

# STROUD DISTRICT COUNCIL

## HOUSING COMMITTEE

27 JUNE 2023

<b>Report Title</b>	<b>Independent Living Strategy 2023-2027</b>			
<b>Purpose of Report</b>	To present members with the Independent Living Strategy in relation to Independent Living for people aged 55+.			
<b>Decision(s)</b>	<b>The Housing Committee RESOLVES to:</b> <b>a) Adopt the Independent Living Strategy 2023-2027 and Action Plan.</b> <b>b) Agree a review date of 2 years from adoption of the strategy.</b>			
<b>Consultation and Feedback</b>	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.			
<b>Report Author</b>	Lynne Mansell, Service Delivery Manager. Tel: 01453 754173 Email: <a href="mailto:lynne.mansell@stroud.gov.uk">lynne.mansell@stroud.gov.uk</a>			
<b>Options</b>	The Council can choose to adopt the Strategy 2023-2027 including the Action Plan. The Council can reject the Strategy.			
<b>Background Papers</b>	Star Satisfaction Survey for Independent Living.			
<b>Appendices</b>	Appendix A – Independent Living Strategy 2023-2027 Appendix B – Action Plan Appendix C – Star Survey Appendix D – Survey Monkey			
<b>Implications (further details at the end of the report)</b>	Financial	Legal	Equality	Environmental
	No	Yes	No	No

### 1. INTRODUCTION / BACKGROUND

- 1.1 Stroud District Council (SDC) adopted the Older People's Housing Strategy (OPHS) in April 2019 which set out the approach to delivering the six 'UNIQUE' strategic objectives. 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 had a robust action plan attached to it which set out timescales for delivery of the six strategic objectives. Most of the action plan has been undertaken, however, due to lockdown there are some that are ongoing whilst others have been removed from the 2023-2027 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 is now named Independent Living Modernisation Project. This project is 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 sets out the vision for Independent Living sites for the next 5 years. It links 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. The Strategy addresses housing need in addition to concentration on independence, health and wellbeing, community and social inclusion now the previous Strategy has met a number of targets regarding modernisation including accessibility.

2.2 The additions to the last Strategy including Action Plan include:

- 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 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-service 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 with a a person-centred approach.
- Initiate and deliver a comprehensive Housing Information Network within the HIBS, 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 with focus on quality of life. Evidence of retaining and sustaining independence will be used. Older people are more likely to be dependant 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**

3.1 It is recommended that the Committee adopt the Independent Living Strategy 2023 – 2027.

## **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.

Jon Coldridge, Principal Accountant

Tel: 01453 754030 Email: [jon.coldridge@stroud.gov.uk](mailto:jon.coldridge@stroud.gov.uk)

### **4.2 Legal Implications**

National policy and legislation stress the critical role that housing plays in supporting independent living and places a duty on local authorities to take actions that will prevent or delay the development of needs for care or support amongst adults and their carers.

Officers will liaise with One Legal where necessary when implementing the recommendations detailed in the Independent Living Strategy 2023 – 2027.

Hayley Sims Head of Law (Commercial and Property)

Tel: 01684 272260 Email: [legalservices@onelegal.org.uk](mailto:legalservices@onelegal.org.uk)

### **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.

### **4.4 Environmental Implications**

There are no significant implications within this category.