

STROUD DISTRICT COUNCIL

HOUSING COMMITTEE

28 MARCH 2023

Report Title	INDEPENDENT LIVING STRATEGY 2023-2027 UPDATE			
Purpose of Report	To present members with an update of Independent Living Strategy in relation to Independent Living for people 55+.			
Decision(s)	The Housing Committee RESOLVES to approve the proposed amendments to the Strategy as documented ahead of the finalised version to be presented in June 2023			
Consultation and Feedback	Consultation involved Survey Monkey sent out June 2022 to all Stroud District tenants between the ages of 40-55 to ascertain potential future Independent Living tenants' aspirations and a Star Satisfaction Survey sent out October 2022 to all Independent Living tenants.			
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Options	The Council can choose to amend revised amendments. The Council can add to the amendments as appropriate.			
Background Papers	Older People's Housing Strategy 2019-2023			
Appendices	Appendix A -Older Peoples Housing Strategy Appendix B – Survey Monkey results and comments (To Follow) Appendix C – Star Satisfaction Survey results			
Implications (further details at the end of the report)	Financial	Legal	Equality	Environmental
	No	No	No	No

1. INTRODUCTION / BACKGROUND

- 1.1 SDC adopted the Older Peoples Housing Strategy (OPHS) in April 2019 which set out the approach to delivering the six 'UNIQUE' strategic objectives which can be found at Appendix A within the OPHS. This strategy was built on the works identified in the Sheltered Housing Modernisation Programme. The Strategy also allowed for the opportunity to convert some of the existing common areas into additional dwellings with a strong concentration on buildings, accommodation and financial implications/funding.
- 1.2 The OPHS has a robust action plan attached to it which set out timescales for delivery of the six strategic objectives. Most of the action plans have been undertaken, however, due to lockdown there are some that are ongoing and others will be reviewed with a potential of being removed in the revised Strategy.
- 1.3 The OPHS concentrated a great deal on the financial delivery in line with the Medium-Term Financial Plan (MTFP) Sheltered Housing Modernisation Project which has since been renamed to Independent Living Modernisation Project. This is now in its final 2 years with the remainder of schemes being planned into a works programme allowing the

Independent Living Strategy to concentrate on the Strategy's vision "***To provide good quality older people's housing which meets a variety of current and future needs – where people want to live***".

2. MAIN POINTS

- 2.1 The Strategy has been renamed to Independent Living Strategy and will set out the vision for Independent Living sites for the next 5 years. It will link in with The Council Plan 2021-2026 which has been built on three tiers – Environmental and Climate Change, Community Resilience and Wellbeing, and Economy, Recovery and Regeneration. Although the Strategy will address housing need, it will also concentrate on independence, health and wellbeing, community and social inclusion now the existing strategy has met a significant number of targets regarding modernisation including accessibility.
- 2.2 The amendments to the existing Strategy are proposed as follows:
- Current climate and the challenges we are facing such as delivering more for less, homelessness, closure of care homes, low resource for mental health.
 - Building and sustaining resilience amongst residents i.e., providing allotments to address the cost of living; assisting people to improve ability to adapt positively when faced with adversity. Resilience/learning to cope has an important role in recovery from adversity which can also assist with better physical and mental health later in life.
 - Digitalisation research including digital equipment to assist independence, self-serve etc.,
 - Future Choice in living environment in collaboration with Modernisation Team.
 - Green Space versus Car Parks in the longer term including Electric Vehicle (EV) Charging infrastructure.
 - Downsizing from family homes to Independent Living accommodation – benefits/settlements available, in collaboration with Housing Officers
 - Independent Living HUBS: To continue building strong inclusive communities, access to training for residents and the wider communities, extended partnership working all with a person-centred approach.
 - Initiate and deliver a comprehensive Housing Information Network within the HUBS, feeding into the wider Independent Living sites and communities that support people to make the choices suitable for their situation. At present some information is available but held in different agencies and there is no 'one place' within Stroud District Council to turn to for information that is required regarding housing and care options in and for later life.
- 2.3 The delivery plan within the strategy to measure success will focus on quality of life. Evidence of retaining and sustaining independence will be used. Older people are more likely to be dependent on care and health services if interventions are not implemented. Partnership working with internal/external agencies and Adult Services will be strengthened to ensure preventative measures are put in place.
- 2.4 The action plan will be updated and further developed in accordance with the survey results ensuring it is person centred.

3. CONCLUSION

It is recommended that the Committee approve the proposed amendments in respect of the Independent Living Strategy. The completed document will be presented for adoption at Housing Committee in June 2023.

4. IMPLICATIONS

4.1 Financial Implications

There are no financial implications arising directly from this report. Any expenditure arising will be met through established budgets.

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4.2 Legal Implications

There are no legal implications arising directly from the recommendations in the report. Officers will consult with One Legal where necessary during the implementation of the recommendations.

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4.3 Equality Implications

Section 149 of the Equality Act 2010 sets out the Public Sector Equality Duty ('PSED'). Consideration of equality matters is an integral part of a local authority's decision making. The PSED requires public authorities to have "due regard" to the need to eliminate discrimination, advance equality of opportunity and foster good relations when carrying out activities.

There are not any specific changes to service delivery proposed within this decision.

4.4 Environmental Implications

There are no significant implications within this category.