



IPSWICH HOUSING STRATEGY

2019 - 2024 APPENDIX 9

CONSULTATION REPORT

Housing Strategy 2019-2024 – Consultation Report

Consultation

Executive agreed at its meeting on the 11th June 2019 that the updated Housing Strategy 2019-2024 should go out to Public Consultation from 18th June to 13th August 2019.

The draft strategy was published on the IBC website on 18th June 2019 with an invitation for interested parties from across the public and private sectors, as well as from the general public to express their views about the strategy by means of an on-line survey form. The on-line survey was available for the full consultation period.

All IBC Councillors were advised by email on 18th June 2019 of the consultation and were invited to respond with their views. In addition, a Councillor briefing regarding the draft Strategy was held on the 15th July 2019 and Council was asked for its comments at the Council meeting held on 24th July 2019.

Over 70 stakeholders, partners and other parties who may be interested in the draft strategy were also emailed details of the strategy on 18th June 2019 and invited to respond with their views.

Responses

Feedback from Council/Councillors

No changes to the Strategy were required by Council as an outcome from the Council meeting held on 24th July 2019.

Two comments related to measurable targets for the Action Plan. The Action Plan is a high level plan for IBC operational areas, and will be backed up by individual plans for each area as the actions are implemented. The Action Plan will be constantly monitored by the IBC Steering Group and is designed to evolve over time as work progresses.

Other comments supported the greater focus given to housing the ageing population, and also for those with dementia, disabilities and mental health problems.

One suggestion was for a residency requirement be introduced into the Council's allocation policy so that Council houses were given to local people. The allocations policy is agreed between all partners of Gateway to Homechoice. It allows for applicants who are resident in the Borough to obtain housing both within the Borough and in other participating Council areas. As this system works to the benefit of Ipswich residents in obtaining accommodation, there is no intention to seek a change in the allocations policy which may have the consequence of limiting the supply of housing to Ipswich Residents.

Another comment was to increase the number of shared ownership properties as it would be good for those younger people trying to get onto the housing ladder. It should also be noted that the requirement for discount home ownership/Starter Homes has been identified through the Strategic Housing Market Assessment which was last updated in January 2019.

It is not proposed to amend the Strategy as a result of this feedback.

Survey Monkey Results

We received 4 responses via Survey Monkey. This is comparable to the level of responses we received to the last Housing Strategy consultation in 2017.

4 respondents from organisations, 3 of which were from Local Authorities in Suffolk

The majority of the survey monkey results were in support of the draft Housing Strategy 2019-2014

1. Does the Strategy, as a whole, reflect the housing challenges faced within Ipswich?

ANSWER	RESPONSES %	RESPONSES
Strongly agree		
Agree	50	2
Neither agree nor disagree	25	1
Disagree	25	1
Strongly disagree		

1.1 One respondent reported that “The needs of young people and Care Leavers is limited, and missing from the 'vision' section as is the partnership with Social Care CYP services.”

Our response: The vision section is set out in broad terms such as “meeting the needs of all communities...”, rather than referencing particular client groups or agencies. The Strategy does state:

“The Council will continue to work with relevant agencies to develop a range of accommodation options for Care Leavers”

“The Council aims to provide suitable accommodation for all, including vulnerable groups”

In addition, the action plan makes specific reference to developing working relationships with Children and Young Peoples services at Suffolk County Council.

As such it is not proposed to amend the Strategy as a result of this feedback.

2. Does the Strategy, as a whole, explain the current work being undertaken across Ipswich against the four priorities?

ANSWER	RESPONSES %	RESPONSES
Strongly agree	33.3	1
Agree	66.6	2
Neither agree nor disagree		
Disagree		
Strongly disagree		

2.1 One respondent reported “The statistic section could include an unmet need, and gap analysis section. The document presents as heavy on the current position and challenges and light on intentions and actions (including in the action plan).”

Our response: The Ipswich Housing Report (Appendix 2) provides detailed statistical information and sets out the challenges faced. Detail to Action Plan will be developed over the lifetime of the Strategy.

As such it is not proposed to amend the Strategy as a result of this feedback.

3. Does the Strategy, as a whole, convey the vision and explain the planned future work to be undertaken across Ipswich?

ANSWER	RESPONSES %	RESPONSES
Strongly agree		
Agree	50	2
Neither agree nor disagree	50	2
Disagree		
Strongly disagree		

3.1 One respondent reported “The language could be more committal from an IBC perspective, to convey more ownership and leadership.”

Our response. Throughout the Strategy it is made clear that this is the Councils strategy and that whilst the Council will lead on delivering the strategy we will work in partnership to deliver it.

It is not proposed to amend the Strategy as a result of this feedback.

4. Do the Strategy appendices add value to the Strategy?

ANSWER	RESPONSES %	RESPONSES
Strongly agree	50	2
Agree	25	1
Neither agree nor disagree	25	1
Disagree		
Strongly disagree		

4.1 One respondent reported “Very comprehensive evidence base.”

5. Does the Action Plan explain the current work focus?

ANSWER	RESPONSES %	RESPONSES
Strongly agree	25	1
Agree	50	2
Neither agree nor disagree	25	1
Disagree		
Strongly disagree		

5.1 One respondent reported “Yes but as previous, it has missed a vital area for development moving forward as it doesn't adequately consider or cover the needs of young people and Care Leavers.”

Our response: We feel this has been covered within the Strategy and Action Plan.

It is not proposed to amend the Strategy as a result of this feedback.

5.2 Another respondent reported “More detail could be included about the funding needed for various initiatives and how they are going to be resourced.”

Our response: This will be addressed through the development and implementation of the Action Plan over the lifetime of the Strategy.

It is not proposed to amend the Strategy as a result of this feedback.

6. Other Comments

6.1 One respondent reported “Page 10 and page 18 detail different number of housing stock - this should be consistent through the document. It currently ranges from 7794 to 8000.”

Our response: The figure 7,794 represented the actual stock number as at May 2019. We consider that due to the impact of Right To Buy, property acquisitions and development of newbuild properties the rounded up figure of 8,000 is valid in the context it has been used.

It is not proposed to amend the Strategy as a result of this feedback.

6.2 One respondent reported “There could be merit in recognising the effects of others council's strategies on your own?”

Our response: Through our active involvement in the Suffolk Housing Strategy Officers group we have considered the effects of neighbouring Authorities strategies.

It is not proposed to amend the Strategy as a result of this feedback.

6.3 One respondent reported “There is no reference to housing and links to the Armed Forces Covenant which IBC have pledged support to. Whilst there is an issue in terms of expectation, we need to show engagement with partners such as military charities who can help with finances for deposits, furniture, white goods. There are of course cross theme links around mental health and substance misuse within this community.”

Our response: The vision section is set out in broad terms such as “meeting the needs of all communities...”, rather than referencing particular client groups or agencies. The Strategy does state:

“The Council aims to provide suitable accommodation for all, including vulnerable groups”

In addition, the Councils commitment to the Armed Forces Covenant and housing is contained within our allocations policy.

It is not proposed to amend the Strategy as a result of this feedback.

Conclusion

It is not proposed to amend the Strategy as a result of this feedback received through the consultation process.