

Kent Resilience Forum



PREPARING FOR EMERGENCIES IN KENT AND MEDWAY

KRF Recovery Co-ordinating

Group

KFRS Headquarters
The Godlands
Straw Mill Hill
Maidstone
Kent, ME15 6XB

T 03000 416833

Contact

David Whittle

Email

recovery@kent.gov.uk

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Jo Ellis
Chair, Kent Housing Group
Monson House
Monson Way
Tunbridge Wells
Kent
TN1 1LQ

Dear Jo

You will be aware that the Kent Resilience Forum's Recovery Co-ordinating Group together with its recovery cells has been working over the past few months to produce a Recovery Strategy and action plans to help partners in their collective approach to recovery from COVID-19. These action plans have been developed collaboratively and consulted across a wide range of partners and endorsed by Kent Council Leaders. I am pleased to attach the action plans for your information.

Now that the Recovery Strategy and action plans have been approved, we look to hand over the actions to begin implementation. The recovery cells themselves are not responsible for delivering the actions; this will be for individual organisations and partnerships to take forward and monitor through their own governance and decision-making processes. To support this, the action plans identify 'lead' organisations or partnerships for each action. This lead will be the main point of contact for taking the action forward (in conjunction with partners as appropriate); a coordinating role rather than being held accountable.

I am therefore writing to you because the Kent Housing Group has been identified as lead for a number of our recovery actions, which I've listed below. The attached action plans provide the full details, including the named lead person and supporting partners for your actions.

Cell	Action No.	Action
Infrastructure	7	Working with Kent Developers' Group, lobby MHCLG and Homes England for additional social housing grant for Local Authorities and Housing Associations, to develop new homes at social rent
Infrastructure	9	Working with Kent Developers' Group, lobby MHCLG and Homes England to allow Social Housing Grant on S106 Affordable Housing Contributions, including i) S106 Affordable Housing Grant Available on all schemes <75 homes' and ii) S106 Affordable Housing Grant Available if over-perform by >30%. This is designed to support

		Registered Providers in delivery of social housing, increase overall housing delivery, pace of delivery, support SMEs and increase overall supply of Social Housing. This will also increase viability in marginal markets e.g. Coastal East Kent
Infrastructure	11	Implement the Kent and Medway Housing Strategy, considering opportunities and demands as a result of COVID-19
Health & Social Care	10	Work with Housing authorities to <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Monitor the impact on housing, accommodation availability and expected demand for support as the current hold on evictions is lifted including impact on families and 16 and 17 years olds •Address demand for occupational therapy assessments for disabled facilities grants applications for adaptations in the home •Implement the wrap around services for those homeless people accommodated under the COVID-19 response and maximise opportunity to improve health outcomes

We intend to monitor progress of the action plans in a light touch way on a quarterly basis, and I will be in touch in due course with details of this. Given the extent to which the Kent Housing Group has supported the recovery process, nothing in the action plans should come as a surprise, and I'm aware you are already progressing many of these actions as part of your own recovery priorities/arrangements. If you have any queries about the above actions, or feel that your partnership is not the right one to take a particular action forward, please do not hesitate to get in touch as I will be more than happy to discuss the matter with you.

Once again, I would like to thank you and your colleagues for your strong support and engagement with the KRF Recovery Co-ordinating Group.

Yours sincerely



David Whittle

Chair of Recovery Co-ordinating Group
 Director of Strategy, Policy, Relationships and Corporate Assurance
 Kent County Council

Attached: KRF COVID-19 Recovery Action Plans document