

PART A - Initial Impact Assessment

Proposal Name: Housing Strategy

EIA ID: 2687

EIA Author: Jack Hewitt

Proposal Outline: Work is being undertaken to develop a new 10-year Housing Strategy. This EIA considers the Strategy as a whole, along with the proposed final stage consultation. The Housing Strategy is a vital part of Sheffield's strategic framework. It will focus on key, city-wide challenges and opportunities, and set out a clear statement of the city's housing need and ambitions, to steer the Council and city-wide partners in high-level decision making on housing over the next decade. As a multi-tenure Strategy, both public and private housing will be considered. The creation and delivery of the Strategy will necessarily be a shared and inclusive endeavour. Consultation with the Council, partners, and residents across Sheffield has therefore shaped the proposed ambitions and priorities that have been included in the draft Strategy. A final phase of consultation on the draft Housing Strategy will be launched, allowing further feedback from public and partners on a document that will shape housing in Sheffield over the next ten years.

Proposal Type: Non-Budget

Year Of Proposal: 24/25

Lead Director for proposal: Ajman Ali

Service Area: Operational Services (Housing and Neighbourhoods)

EIA Start Date: 20/05/2024

Lead Equality Objective:

Break the cycle and improve life chances

Equality Lead Officer:

Ed Sexton

Decision Type

Committees:

Policy Committees

- Strategy & Resources

Portfolio

Primary Portfolio:

Housing and Neighbourhoods

EIA is cross portfolio:

Yes

Council-wide.

EIA is joint with another organisation:

No

Overview of Impact

Overview Summary:

The Housing Strategy is concerned with all housing types and tenures across all areas of the city. Everyone living, or wishing to live, within Sheffield will be impacted by the direction set by the Strategy. It will influence decision making within SCC, and with strategic partners, for the next decade. Housing is an issue that is relevant to everyone. The Strategy will aim to have a positive impact for all residents, but recognise that some residents, due to protected characteristics, can have increased challenges relating to housing. For example, residents with a disability, residents from Black, Asian and Minoritised Ethnic backgrounds. Likewise, the impact of age on a residents housing situation will be considered within the strategy. Equality concerns will therefore run throughout the whole of the Strategy document, with a positive impact sought. This will, primarily, be reflected in the key aims of the Strategy. A draft set of aims has

been produced, which will be kept under review as additional consultation is completed. Specific aims will be linked to protected characteristics in the full impact assessment. A final consultation on the draft Strategy is also proposed. This will build on the work undertaken in the first phase consultation earlier this year. Where demographically unrepresentative response rates were identified, further targeted work will be undertaken in the second phase of the consultation to ensure all voices are heard.

Impacted characteristics:

- Age
- Armed Forces
- Care Experienced
- Carers
- Cohesion
- Disability
- Gender Reassignment
- Health
- Partners
- Poverty & Financial Inclusion
- Pregnancy/Maternity
- Race
- Religion/Belief
- Sex
- Sexual Orientation
- Voluntary/Community & Faith Sectors

Consultation and other engagement

Cumulative Impact

Does the proposal have a cumulative impact:

Yes

Consultation is not a legal requirement, but is necessary from a Council commitment perspective. Consultation on the Strategy has been split into two phases. The first phase of consultation has been completed (EIA ID: 2088), and the second phase is to be launch circa June 24, and will be covered by this EIA.

Impact areas:

Year on Year

Initial Sign-Off

Full impact assessment required:

Yes

Review Date:

01/08/2024

PART B - Full Impact Assessment

Health

Staff Impacted:

No

Customers Impacted:

Yes

Description of Impact:

People with health needs often have specific housing needs and access support services more frequently. Health, therefore, has been considered throughout multiple sections of the draft Strategy, in particular the aim that 'every resident will have a home and the support they need to live a healthy life'. This should have a positive impact in terms of health. The second phase consultation will be carried out with input from colleagues in Health and social care, via attendance at existing meetings and forums, and publicity for the overall survey via existing contacts, to ensure a representative customer base is reached.

Name of Lead Health Officer:

Comprehensive Assessment
Being Completed:

No

Public Health Lead signed off health
impact(s):

Age

Staff Impacted: No

Customers Impacted: Yes

Description of Impact: The Housing Strategy aims to have a positive impact and help Sheffield become an age-friendly inclusive city. All age groups, from younger ages to older, can face additional housing challenges due to this characteristic. This was reflected in the first phase of the consultation, where younger respondents emphasised issues around housing affordability, and older respondents raised issues of accessing support and suitable properties to enable them to live independently. To have a positive impact, these challenges are addressed within the draft Strategy. For example, via the ambition to increase the supply of affordable homes, and to support households to be healthy and independent. Additionally, further detail will be contained within a junior strategy, the Older Person's Independent Living strategy, that will cover challenges and opportunities in housing for older people. Finally, as the first phase of consultation showed a lower than demographically representative response rate from young adults, additional work will be undertaken to boost this. For example, we will work with the city's universities to publicise the consultation, as well as look to hold events at student unions.

Armed Forces

Staff Impacted: No

Customers Impacted: Yes

Description of Impact: No direct impact, either positive or negative, is foreseen in this particular area. Given the breadth of the Housing Strategy, and the universality of housing as a factor in people's lives, however, there will be an impact on individuals in the Armed Forces. This impact is foreseen to be broadly positive, with improvements in housing and housing services brought about by a successful Housing Strategy applying to everyone in the city. In particular, the aim to ensure the right housing and housing choice for individuals could have

a particularly positive impact here.

Carers

Staff Impacted:	No
Customers Impacted:	Yes
Description of Impact:	Being a carer can lead to additional housing challenges and need. The Housing Strategy will aim to have a positive impact in this area. In particular, this relates to ensuring that every resident will have a home and the support they need to live a healthy life. Additional priorities such as supporting all households to be healthy and independent should likewise have a positive impact for carers. In terms of consultation, the broad methods of outreach will be accompanied by specific actions, such as promotion of the consultation with the Sheffield Carers Centre.

Care Experienced

Staff Impacted:	No
Customers Impacted:	Yes
Description of Impact:	Care experienced customers can face additional challenges and barriers when accessing housing, including both housing services such as those provided by SCC, and the wider housing market. In order to understand and address these challenges, focused consultation work has been undertaken in collaboration with the Care service. This will aim to ensure the needs of Care experienced customers are reflected in the Strategy, and in other junior Strategies, policies and plans. The draft Strategy has reflected these themes in, for example, the aim to ensure that every resident will have a home and the support they need to live a healthy life. The Second Phase consultation will be made available to all residents to give their views on the draft Strategy.

Staff Impacted: No

Customers Impacted: Yes

Description of Impact: The draft Housing Strategy aims to have a positive impact in terms of social cohesion. There are several aims and priorities within the Strategy that should contribute towards this. For example, the aim that by 2034 our communities will live in neighbourhoods that are thriving and safe places to live, which they are happy to call home. From a consultation perspective, results will be considered on an area and neighbourhood level. In order to achieve a geographically representative sample, we will work with the Local Area Committees across the July meeting cycle, to ensure the consultation reaches all areas of Sheffield.

Disability

Staff Impacted: No

Customers Impacted: Yes

Description of Impact: The Housing Strategy will aim to have a positive impact for residents with a disability. We recognise that disability can bring additional housing challenges around suitability, availability of support, and affordability. The Housing Strategy aims to have a positive impact in this area through its aim to have homes and housing services that support healthy independent lives. This includes tackling health inequalities, and improving the range and quality of supported housing. For the second phase consultation, focused work with disability groups will be undertaken, with, for example, the Access Liaison Group. Groups will be asked to promote the consultation survey, with offers made for officers to attend meetings to discuss the Strategy and gather feedback.

Gender Reassignment

Staff Impacted: No

Customers Impacted:

Yes

Description of Impact:

No direct impact, either positive or negative, is foreseen in this particular area. Given the breadth of the Housing Strategy, and the universality of housing as a factor in people's lives, however, there will be an impact on individuals whose gender has been reassigned. This impact is foreseen to be broadly positive, with improvements in housing and housing services brought about by a successful Housing Strategy applying to everyone in the city. In particular, the aim to increase the availability of housing that supports individual need should have a positive impact.

Partners

Staff Impacted:

Yes

Customers Impacted:

Yes

Description of Impact:

Partners, charities, and community representatives play an important role in helping to deliver housing services and in supporting people to access the services they need. It is vital that we work in conjunction with partners to develop and deliver the Strategy. Partnership working is a theme through the whole of the draft Housing Strategy, and is key to the majority of aims and priorities. The Housing Strategy aims to have a positive impact here by increasing joined-up working between partners, including the Council. We have held and will continue to hold workshops with Partners, charities, and community representatives throughout the development of the Strategy to share the ambitions and priorities and agree how we can work together to deliver the Strategy. Consulting with Strategic partners will form part of the second phase consultation, as it did the first. Partners are often the eyes and ears of their service users and communities and can help us to engage with residents who are often underrepresented in consultation activity. We will ask them to promote the resident's survey with their clients, and complete the partner survey. Partner organisations will also be encouraged to provide more in depth, evidence-based responses through a specific online survey on the draft text of the Housing Strategy.

Staff Impacted: No

Customers Impacted: Yes

Description of Impact: A key issue to be address via the Housing Strategy is affordability. Housing costs have an outsized impact on individuals and families with lower incomes, and therefore is a greater challenge. The Housing Strategy aims to have a positive impact in this area, with priorities to increase the supply of affordable housing, and creating new lifetime neighbourhoods. Another example relates to the priority within the Strategy to accelerate regeneration, by redeveloping catalyst sites within priority neighbourhoods - this aims to have a positive impact from a poverty and financial inclusion perspective by regenerating neighbourhoods in most need. Affordability is also relevant when considering costs to heat homes. The goal within the Strategy to improve factors such as insulation will therefore have a positive impact on poverty and financial inclusion. Additionally, for the second phase of consultation, the Welfare, Housing and Poverty group that discusses the impact of the cost-of-living crisis on service users, will be consulted.

Pregnancy / Maternity

Staff Impacted: No

Customers Impacted: Yes

Description of Impact: No direct impact, either positive or negative, is foreseen based on pregnancy / maternity. Given the breadth of the Housing Strategy, and the universality of housing as a factor in people's lives, however, there will be an impact on all individuals in the city. This impact is foreseen to be broadly positive, with improvements in housing and housing services brought about by a successful Housing Strategy applying to everyone in the city. In particular, the aim to increase the availability of housing that supports individual need should have a positive impact.

Race

Staff Impacted: No

Customers Impacted: Yes

Description of Impact: The Housing Strategy aims to have a positive impact in terms of contributing to SCC being an anti-racist organisation and city. There are several aims and priorities within the strategy that should contribute towards this. As a disproportionate number of households from Black, Asian and Minoritised Ethnic communities live in neighbourhoods with lower quality private rented sector homes and are more likely to live in overcrowded conditions, the aim to improve the supply and quality of housing in the city will have an outsized positive impact. As another specific example, a high proportion of households from Black, Asian, and Minoritised Ethnic backgrounds live in areas of the city which have higher levels of homes with excess cold hazards. Therefore, the aims within the Housing Strategy to ensure homes can be kept warm and cool in the context of a changing climate will aim to reduce the differences seen in poorer quality housing. The first phase of consultation returned a demographically unrepresentative return of responses from Black, Asian and Minoritised Ethnic groups when compared to the city as a whole. Therefore, as part of the second phase consultation, additional steps will be taken to reach a demographically representative response rate. These steps include working with the Race Equality Partnership, as well as holding in person events with communities in spaces used by diverse communities. This aims to ensure voices from Black, Asian and Minoritised Ethnic communities As part of our commitment to this, SCC has procured a consulting organisation, Campbell Tickell, to lead the second phase of consultation. This is to ensure there is the required expertise, and resources, to deliver the representative consultation sought.

Religion / Belief

Staff Impacted: No

Customers Impacted: Yes

Description of Impact: No direct impact, either positive or negative, is present based on an individuals religion or belief. Given the breadth of the Housing Strategy, and the

universality of housing as a factor in people's lives, however, there will be an impact on all individuals in the city. This impact is foreseen to be broadly positive, with improvements in housing and housing services brought about by a successful Housing Strategy applying to everyone in the city. In relation to the second phase consultation, religious and faith groups will be contacted to help promote the survey, and to help broaden access to communities who are under-represented in the response rates per the first phase of consultation.

Sexual Orientation

Staff Impacted:	No
Customers Impacted:	Yes
Description of Impact:	No direct impact, either positive or negative, is foreseen based on an individuals sexual orientation. Given the breadth of the Housing Strategy, and the universality of housing as a factor in people's lives, however, there will be an impact on all individuals in the city. This impact is foreseen to be broadly positive, with improvements in housing and housing services brought about by a successful Housing Strategy applying to everyone in the city. In particular, the aim to increase the availability of housing that supports individual need should have a positive impact. Further, to ensure that voices are heard equally, additional consultation work will aim to be carried out via LGBTQ+ partnership board.

Voluntary / Community & Faith Sectors

Staff Impacted:	Yes
Customers Impacted:	No
Description of Impact:	Partners, charities, and community representatives play an important role in helping to deliver housing services and in supporting people to access the services they need. It is vital that we work in conjunction with partners to develop and deliver the Strategy. Partnership working is a theme through the whole of

the draft Housing Strategy, and is key to the majority of aims and priorities. The Housing Strategy aims to have a positive impact here by increasing joined-up working between partners, including the Council. We have held and will continue to hold workshops with Partners, charities, and community representatives throughout the development of the Strategy to share the ambitions and priorities and agree how we can work together to deliver the Strategy. Consulting with Strategic partners will form part of the second phase consultation, as it did the first. Partners are often the eyes and ears of their service users and communities and can help us to engage with residents who are often underrepresented in consultation activity. We will ask them to promote the resident's survey with their clients, and complete the partner survey. Partner organisations will also be encouraged to provide more in depth, evidence-based responses through a specific online survey on the draft text of the Housing Strategy.

Action Plan & Supporting Evidence

Outline of action plan:

The primary actions required are to ensure a representative consultation takes place, and that the Housing Strategy itself properly takes into account the needs and priorities of different residents with differing protected characteristics. This will be done by adapting our approach to consultation to focus on promoting the chances to get involved with groups and communities that did not return a demographically representative response. The Housing Strategy itself should be made accessible for all residents.

Action plan evidence:

Primary evidence for this EIA has been drawn from the first phase of Housing Strategy consultation, along with the quantitative data used to draft the Strategy itself. These include the: • Private Sector Stock Condition Survey (2021) • Strategic Housing Market Assessment (2018) • Census (2021)

Changes made as a result of action plan:

Mitigation

Significant risk after mitigation measures: Yes

Outline of impact and risks:

The main existing risk is that the second phase of consultation is demographically unrepresentative. Areas where the first phase of consultation were unrepresentative (such as for Black, Asian and Minoritised Ethnic residents) have been identified, and these must be prevented in the second phase.

Review Date

Review Date:

01/08/2024

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