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Title of report: Housing Strategy 2025 - 2030

Report : The current Ipswich Borough Council Housing Strategy comes to the end of its natural lifespan in 2024. The new Housing Strategy 2025 – 2030 has been updated to reflect the priorities within the new Corporate Strategy, our achievements during the current strategy period and changes in legislation. It outlines our priorities for Housing Services over the next five years, that have been determined through consultation and data analysis. The Housing Strategy allows for transparency of the Councils vision for our future work which promotes partnership working and fosters good relations with the residents of Ipswich. The Housing Strategy sits alongside the Local Plan which describes housing need in Ipswich. The Housing Strategy is concerned with the work that the Council can undertake or influence.

The Housing Strategy is currently in draft form and is set to be adopted in January 2025. There is public consultation being held 17th September – 15th October 2024.

The proposed priorities for the Housing Strategy 2025 – 2030 are;

1. Ensuring housing of all types and tenures are available to meet housing need.
2. Improving the quality and standard of all housing.
3. Being an excellent landlord to our tenants.
4. Supporting households to maintain access to accommodation.
5. Ensuring older persons have access to housing and services that meet their needs.

What evidence/data is being used to support this equality analysis? Please select all that apply.: Findings from surveys, focus groups & consultations, Published data - e.g Census, State of Ipswich report

Service area: Housing Advice

Corporate Manager: Gavin Fisk

Corporate Manager email: Gavin.Fisk@ipswich.gov.uk

Links to supporting documents where available:

Please upload any supporting documents: Housing Strategy Outline for EQUIA.docx

What is proposed?: The adoption of the new Housing Strategy 2025 -2030 will set a clear and transparent direction for the work of Housing Services over the next 5 years

Why are the changes being introduced?: To determine a clear direction for Housing Services over the next five years, to benefit the work of Housing Services colleagues, to promote partnership working with internal and external colleagues and to foster good relations with the residents of Ipswich.

What evidence is being used to support this Equality Impact Assessment, and how is it being used?: ONS, Gov.UK, IHMS, CIVICA

How will this change be implemented?: The priorities and aims of this strategy are supported by a live action plan which details the specific work to be undertaken to achieve our vision.

Age: Positive

Please provide an explanation of this impact and actions to mitigate any adverse impact, or further promote positive impact.: Analysis of data has confirmed that Ipswich continues to have a young age profile and an aging population, and this trend is set to continue. Residents of different ages are likely to have different housing needs. The Housing Strategy encompasses plans to address this in a number of ways including by exploring housing schemes and shared ownership options aimed at young people, to promote more good quality affordable options and schemes for single households, to enforce standards for houses of multiple occupation (HMO's) and to work with our partners to design an Ipswich pathway to mitigate the reduction in funding for supported housing. These measures will have a positive impact on young people living in Ipswich. There is a separate priority within the strategy that addresses the needs of older persons (Ensuring Older Persons have access to housing and services that meet their needs). This priority sets out our plans to provide good quality accommodation that supports individual choice and independent living.

Disability: Positive

Please provide an explanation of this impact and actions to mitigate any adverse impact, or further promote positive impact.: Within Ipswich 19% of residents are disabled under the Equality Act with 8% stating that their day-to-day activities were limited a lot. According to 2019 data, people with a disability are less likely to own their own home and more likely to rent social housing than non-disabled people. Therefore, it is important for local authorities to own properties that are suited to the varied needs of disabled people. Consequently, residents with disabilities are likely to have different housing needs. The Housing Strategy sets out continued help for residents with disabilities through a number of schemes including disabled adaptations within Council properties, disabled facilities grants for those living in the private sector and priority banding options on the social housing register Gateway to Homechoice.

Marriage & Civil Partnership: No impact

Please provide an explanation of this impact and actions to mitigate any adverse impact, or further promote positive impact.: The Housing Strategy is equal to all residents and is not related to marital status.

Race: No impact

Please provide an explanation of this impact and actions to mitigate any adverse impact, or further promote positive impact.: The Housing Strategy is equal to all residents and therefore will benefit residents from all communities regardless of race.

Pregnancy & Maternity: Positive

Please provide an explanation of this impact and actions to mitigate any adverse impact, or further promote positive impact.: The Housing Strategy has been designed to benefit all residents. One of the aims of the strategy is to build more affordable homes, which will also benefit those who are not working or working less due to pregnancy or maternity and therefore have reduced income.

Religion or Belief: No impact

Please provide an explanation of this impact and actions to mitigate any adverse impact, or further promote positive impact.: The Housing Strategy is equal to all residents and therefore will benefit residents regardless of religion or belief.

Gender Reassignment: No impact

Please provide an explanation of this impact and actions to mitigate any adverse impact, or further promote positive impact.: The Housing Strategy is equal to all residents and therefore will benefit residents regardless of gender reassignment.

Sex: No impact

Please provide an explanation of this impact and actions to mitigate any adverse impact, or further promote positive impact.: The Housing Strategy is equal to all residents and therefore will benefit residents regardless of their sex.

Sexual Orientation: No impact

Please provide an explanation of this impact and actions to mitigate any adverse impact, or further promote positive impact.: The Housing Strategy is equal to all residents and therefore will benefit residents regardless of their sexual orientation.

I can confirm the report does meet Ipswich Borough Council's equality objectives: I can confirm the report does meet Ipswich Borough Council's equality objectives

The report helps us to 'eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment & victimisation' in the following way(s): The Housing Strategy has been written to address the housing needs of the residents of Ipswich and is based on a comprehensive analysis of data. Consideration has been given to the housing needs of all communities within Ipswich.

The report helps us to 'advance equality of opportunity...' in the following way(s): The Housing Strategy contains a priority regarding "Supporting households to maintain access to accommodation". Within this the housing needs of different groups are addressed such as people experiencing mental health problems and people with disabilities.

The policy helps us to 'foster good relations...' in the following way(s): The Housing Strategy has been designed to address the housing needs of all residents and to promote cohesive communities.

The new provisions will be reviewed in the following way(s): The Housing Strategy is supported by a live action plan which will be monitored regularly to review actions and ensure they are being carried out so that the aims, priorities and the vision are met.

