

## PART A - Initial Impact Assessment

**Proposal Name:** Housing Strategy

**EIA ID:** 2687

**EIA Author:** Jack Hewitt

**Approval Status:** Approved

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**Proposal Outline:** A new 10-year Housing Strategy has been developed for the city. This EIA considers the Strategy as a whole. The Housing Strategy is a Tier 1 strategy of the council's developing Strategic Framework, setting the longer-term direction for housing to deliver the ambitions in the City Goals, the Council Plan and complementing the new Local Plan. It focuses on key, city-wide challenges and opportunities, and sets 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. Consultation with the Council, partners, and residents across Sheffield has been undertaken to help shape the ambitions and priorities in the Strategy.

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**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

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**EIA is cross portfolio:** Yes Council-wide.

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**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, and 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 ambitions of the Strategy. A final consultation on the draft Strategy was completed which built on the work undertaken in the first phase consultation earlier this year. Where demographically unrepresentative response rates were identified, further targeted work was carried out so that these voices could be heard.

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**Impacted characteristics:**

- Age
- Page 108

- 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

**Is consultation or other engagement required:**

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 was completed in March 24(EIA ID: 2088), and the second phase was completed July 24, and is covered by this EIA.

## 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 was completed in March 24(EIA ID: 2088), and the second phase was completed July 24, and is covered by this EIA.

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**Impact areas:**

Year on Year

## Initial Sign-Off

**Full impact assessment required:** Yes

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**Review Date:** 21/08/2024

## 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 Strategy, in particular the priority to 'tackle health inequalities'. This should have a positive impact in terms of health. The consultation was carried out with the 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 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 Strategy. For example, through the priorities to increase the range of good quality homes for all residents and encourage more flexibility in existing homes to enable independent living. 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 was done to try to boost this. For example, we worked with the city's universities to publicise the consultation, held a focus group with the Youth Cabinet and face to face surveys with young adults.

## 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 priority to increase the range of good quality homes for all residents could have a particularly positive impact here. A thorough consultation response was received from the Royal British Legion on the draft Housing Strategy which has been considered in the development.

## 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 supporting all households to be healthy and independent will have a home that support healthy independant lives. The priority to improve the quality and range of supported housing likewise have a positive impact for carers. In terms of consultation, the broad methods of outreach were 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 Strategy has reflected these themes in, for example, the priority to support healthy and independent lives.

## Cohesion

**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 ambitions and priorities within the Strategy that should contribute towards this. For example, the ambition for 'Great, safe neighbourhoods that people are happy to call home.' From a consultation perspective, results were considered on an area and neighbourhood level. In order to achieve a geographically representative sample promotion of the Strategy was done through the Local Area Committees to ensure the consultation reached all areas of

## Disability

**Staff Impacted:** No

**Customers Impacted:** Yes

**Description of Impact:** The Housing Strategy aims to have a positive impact for disabled people. We recognise that being disabled 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 ambition to have 'homes and housing services that end homelessness and support healthy, independent lives'. This includes tackling health inequalities, and improve the quality and range of supported housing. The consultation included focused work with disabled groups such as the Access Liaison Group and the Learning Disabilities Accommodation Group.

## 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 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 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. 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 asked them to promote the resident's survey with their clients, and complete the partner survey.

## Poverty & Financial Inclusion

**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 affordable housing provision, and create 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. Lower income households are most likely to be living in the lowest quality homes and live in areas of the city which have higher levels of homes with excess cold hazards. These households are likely to be most impacted by the effects of climate change, such as extreme weather events, and have the least ability to respond. The goal within the Strategy to improve factors such as insulation will therefore have a positive impact on fuel poverty and financial inclusion. The Welfare, Housing and Poverty group that discusses the impact of the cost-of-living crisis on service users were also consulted.



**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 ambition to increase the range of good quality homes for all residents

## 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. 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. Likewise, within Sheffield 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. These households are likely to be most impacted by the effects of climate change, such as extreme weather events, and have the least ability to respond. Therefore, the ambitions within the Housing Strategy to improve housing standards and to ensure homes can be kept warm and cool in the context of a changing climate will aim to have a positive overall impact for Black, Asian and Minoritised Ethnic communities. The first phase of consultation returned a demographically un-representative return of responses from Black, Asian and Minoritised Ethnic groups when compared to the city as a whole. Therefore, the second phase of consultation took steps to address this including face to face consultation at the Fir Vale Hub, South Asian Heritage event and Roshni Asian Women's Resource Centre as well as a focus group with the Hong Kong community. This aimed to ensure voices from Black, Asian and Minoritised Ethnic communities were heard in the development of the Strategy and 17% of responses to the survey were from these communities.

## Religion / Belief

**Staff Impacted:** No

**Customers Impacted:** Yes

**Description of Impact:** No direct impact, either positive or negative, is foreseen based on an individual's 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. Religious and faith groups were contacted to help promote the survey, and to help broaden access to communities who were under-represented in the response rates to 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 individual's 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.

## 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 held 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. 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 asked them to promote the resident’s survey with their clients, and complete the partner survey. Partner organisations were also 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 that an ongoing conversation is had with residents and partners in the delivery of the Housing Strategy and that the needs of different groups are considered at every stage. The Housing Strategy itself should be made accessible for all residents and Easy Read version will be developed.

**Action plan evidence:**

Primary evidence for this EIA has been drawn from both phases of the 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) Sheffield Local Housing Needs Assessment 2024

**Changes made as a result of action plan:**

## Mitigation

**Significant risk after mitigation measures:**

No

**Outline of impact and risks:**

## **Review Date**

**Review Date:**

21/08/2024