

STROUD DISTRICT COUNCIL

HOUSING COMMITTEE

1 FEBRUARY 2022

Report Title	Older Peoples Strategy Action Plan			
Purpose of Report	To present the updated position of the Older Peoples Strategy Action Plan			
Decision(s)	The Committee RESOLVES to: a) Note the plan updates b) Agree that officers consult with residents and stakeholders to draft a new strategy by December 2022 for the period 2023-2026			
Consultation and Feedback	Service Delivery Manager (Independent Living), Head of Housing Contracts, Head of Property Services, New Homes & Regeneration Manager, Project Manager, Head of Strategic Housing (Interim), Principal Accountant.			
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Options	N/A			
Background Papers	Older Persons Strategy 2019-2023			
Appendices	Appendix A - Older Peoples Strategy Action Plan (December 2021)			
Implications (further details at the end of the report)	Financial	Legal	Equality	Environmental
	No	No	No	Yes

1. Background

- 1.1 In April 2019, Housing Committee resolved to support the implementation of the Older Persons Housing Strategy (2019-2023) following a long period of consultation and commissioned work from Ark Consultancy beginning in 2015. The in depth review of our sheltered housing accommodation assessing the viable options to achieve a sustainable sheltered housing service and advise on a modernisation strategy.
- 1.2 The findings of the Ark Report resulted in the Council committing to a 10- year modernisation programme. Within the Ark Report, a number of schemes were categorised as ‘red’ and were considered unsuitable for older people’s accommodation. The Council agreed to dispose of a number of these sites, in order to generate income to reinvest in the redevelopment of some of the red sites to provide better quality, more energy efficient older people and general needs accommodation. The money is also being reinvested in the ‘green’ and ‘amber’ schemes to improve the quality of accommodation and to make it more attractive for current tenants and future tenants who may wish to downsize.
- 1.3 The current five-year Strategy was developed as a result of the Ark Report and subsequent working groups views to support the delivery of the modernisation programme and to deliver SDC’s vision for its older people’s accommodation in the district.

1.4 The “Sheltered Housing Service” transitioned to Independent living in April 2021 to reflect the changing nature of residents.

2. Areas where progress has been achieved and completed include:

2.1 Carry out a thorough analysis of costs prior to any changes to service provision, and establish the financial viability of these options to tenants and the Council. – implemented April 2021.

2.2 Explore all options for funding any additional services- Jan 20 – Meetings with Stroud Valley projects, Barnwood Trust GCC and others to build relationships. - Sept 2021 £10k Funding awarded from National Lottery for community nature trail and sitting area in partnership with Stroud Valley Projects.

2.3 Re-brand and re-designate sheltered housing to ‘Independent Living Hub’, ‘Independent Living +’ and ‘Independent Living’ completed April 2021.

- Erection of external Signage
- Info sheets and Newsletters distributed
- Extensive consultation through site meetings
- ID badges updated

2.4 Service delivery reflects individual service charge per site (Site Officer time allocation).

2.5 Undertake a review of the allocations process and existing age criteria for our older people’s accommodation - Lettings are made following the adopted countywide HomeseekerPlus policy but given the pressure on general needs accommodation support for greater flexibility in lettings of Independent Living the Age criteria has been lowered from 60 to 55.

2.6 Work in partnership with Gloucestershire County Council to develop their Housing with Care Strategy- This is initial work has been completed and is now ongoing see - https://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/media/2108909/housing-with-care-report_17feb_21.pdf.

2.7 Following a review of the work streams involved a new p/t post was created within budget to support the Community Hub Facilitator (CHF) to provide a consistent liaison point for tenants. To support the CHF with activities. Role will link into H & W Agenda exploring various preventative actions and activities.

3. Summary

3.1 The actions outlined in the plan show significant work has gone into the successful delivery of the action plan across the directorates despite the restrictions imposed by Covid Measures during 2020 and 2021.

3.2 The Older Persons Strategy is due for review during 2022 as it has reached the end of its operational period, additionally there are new factors including a new Council Delivery Plan, Financial impacts as a result of Covid-19 and the white paper on social housing which must be considered as part of the consultation process with stakeholders.

4. Implications

4.1 Financial Implications

There are no direct financial implications arising from this report.

After consultation with residents and stakeholders, any outcomes will be included as part of the future proposal.

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4.2 Legal Implications

There are no legal implications arising from the report recommendations.

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4.3 Equality Implications

There are no Equality Implications from the report recommendations.

4.4 Environmental Implications

The Older Persons Strategy is delivering investment in a number of Independent Living sites resulting in more energy efficient accommodation with positive environmental implication.