Housing Strategy and Enabling

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| **Date of update; Feb 2024** | | | |
| 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. The chair and vice-chair need to deliver on scenarios for this workshop, to include 100% affordable housing schemes. |
| HW9 | Ensure housing is resilient to the future changes in climate to give the best possible health outcomes and prevent overheating | For new homes | This was discussed as part of the work Thanet Council have delivered on an MMC site in Broadstairs (see SH5) – The Ashford MMC scheme is due on stream by summer 2024. |
| **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 |  | HSEG now takes place 4 times per annum, increasing opportunities for debate and to discuss hot topics - such as market failure with RPs not taking on s106 sites. |
| 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 | Thanet Council should deliver a presentation about its ambitious plans for Phase 4 of its affordable homes programme delivering EPC ‘A’ rated homes. Plan to possibly bring this to the May 2024 HSEG meet. |
| **Infrastructure First** | | | |
| IF1 | Support, promote and align with the Kent and Medway GIF through marketing, research and partnership working | For new homes | Partnership working is never far from our minds through the CAKEDOG work which the Chair presented previously.  The new vice-chair delivered a moving presentation about how councils can better deliver for neurologically diverse populations, with many questions from the group as to what homes can be delivered |
| 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 | Following the March 5 KHG event and subsequent consumer standards event, likely that there will be information to discuss at a future HSEG meeting. |
| 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 | Discussion to be held around ‘vulnerable’ buildings in urban areas and associated knock-on effects on infrastructure – Folkestone e.g. |
| 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 |  |
| 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 |  |
| **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 | Again, the CAKEDOG work in East Kent is something that could well be important in the partnership working element listed here. Altair are procured to run the workshop and produce a strategy document for the councils. The Chair will keep members of the group briefed in this regard. |
| HD3 | Ensure that protocol documents that reduce barriers to delivery are fit for purpose and relevant | For new homes |  |
| HD4 | Explore how countywide approaches across housing, planning and development can support delivery against local plans and meet identified housing need | For new homes | The new RACE work is delivering on this mission in rural areas and its position now under KHG illustrates the importance of this service being continued following the demise of ACRK. |
| 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. This will dovetail with the new consumer standards putting a strain on the delivery of affordable homes versus maintaining existing stock. |
| 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 | Thanet’s presentation was a prime example of how this work is apparent in the county, despite issues with organisations falling into administration and backing away from MMC delivery. Ashford’s Henwood scheme is another that can be pitched to the group as an example of good practice as that proceeds. |
| 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 | CAKEDOG work will inform this. |
| 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 | Tessa O’Sullivan attended the last HSEG session to talk about exactly this point. Local needs surveys are now being undertaken across the county under the new RACE banner. |
| **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 | Shared experience funnelled through Chair of KHG to Government. |
| 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 | Place-making, additional grant funding, First Homes. |
| **Other important matters since last update including any cross sub-group working;** | | | |