnerable group.

Similar to previous groups, whilst a majority agreed the evidence base, findings and priorities were good, smaller proportions felt the actions for this vulnerable group will be effective for achieving the priorities.

How strongly do you agree that...	No. that agree
...the evidence base and detailed findings in this section are accurate?	4 out of 6
...the priorities for this group reflect the findings for that group?	4 out of 6
...the priorities for this group reflect your understanding of their needs?	4 out of 6
...the actions for this group will be effective for achieving the priorities?	2 out of 6

Respondents made the following comments relating to this vulnerable group:

- The needs and welfare are not outlined sufficiently, especially of the working age group with disabilities and sensory loss
- Houses should be built for life and developers forced to provide homes that owners can have for their whole lifetime, once they purchased their property.
- There is lots of data, the problem is recognised, but there is little else. Lots of "we need more research", but nothing to say how the research will be used and, more significantly, when physical work will be undertaken to address this problem

Learning Disabilities

There were 5 responses for this vulnerable group.

Similar to previous groups, whilst a majority agreed the evidence base, findings and priorities were good, smaller proportions felt the actions for this vulnerable group will be effective for achieving the priorities.

How strongly do you agree that...	No. that agree
...the evidence base and detailed findings in this section are accurate?	5 out of 5
...the priorities for this group reflect the findings for that group?	3 out of 5
...the priorities for this group reflect your understanding of their needs?	4 out of 4
...the actions for this group will be effective for achieving the priorities?	2 out of 5

Respondents made the following comments relating to this vulnerable group:

- They need to stay as close as their town, families and friends, and not asked to be rehoused in another town miles away
- The cost of housing, affordability and availability for this client group should be included in the strategy (Social Housing Provision)
- The issue of housing to support those with learning difficulties as they transition from a family home to shelter is not clearly articulated. It is difficult to identify a clear plan.

Drug and Alcohol

There were 4 responses for this vulnerable group.

Similar to previous groups, whilst a majority agreed the evidence base, findings and priorities were good, smaller proportions felt the actions for this vulnerable group will be effective for achieving the priorities.

How strongly do you agree that...	No. that agree
...the evidence base and detailed findings in this section are accurate?	3 out of 4
...the priorities for this group reflect the findings for that group?	3 out of 4
...the priorities for this group reflect your understanding of their needs?	3 out of 4
...the actions for this group will be effective for achieving the priorities?	1 out of 4

Respondents made the following comments relating to this vulnerable group:

- The chapter does not give any data for drug and alcohol use among over 65s. In my experience this is a growing issue and can bring additional issues in terms of tenancy sustainment and available housing options
- This section wavers from residential care provision and sheltered accommodation provision but without making clear what is required and when it can be delivered
- More education on this issue in schools is needed
- There have been incidents within Cheshire East that drug dealers are given brand new homes, without the relevant checks and within months the houses have been raided, the housing association then moves the tenant on to another area. It is a vicious circle and our young people are being caught up in county lines. It does appear that these tenants have originally come out of the area and bring their drug dealing with them.

Young People in Need

There were 3 responses for this vulnerable group.

Similar to previous groups, whilst a majority agreed the evidence base, findings and priorities were good, smaller proportions felt the actions for this vulnerable group will be effective for achieving the priorities.

How strongly do you agree that...	No. that agree
...the evidence base and detailed findings in this section are accurate?	2 out of 3
...the priorities for this group reflect the findings for that group?	2 out of 3
...the priorities for this group reflect your understanding of their needs?	2 out of 3
...the actions for this group will be effective for achieving the priorities?	1 out of 3

Respondents made no comments relating to this vulnerable group.

Cared for Children & Care Leavers

There were 3 responses for this vulnerable group.

Similar to previous groups, whilst a majority agreed the evidence base, findings and priorities were good, smaller proportions felt the actions for this vulnerable group will be effective for achieving the priorities.

How strongly do you agree that...	No. that agree
...the evidence base and detailed findings in this section are accurate?	2 out of 3
...the priorities for this group reflect the findings for that group?	2 out of 3
...the priorities for this group reflect your understanding of their needs?	2 out of 3
...the actions for this group will be effective for achieving the priorities?	1 out of 3

Respondents made no comments relating to this vulnerable group.

Homelessness

There were 3 responses for this vulnerable group.

Similar to previous groups, whilst a majority agreed the evidence base, findings and priorities were good, smaller proportions felt the actions for this vulnerable group will be effective for achieving the priorities.

How strongly do you agree that...	No. that agree
...the evidence base and detailed findings in this section are accurate?	3 out of 3
...the priorities for this group reflect the findings for that group?	3 out of 3
...the priorities for this group reflect your understanding of their needs?	3 out of 3
...the actions for this group will be effective for achieving the priorities?	1 out of 3

Respondents made no comments relating to this vulnerable group.

Respondent type

Most respondents classed themselves as a member of one of the vulnerable groups which the strategy covers. 7 respondents represented an organisation that works with vulnerable people.

A significant number of respondents selected “other” here, and included volunteers working in vulnerable people organisations, and a town councillor.

Which of the following best describes how you are you responding to this consultation:	Total
I class myself as a member of one of the vulnerable groups listed within the strategy	10
I represent an organisation that works with vulnerable people	7
I am related to, or care for, someone who lives in supported accommodation	1
Other	10



A summary of responses to Cheshire East Council's

Tenancy Strategy Consultation 2020

Contents

Introduction	3
Overall views on the strategy	4
Rating different aspects of the strategy	4
Comments on the strategy	6
Conclusions.....	10

Report produced 22 January 2021 the Research and Consultation Team, Cheshire East Council. Email RandC@cheshireeast.gov.uk for further information.

Introduction

Purpose of the Engagement

Between October 2020 and January 2021 Cheshire East Council consulted key stakeholders on its newly drafted Tenancy Strategy. This strategy had been drafted in-line with Section 150 of the Localism Act 2011.

Throughout the 12-week consultation the council sought views from local social landlords, present and future social housing applicants on Cheshire HomeChoice, residents, Elected Members, and any other interested parties.

Consultation responses are to be considered before a final version of the strategy is adopted and published on the Cheshire East Council website.

Engagement methodology

The engagement was also widely promoted, most notably through:

- **[Insert detail]**.

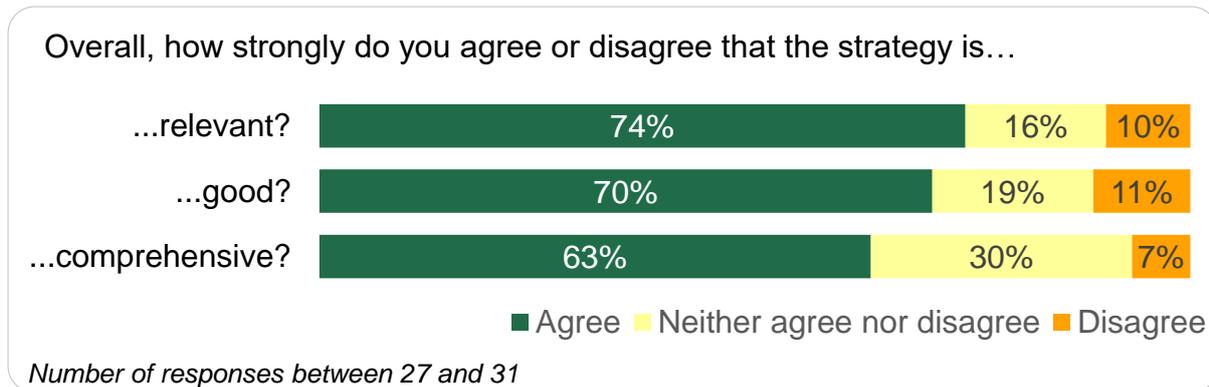
In total 32 responses were received to the consultation, including:

- 31 survey completions
- 1 direct email.

Overall views on the strategy

Of those that responded to the survey:

- 74% agreed the strategy is relevant.
- 70% agreed the strategy is good.
- 63% agreed the strategy is comprehensive.



Rating different aspects of the strategy

Survey respondents were asked to rate their level of agreement with 8 different statements about the newly drafted strategy.

They were most likely to agree that:

- Lifetime tenancies should be issued to vulnerable households such as elderly people, sheltered and supported housing for older people, people with learning difficulties, and enduring mental health issues (87% agree).
- If a Fixed Term Tenancy is issued to a family it should be for a minimum of 5 years or until the youngest child reaches school leaving age, whichever is the latter (84% agree).

And were least likely to disagree that:

- Households on Fixed Term Tenancies should not see their tenancies end for rent arrears or anti-social behaviour or neighbour nuisance, which should be dealt with under normal possession procedures, to see if the issue can be resolved to prevent homelessness (58% agree).
- The balance is correct between flexibility for social landlords, and clarity for customers and potential customers (53% agree).

Levels of agreement with each statement are given in the table below.

How strongly do you agree or disagree...	Agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Disagree	Base
...that Lifetime tenancies should be issued to vulnerable households such as elderly people, sheltered and supported housing for older people, people with learning difficulties, and enduring mental health issues?	87%	3%	10%	31
...that if a Fixed Term Tenancy is issued to a family it should be for a minimum of 5 years or until the youngest child reaches school leaving age, whichever is the latter?	84%	3%	13%	31
...the draft Tenancy Strategy is not proposing an open-ended approach, which gives social landlords total freedom to issue the types of tenancies they want, neither is the approach prescriptive, in expecting only the use of one type of tenancy.	73%	7%	20%	30
...that the overall presumption in the Draft Tenancy Strategy for a further tenancy to be granted at the end of a fixed term tenancy is correct?	68%	13%	19%	31
...that shorter-term tenancies may be used in areas of stock management and in areas of wider regeneration?	63%	20%	17%	30
...that in areas of high demand, or properties in short supply, such as larger properties, short-term tenancies may be issued in agreement with Cheshire East, avoiding a 'post code lottery' where turnover is high in a particular settlement sub-area?	59%	14%	28%	29
...that households on Fixed Term Tenancies should not see their tenancies end for rent arrears or anti-social behaviour or neighbour nuisance, which should be dealt with under normal possession procedures, to see if the issue can be resolved to prevent homelessness?	58%	3%	39%	31
...the balance is correct between flexibility for social landlords, and clarity for customers and potential customers?	53%	17%	30%	30

Comments on the strategy

Respondents were also given the opportunity to comment on the strategy, with 10 comments received in the survey, and one via email.

The comments have been grouped together under the following categories.

General support for the strategy

This does read to have a good balance between flexibility for the RP and their own Tenancy Policy but also considering the wider housing need requirement of Cheshire East, so we are all on the same page in terms of addressing housing need and providing secure and sustainable homes for our customers.

Support for social housing & criticism of landlords

(Rents should be low, protect those who need social housing) Rent levels for tenancy of privately-owned houses should be in line with that paid by tenants in existing affordable houses. The current situation with home ownership encourages those with the most i.e. someone who inherits a house to keep it as a second property and to rent it to those who are unable to get a foot on the ladder of property ownership.

This discrimination is wrong and while there is a place in the overall housing market for privately rented property as a short-term solution to meet property needs, it should not be the solution for longer term needs e.g. 5 years +. As such CEC is encouraged to take whatever steps it can to reduce the attractiveness of renting out property to supplement income for those lucky enough to have more than one house.

There should be no opportunity for any landlord to exploit tenants or to ignore their rights. It is essential that any strategy serves to protect the vulnerable and reduce homelessness through evictions.

Disley Parish Council would expect providers of social housing to provide the necessary support to tenants to avoid homelessness. In the current economic climate, an increasing number of people of working age are likely to face financial hardship. Household's on Fixed Term Tenancies should not see their tenancies end for rent arrears. In the case of anti-social behaviour or neighbour nuisance, we would expect providers of social housing to work with tenants/Cheshire East Council/police as appropriate to provide a satisfactory outcome for all concerned, given the adverse impact on neighbouring households. Ending the tenancy should be avoided if possible but the adverse impact on neighbouring households should be considered of equal importance. Disley and Newtown Neighbourhood Plan Policy H2 supports any proposals to enhance and improve the quality or quantity of social housing units for the elderly. Policy H1 supports new development schemes for extra care housing for people aged 55 and over.

Support for landlords & criticism of social housing

You always need to remember whose house this is. It belongs to the landlord, who should be able to get it back when it is needed. If tenants want the high level of security shown in this survey, they need to get their own property.

There needs to be a clear path for tenants to understand. At the end of the tenancy they need to know from the offset the options when this comes to an end i.e. can it be extended, or they need to move out.

There is a contradiction here: you say that there is a housing shortage yet give scarce social housing for a lifetime to people who don't need it. Why should people whose situation has bettered and are earning a really good wage and able to pay much more in rent get to live in a subsidised home? It's not good to see a new car on the drive when you know that they are paying £250 a month.

Response to the statement – If a Fixed Term Tenancy is issued to a family it should be for a minimum of 5 years or until the youngest child reaches school leaving age, whichever is the latter?

My only concern is that we might be seen as penalising families with older children moving into larger properties on fixed term tenancies if we are looking to offer them only five years whilst their neighbour may benefit from a tenancy of up to 15 years if they have a young child in the household.

Detailed & specific responses

- 1) Lifetime homes should also include the physical disability client group.
- 2) There remains an issue around fixed term tenancies where adjustments may be required to the home relating to health/disability - DFGs may be used to fund the necessary works but housing associations will need to consider permissions if the tenancy is on a short term basis and think through any subsequent future lettable issues. The Council would therefore need to consider how it made use of this mandatory grant in relation to short term tenancies. A possible solution would be to introduce 'exceptions' i.e. where major adaptations are required and provided during the fixed term, permission is conditional on conversion to a long term tenancy. This will prevent the potential waste of valuable resources (DFG), prevent lettable issues arising into the future and provide suitable long term solutions for the disabled person/family.

NB. – in the stock listing in the policy it has Staffordshire HA – which should be updated to Staffs Housing and note that Staffs Housing is part of Honeycomb Group.

Generally don't agree with the use of fixed term tenancies. It would be better to use starter tenancies which convert to permanent tenancies. Most landlords are no longer using them. Honeycomb Group / Staffs Housing has never used them for general needs lettings. Short term tenancies in social housing should only be used for when linked to housing for a purpose e.g. specialist supported accommodation. Are victims of DA included in your definition of vulnerable. Secure Tenancies (Victims of Domestic Abuse) Act 2018 already ensures that when the mandatory fixed term tenancies provisions in the Housing and Planning Act 2016 were implemented, lifetime tenants who suffer domestic abuse would retain lifetime security, when granted a new tenancy by a local authority for reasons connected with the domestic abuse. The Social Housing Green Paper said that Gov would seek to bring forward legislation to make sure that similar protections for victims of domestic abuse are in place where, as now, local authorities offer fixed term tenancies at their discretion (this is currently being done via the DA Bill). More clarity needed around situations when a tenancy of less than 5 years might or should be given.

Finally question accuracy of information and analysis in terms of the private rented sector on pages 8-9 and Appx 2. LHA figures from 2019-20 are used rather than 2020-21 for analysis which provides a bit of a distortion of what housing benefits / universal credit pay on private properties and the differences between that and the average rent levels – using 2020-21 figures the gap is much smaller on most properties as they were all updated in April 2020.

The Strategy does not seem to address:

- "The Right to Buy" and its impact on the stock of social housing – is this left as a problem for RP's.
- Where the circumstances of tenants change e.g. income changes or size of a household may no longer align with the original allocation criteria.

The private rental market has seen rent levels rise despite the large numbers of open market and affordable homes constructed in the past 5 years. Affordable rent is set at 80% of the market rent. Local Housing Allowance - seems to be split into a higher rate for the north of CE, and a lower rate for Congleton and the southern area (including Sandbach) so for Sandbach only 2 bed "Affordable Rent" properties would be within the Local Housing Allowance, all other property options would require top-up payments from other sources which are highly likely to lead to tenants struggling to afford the rent payments.

Fixed Term tenancies

[These tend to be the standard offering in the private rental market, with 6/12 month renewable Shorthold Assured Tenancy (SAT's) agreements.]

The strategy appears to be passing responsibility to the RP and their tenancy agreements for under-occupancy

CE do not want tenancy agreements ending for rent arrears and anti-social behaviour. Whilst Sandbach Town Council support the proposed use of a pre-action protocol for RP's to manage rent arrears, we would not want the stock of social housing to become misallocated due to non-payment of rent. Sandbach Town Council are also concerned that RP's are expected to rely on court decisions

regarding Anti-social behaviour - neighbours should expect early resolution of anti-social behaviour, they should not have to wait until courts intervene.

Would request for clarity within the strategy regarding the following concerns: The restricted offering of Fixed-term agreements, favouring lifetime tenancy, rather than the use of SAT's in the private sector? Need to ensure the best use of the limited housing stock for the local RP's, need an explicit policy on how to recycle properties where the tenant could subsequently afford to either purchase or rent in the open market [e.g. a periodic review of tenant's income and housing needs using updated allocation criteria]. Address "The Right to Buy", is this still an issue, is it to be managed by the RP's.

Conclusions

Consultation responses

32 consultation responses seem a limited number to draw strong conclusions from, though it is traditionally difficult to get a large number of responses from strategy consultations. Based on the number of responses however results should probably be treated as indicative only.

A positive overall impression

Among those that responded, it is positive to see a high level of agreement that the strategy is relevant, good and comprehensive, with little disagreement this is the case.

Differences of opinion

There were significant differences of opinion about the various statements made about the strategy, with respondents most likely to disagree about:

- The issuing of short-term tenancies in areas of high demand.
- Tenancies not ending due to rent arrears.
- The balance being correct between flexibility for landlords and customers.

Comments were received about the strategy including:

- General support for the strategy.
- Support for social housing & criticism of landlords.
- Support for landlords & criticism of social housing.
- Detailed & specific responses.

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FORWARD PLAN FOR THE PERIOD ENDING 31ST MAY 2021

This Plan sets out the key decisions which the Executive expects to take over the period indicated above. The Plan is rolled forward every month. A key decision is defined in the Council's Constitution as:

“an executive decision which is likely –

- (a) to result in the local authority incurring expenditure which is, or the making of savings which are, significant having regard to the local authority's budget for the service or function to which the decision relates; or
- (b) to be significant in terms of its effects on communities living or working in an area comprising one or more wards or electoral divisions in the area of the local authority.

For the purpose of the above, savings or expenditure are “significant” if they are equal to or greater than £1M.”

Reports relevant to key decisions, and any listed background documents, may be viewed at any of the Council's Offices/Information Centres 5 days before the decision is to be made. Copies of, or extracts from, these documents may be obtained on the payment of a reasonable fee from the following address:

Democratic Services Team
Cheshire East Council
c/o Westfields, Middlewich Road, Sandbach Cheshire CW11 1HZ
Telephone: 01270 686472

However, it is not possible to make available for viewing or to supply copies of reports or documents the publication of which is restricted due to confidentiality of the information contained.

A record of each key decision is published within 6 days of it having been made. This is open for public inspection on the Council's Website, at Council Information Centres and at Council Offices.

This Forward Plan also provides notice that the Cabinet, or a Portfolio Holder, may decide to take a decision in private, that is, with the public and press excluded from the meeting. In accordance with the Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Meetings and Access to Information) (England) Regulations 2012, 28 clear days' notice must be given of any decision to be taken in private by the Cabinet or a Portfolio Holder, with provision for the public to make representations as to why the decision should be taken in public. In such cases, Members of the Council and the public may make representations in writing to the Democratic Services Team Manager using the contact details below. A further notice of intention to hold the meeting in private must then be published 5 clear days before the

meeting, setting out any representations received about why the meeting should be held in public, together with a response from the Leader and the Cabinet.

The list of decisions in this Forward Plan indicates whether a decision is to be taken in private, with the reason category for the decision being taken in private being drawn from the list overleaf:

1. Information relating to an individual
2. Information which is likely to reveal the identity of an individual
3. Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including to authority holding that information)
4. Information relating to any consultations or negotiations, or contemplated consultations or negotiations, in connection with any labour relations matter arising between the authority or a Minister of the Crown and employees of, or office holders under the authority
5. Information in respect of which a claim to legal and professional privilege could be maintained in legal proceedings
6. Information which reveals that the authority proposes (a) to give under any enactment a notice under or by virtue of which requirements are imposed on a person; or (b) to make an order or direction under any enactment
7. Information relating to any action taken or to be taken in connection with the prevention, investigation or prosecution of crime

If you would like to make representations about any decision to be conducted in private at a meeting, please email:

Paul Mountford, Executive Democratic Services Officer
paul.mountford@cheshireeast.gov.uk

Such representations must be received at least 10 clear working days before the date of the Cabinet or Portfolio Holder meeting concerned.

Where it has not been possible to meet the 28 clear day rule for publication of notice of a key decision or intention to meet in private, the relevant notices will be published as soon as possible in accordance with the requirements of the Constitution.

The law and the Council's Constitution provide for urgent key decisions to be made. Any decision made in this way will be published in the same way.

Forward Plan

Key Decision and Private Non-Key Decision	Decisions to be Taken	Decision Maker	Expected Date of Decision	Proposed Consultation	How to make representation to the decision made	Private/ Confidential and paragraph number
CE 20/21-8 Carbon Action Plan Key Decisions	To authorise Officers to take all necessary actions relating to land allocation and procurements for initial projects contributing to sustainable energy generation and green sequestration.	Cabinet	2 Feb 2021		Ralph Kemp, Corporate Manager for Commissioning	N/A
CE 20/21-16 Third Quarter Review (Finance) 2020/21	To note and comment on the three quarter year finance and performance position, and to approve any supplementary estimates and virements.	Cabinet	2 Feb 2021			N/A

Key Decision	Decisions to be Taken	Decision Maker	Expected Date of Decision	Proposed Consultation	How to make representation to the decision made	Private/ Confidential and paragraph number
CE 20/21-19 Procurement of Occupational Health Contract	Decision to procure a contract for the provision of Occupational Health Services for the Council, Schools and ASDVs. Following the necessary procurement process, that the Executive Director of Corporate Services be authorised to award the contract to the successful bidder.	Cabinet	2 Feb 2021		Craig Hughes	N/A
CE 20/21-20 Orbitas Bereavement Services Contract Extension	Contract extension to Orbitas Bereavement Services to allow completion of contact review work paused due to Orbitas role as a key frontline provider as part of the Council.	Cabinet	2 Feb 2021		Ralph Kemp, Corporate Manager for Commissioning	Part exempt - paras 3 and 5
CE 20/21-21 Policy on the Pre-purchase of Graves at Cheshire East Cemeteries	To approve a new policy with regard to advance purchase of graves in Council-managed cemeteries.	Cabinet	2 Feb 2021		Ralph Kemp, Corporate Manager for Commissioning	N/A

Key Decision	Decisions to be Taken	Decision Maker	Expected Date of Decision	Proposed Consultation	How to make representation to the decision made	Private/ Confidential and paragraph number
CE 20/21-25 Day Opportunities Strategy and Redesign	Agree and authorise officers to take all necessary actions to implement the proposal for the development of a co-produced opportunities strategy and redesign of the Council's current day opportunities services offer across Cheshire East.	Cabinet	2 Feb 2021			N/A
CE 19/20-50 Medium Term Financial Strategy 2021- 25	To approve the Medium Term Financial Strategy 2021-25 incorporating the Council's Corporate Plan, budget, policy proposals and capital programme. The report will include the capital, treasury management, investment and reserves strategies.	Council	17 Feb 2021	Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee – 28 January 2021 Cabinet – 2 February 2021		N/A

Key Decision	Decisions to be Taken	Decision Maker	Expected Date of Decision	Proposed Consultation	How to make representation to the decision made	Private/ Confidential and paragraph number
CE 20/21-24 Local Development Scheme 2020-2022	That the draft updated Local Development Scheme for the period up to 2022 be approved and published.	Portfolio Holder for Planning	Not before 8th Feb 2021		Jeremy Owens	N/A

Key Decision	Decisions to be Taken	Decision Maker	Expected Date of Decision	Proposed Consultation	How to make representation to the decision made	Private/ Confidential and paragraph number
CE 20/21-3 Flowerpot Junction Improvement Scheme	To approve procurement of works to improve Flowerpot Junction, utilising the NPIF allocation from DfT and local funding contributions from s106 contributions and council match funding. Authorise the preparation and making of a CPO relating to land required for the junction improvements where this cannot be acquired through negotiation, and delegate authority to the Director of Infrastructure and Highways, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Strategic Transport to finalise the scheme details and enter into an agreement with the Council's appointed Highways Term Services to deliver the scheme.	Cabinet	9 Mar 2021			N/A

Key Decision	Decisions to be Taken	Decision Maker	Expected Date of Decision	Proposed Consultation	How to make representation to the decision made	Private/ Confidential and paragraph number
CE 20/21-7 Covid-19 - Update on Response and Recovery	<p>To receive an update report on the Council's response to Covid-19 and the Recovery Plan.</p> <p>To note the financial effects of Covid-19 on the Council, as regards additional expenditure and loss of income, and to consider the potential options for managing residual financial implications within the Council's Medium-Term Financial Strategy.</p> <p>An update report will be presented to each successive Cabinet meeting up to and including 4th May 2021.</p>	Cabinet	9 Mar 2021		Jane Burns, Executive Director of Corporate Services	N/A

Key Decision	Decisions to be Taken	Decision Maker	Expected Date of Decision	Proposed Consultation	How to make representation to the decision made	Private/ Confidential and paragraph number
CE 20/21-22 Housing Repairs and Adaptations for Vulnerable People Financial Assistance Policy	To approve the Housing Repairs and Adaptations for Vulnerable People Financial Assistance Policy 2021-2026, and to authorise Officers to take all necessary actions to implement the proposal.	Cabinet	9 Mar 2021		Karen Whitehead	N/A

Key Decision	Decisions to be Taken	Decision Maker	Expected Date of Decision	Proposed Consultation	How to make representation to the decision made	Private/ Confidential and paragraph number
CE 20/21-29 Household Waste Recycling Centre New Contract Service Provision	The household waste recycling centre contract is due for renewal in 2023 and the open procurement process will start in 2021. This report will present the results of the public consultation carried out Nov 2020 – Jan 2021 to inform the procurement and will seek to authorise officers to take all necessary actions to implement the proposal.	Cabinet	9 Mar 2021		Ralph Kemp, Corporate Manager for Commissioning	N/A
CE 20/21-30 Update on the Beechmere Recovery Programme	To update Cabinet on progress relating to the reinstatement of Beechmere Extra Care Housing and the proposed remedial works for the remaining four 'Meres' and the impact this will have for the Council.	Cabinet	9 Mar 2021		Nichola Thompson, Director of Commissioning	Fully exempt - paras 3 & 5

Key Decision	Decisions to be Taken	Decision Maker	Expected Date of Decision	Proposed Consultation	How to make representation to the decision made	Private/ Confidential and paragraph number
CE 20/21-31 Updated Asset Transfer Policy	To approve a new Asset Transfer Policy and authorise the Portfolio Holder for Environment and Regeneration to vary the policy from time to time.	Cabinet	9 Mar 2021		Peter Skates	N/A
CE 20/21-23 ASDV Review	To approve the recommendations within the report and authorise Officers to take all necessary actions to implement them.	Cabinet	13 Apr 2021		Richard Hibbert	Fully exempt - paras 3 and 4
CE 20/21-26 Site Allocations and Development Policies Document (SADPD) Submission	To approve the submission of the Site Allocations and Development Policies Document to the Secretary of State for independent examination by an appointed Planning Inspector.	Cabinet	13 Apr 2021		Jeremy Owens	N/A

Key Decision	Decisions to be Taken	Decision Maker	Expected Date of Decision	Proposed Consultation	How to make representation to the decision made	Private/ Confidential and paragraph number
CE 20/21-27 Crewe HS2 Hub Update	To approve preferred concept designs for the Crewe HS2 Hub Station scheme and supporting funding and financing strategy; and to authorise the progression of the work towards a planning application and to conclude funding and financing discussions with Government.	Cabinet	13 Apr 2021		Hayley Kirkham	N/A

Key Decision	Decisions to be Taken	Decision Maker	Expected Date of Decision	Proposed Consultation	How to make representation to the decision made	Private/ Confidential and paragraph number
CE 20/21-28 Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy 2021-25	To authorise Officers to consult formally on the draft Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy 2021-2025; and to delegate authority to the Director of Growth and Enterprise in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Environment and Regeneration to consider the results of the consultation and to approve the final version of the strategy.	Cabinet	13 Apr 2021		Karen Carsberg, Strategic Housing and Intelligence Manager	N/A
CE 18/19-60 The Minerals and Waste Development Plan	To seek approval to consult on the first draft of the Minerals and Waste Development Plan.	Cabinet	4 May 2021		David Malcolm	N/A

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Environment and Regeneration Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Date of Meeting: 12 February 2021

Report Title: Work Programme

Portfolio Holder: Councillor C Browne – Deputy Leader

Councillor T Fox – Portfolio Holder for Planning

Councillor N Mannion – Portfolio Holder for Environment and Regeneration

Councillor L Crane – Portfolio Holder for Highways and Waste

Councillor M Warren – Portfolio Holder for Communities

Senior Officer: Executive Director of Corporate Services

1. Report Summary

- 1.1. To review items in the work programme listed in the schedule attached, together with any other items suggested by committee members.

2. Recommendation

- 2.1. That the work programme be reviewed.

3. Reasons for Recommendation

- 3.1 It is good practice to review the work programme and update accordingly

4. Other Options Considered

- 4.1. There are no further options to consider.

5. Background

- 5.1 The schedule attached has been updated following the last meeting of the committee.
- 5.2 Members are asked to review the schedule attached to this report, and if appropriate, add new items or delete items that no longer require any scrutiny activity. When selecting potential topics, Members should have regard to the Council's new three year plan and also to the general criteria listed below, which

should be applied to all potential items when considering whether any Scrutiny activity is appropriate.

5.3 The following questions should be asked in respect of each potential work programme item:

- Does the issue fall within a corporate priority;
- Is the issue of key interest to the public;
- Does the matter relate to a poor or declining performing service for which there is no obvious explanation;
- Is there a pattern of budgetary overspends;
- Is it a matter raised by external audit management letters and or audit reports?
- Is there a high level of dissatisfaction with the service;

5.4 If during the assessment process any of the following emerge, then the topic should be rejected:

- The topic is already being addressed elsewhere
- The matter is subjudice
- Scrutiny cannot add value or is unlikely to be able to conclude an investigation within the specified timescale

6. Implications

6.1. Legal Implications

6.1.1. There are no legal implications at this stage.

6.2. Finance Implications

6.2.1. There are no financial implications at this stage

6.3. Equality Implications

6.3.1. There are no equalities implications at this stage.

6.4. Human Resources Implications

6.4.1. There are no human resources implications at this stage.

6.5. Risk Management Implications

6.5.1. There are no risk management implications at this stage.

6.6. Rural Communities Implications

6.6.1. There are no implications for rural communities.

6.7. Implications for Children & Young People

6.7.1. There are no implications for children and young people at this stage.

6.8. Public Health Implications

6.8.1. There are no direct implications for public health.

7. Ward Members Affected

7.1. All.

8. Access to Information

8.1. The background papers can be inspected by contacting the report author.

9. Contact Information

9.1. Any questions relating to this report should be directed to the following officer:

Name: Helen Davies

Job Title: Scrutiny Officer

Email: helen.davies@cheshireeast.gov.uk

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Date: 12.2.21 Time: 2pm Venue: Virtual Microsoft Teams Meeting	Date: 15.3.21 Time: 10.00am Venue: Virtual Microsoft Teams Meeting
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<u>Item</u>	<u>Purpose</u>	<u>Lead Officer</u>	<u>Portfolio</u>	<u>Suggested by</u>	<u>Scrutiny role</u>	<u>Corporate priorities</u>	<u>Date</u>
Household Waste & Recycling Centre- Consultation results and draft recommendations	To review the results of the consultation relating to the Household Waste and Recycling Centre and draft recommendations ahead of review by Cabinet.	Executive Director of Place and Deputy Chief Executive	Environment & Regeneration	Executive Director of Place and Deputy Chief Executive	Scrutiny	Cheshire is a Green and sustainable Place.	12.02.21
Housing: Consultation Updates	To receive an update on the consultations relating to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vulnerable and Older Persons Housing Strategy 2020-2024 • Tenancy Strategy 	Executive Director of Place and Deputy Chief Executive	Environment & Regeneration	Executive Director of Place and Deputy Chief Executive	Pre- decision Scrutiny	A responsible, effective and efficient organisation	12.02.21
Carbon Action Plan: Update	To scrutinise the actions relating to land allocation and procurements for initial projects contributing to sustainable energy generation and green sequestration.	Ralph Kemp, Corporate Manager for Commissioning	Environment & Regeneration	Committee	Pre- Decision Scrutiny	Cheshire East is a green and sustainable place	15.03.21* *Awaiting steer as to whether the Annual Update Report will go to Cabinet in April/ May (any later it will need to be passed to the

<u>Item</u>	<u>Purpose</u>	<u>Lead Officer</u>	<u>Portfolio</u>	<u>Suggested by</u>	<u>Scrutiny role</u>	<u>Corporate priorities</u>	<u>Date</u>
							new Environment & Communities Committee)
Draft Air Quality Plan: Update	To scrutinise the draft Air Quality Plan	Executive Director of Place and Deputy Chief Executive	Environment & Regeneration	The Committee	Pre-decision Scrutiny	Cheshire is a Green and sustainable Place.	15.03.21 Will not be ready and will be passed to the new Environment & Communities Committee.
Post Overview & Scrutiny	An opportunity to enable the Committee to reflect on past pieces of Overview & Scrutiny work, and current priorities in order to inform and advise the incoming Environment & Communities Committee	Executive Director of Place and Deputy Chief Executive	Environment & Regeneration	The Committee	Advisory	A responsible, effective and efficient organisation.	15.03.21

Task & Finish Group	To undertake an in-depth review of flooding and flood risk management in Cheshire East to enable a number of meetings that include local ward councillors and the Town Council, to scrutinise the impacts of the 2019 flooding in the various areas of Cheshire East that were affected (e.g. Poynton, Kettlethulme, Adlington, Prestbury, Bollington were named as some of the example areas).	Executive Director of Place and Deputy Chief Executive	Environment & Regeneration	The Committee	Overview & Scrutiny	A responsible, effective and efficient organisation.	Ongoing
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