Housing Strategy and Enabling

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| **Date of update;** |
| ref |  | General Contribution | Action this period |
| **Theme Health and wellbeing** |
| HW2 | Where appropriate, work at a local level with planning and developer colleagues to ensure the right type of high quality housing within sustainable communities is developed across Kent and Medway to meet identified local housing need | For new homes | An event is to be arranged with HSEG, planners and developers to ensure closer working, to address concerns with the process. |
| HW9 | Ensure housing is resilient to the future changes in climate to give the best possible health outcomes and prevent overheating | For new homes |  |
| **Working together for safer homes** |
| SH4 | Strengthen the partnership working to include how Kent Housing Group respond collectively to local or national consultations that will impact upon the safety and well-being of Kent and Medway residents |  | The HSEG meeting on 18th January was really engaged with the subject matter. |
| SH5 | Explore and learn about how new technology or approach can positively impact upon the delivery of new homes and enhance the condition of existing stock | For new homes | Coral Living attended January HSEG meeting to talk about supported housing provision. Anya Harris from KCC also attended that meeting specifically to discuss delivery of supported housing in Kent. Really engaged session and some authorities keen to understand more about need and options for delivering small s106 parcels as outlined by Coral Living. |
| **Infrastructure First**  |
| IF1 | Support, promote and align with the Kent and Medway GIF through marketing, research and partnership working | For new homes | The infrastructure mapping platform being developed and tested across East Kent currently, of which there was a presentation to HSEG, will aid collaborative working to ensure the right homes in the right places. |
| IF2 | Explore the benefit of developing an Investment Protocol to collectively overcome the challenging practical issues of delivering new housing developments | For new homes |  |
| IF3 | Consider, respond and implement recommendations from Government reviews that promote a positive change in approach and outcome, e.g. Letwin Review | For new homes | All officers keen to look at planning documentation being fed through from Government but not had the capacity to understand if a collective response should be given. Presentation on housing markets highlighted obvious nuances and differences between LA areas, so probably hard to provide collective response in great detail.  |
| IF4 | Consider and understand all implications of permitted development, across all partnership organisations involved in this process of enabling deliver of new homes | For new homes |  |
| IF5 | Influence, inform and lobby at a local and national level to ensure access to and award of funding to delivery infrastructure and housing e.g. Housing Infrastructure Fund and Garden Communities Fund | For new homes | Chair of HSEG was invited to attend the Housing Forum Planning Working group meeting on 19th January. He will be working with other colleagues (there was a prevalence of Kent-based officers, but national colleagues too) on a subsequent group that will produce a short report for lobbying purposes on speeding up the planning process and thoughts around place-making |
| IF6 | Support and work collectively across the KHG membership, partner agencies and professional groups including Kent Planning Officers Group to enable a single conversation with Government, to enable timely and appropriate access to funding to realise housing and infrastructure delivery ambitions | For new homes | See HW2 above. |
| **Accelerating Housing Delivery** |
| HD2 | Facilitate partnership working across Kent housing planning and development groups to explore how partnership working and approach can accelerate delivery of housing | For new homes | HSEG members will continue to seek collaborative opportunities across borough boundaries, including creating procurement frameworks, sharing construction frameworks and sharing designs etc. In East Kent this is happening through Housing Advisers Programme funding. |
| HD3 | Ensure that protocol documents that reduce barriers to delivery are fit for purpose and relevant | For new homes |  |
| HD4 | Explore how countywide approaches to across housing planning and development can support delivery against local plans and meet identified housing need | For new homes |  |
| HD5 | Share and learn from best practice, providing a platform and networking opportunities across housing planning and development sectors in Kent, Medway and neighbouring county areas, including peer support opportunities | For new homes | Discussions at future HSEG meetings will include sharing best practice, looking at ways of innovating to deliver new homes in the tough economic climate. |
| HD6 | Explore, learn and share knowledge and experience of Modern Methods of Construction and to realise ambition regarding opportunities for off-site construction within Kent and Medway | For new homes | Opportunities to do this in both Thanet and Ashford. |
| HD7 | Facilitate the review and influence existing procurement practice and frameworks across the county to ensure value for money and acceleration in delivery, to include the role and use of SME contractors | For new homes |  |
| HD8 | Support, promote and influence the delivery of housing in rural communities, exploring all funding resource and by sharing best practice and learning | For new homes | Discussion at the group around Action with Communities in Rural Kent and how a rural housing enabler function could be supported going forward to carry our this essential work of piecing together local housing need. |
| **Affordability** |
| A1 | Support, lobby and influence national policy reform and decision making to ensure that affordable housing is delivered across a range of tenures, and reflects the local housing market and associated costs | For new homes | Surveys and consultations out currently for all to respond to. |
| A2 | Explore what housing tenure and type/products are appropriate to meet diverse housing need, and how support can be provided to successfully sustain a tenancy | For new homes | As discussed above in HD8. |
| **Other important matters since last update including any cross sub-group working;** |