**Delivering the Kent and Medway Housing Strategy 2020-25; Update and reporting progress**

The strategy and objectives were written in liaison and cooperation with the sub groups. However, the people who were chairs then are not chairs now and by autumn 2021 it was clear many chairs were not considering the strategy or objectives when setting the agenda for the sub group meetings. HM has been raising the strategy with them and aiming to ensure it is discussed at each sub group. The Asset Management sub group formed in 2021 and has identified the objectives that it can help deliver.

**The structure of the strategy**

The strategy has five themes;

1. Health and Wellbeing (HW)
2. Working together for safer homes (SH)
3. Infrastructure first (I)
4. Accelerating housing delivery and (HD)
5. Affordability. (A)

For easy referencing HM has given each objective a reference beginning with the letters of the theme and then a number. Each theme has a number of key action point/objectives which are qualitative, for example;

‘Challenge the stigma associated with regards to social or affordable housing’ (A8)

As such the objectives in strategy does not lend themselves to quantitative measurement and progress could be recorded by describing the outputs and where possible the outcomes. Sub groups could be asked to identify milestones or measures of success and these could be used to form the basis of RAG rating, or similar.

Action; The Board is asked to consider how it would like progress to be monitored.

**6 monthly all sub group meetings**

A meeting was held with Tracy Allison and the sub group chairs and vice chairs in February to discuss how to deliver the strategy. This highlighted that many objectives will be delivered by more than one sub group. For example;

‘Ensure housing is resilient to the future changes in climate to give the best possible health outcomes and prevent overheating’ (HW9)

Asset management will consider this for existing social housing. Private sector housing will consider it for existing private sector homes. Housing Strategy and Enabling will consider how it can influence this for planned homes. KHG may want to influence national or local planning or building control policies to reduce overheating for new homes. There will be times when each sub group addresses their part alone and times when cross sub groups working will be more appropriate.

Please see the attached spreadsheet showing every objective and the groups contributing towards delivering it.

**Reporting progress**

HM has drafted a template for each sub group to record their progress on each objective relevant to them which the chair will update to demonstrate progress or planned actions on a routine basis, which will begin in September 2022. These have been sent to the chairs for comments on whether the right objectives have been identified for the group. For example, part of the Asset Management’s group template is;

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| ref |  | General Contribution | Action this period or Planned Action |
| **Theme Health and wellbeing** | | | |
| HW5 | Promote and support the objectives of the Kent Fuel Poverty Strategy and the Kent Environment Strategy | For social housing |  |
| HW9 | Ensure housing is resilient to the future changes in climate to give the best possible health outcomes and prevent overheating | For social housing |  |
| **Other important matters since last update including any cross sub-group working;** | | | |

The template has room for general comments on the work of the sub group and any forthcoming actions at the end. This new template will replace the quarterly updates that sub groups provided but groups that can will be encouraged to provide their completed updates quarterly if possible, but at least every 6 months. HM will collate this feedback to show progress on each objective every six months and this spreadsheet can be circulated or a brief summary report can be created and circulated.

It is also proposed that we have a regular focus on the main KHG group on the themes reflected in the strategy to maintain a focus on the key issues, and invite sharing of good practice which may assist in delivery of the action points.

**Capacity to Deliver**

We rely on the goodwill of our sub group members to give up their valuable time to work on behalf of and for KHG on delivery of the strategy, however as we all emerge from the impacts of Covid members of the group may struggle to undertake the work required to help deliver the objectives and actions required.

It is therefore proposed that we research the appointment of a paid graduate post to report into the Partnership Manager who can offer a supporting role to the groups and assist with research and coordination work. This also would allow the Partnership Manager more time to devote to developing strategic actions.

**Action**; Board to determine

1. If these actions are robust enough to drive delivery of the strategy action plan, and
2. Consider how it can best support delivery of the action plan
3. Agree that the chair researches the appointment of a graduate post funded by KHG for a period of 12 months initially to support in the delivery of our strategic objectives.