

Copeland Housing Strategy, 2011-2015: Draft Year 2 Delivery Plan

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Summary and Recommendation:

The current draft Year 2 Delivery Plan of the Copeland Housing Strategy is attached as Appendix A. Members of the Panel are invited to question, comment and influence the draft at this meeting.

The next step is to take the draft (as amended) to a meeting of the Copeland Housing Partnership at the end of March 2012 prior to completing the document and reporting with recommendations to the next meeting of this Panel.

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 Full Council adopted the Copeland Housing Strategy, 2011-2015 on 23 June 2011. The decision was also taken to produce annual Delivery Plans instead of just one covering the whole strategy period. This was because of the fast-changing economic environment plus statutory and other initiatives being introduced by central government.
- 1.2 Strategic Housing Panel approved the Year 1 Delivery Plan on 16 August 2011 to take us to the end of March 2012. The attached Appendix A is the current draft second edition covering the period to March 2013.

2. COPELAND HOUSING PARTNERSHIP

- 2.1 The aim of delivering Copeland's housing objectives through partnership working runs like a thread through our Housing Strategy from the Portfolio Holder's Forward on page 5 of the document to its closing pages. The Copeland Housing Partnership therefore emerged during the consultations prior to the adoption of the strategy last year.
- 2.2 Membership of the partnership is drawn from Registered Providers, private sector developers, the voluntary sector (including Cumbria Rural Housing Trust) and also contributions from the Lake District National Park Authority, which is the planning authority for its area within Copeland. Copeland's six localities also have a keen interest and contribute directly or indirectly.

3 DRAFT DELIVERY PLAN

- 3.1 This is very much a working draft and is subject to further tuning before being re-presented to the Strategic Housing Panel following the meeting with partners.
- 3.2 The Plan is formatted to include each one of our 4 over-arching objectives, beneath which sit specific tasks split into milestones, due dates, how they will be measured and the identity of the lead partner. The version that will be presented to the next available meeting of this panel will have all these sections completed.
- 3.3 It is intended to report progress quarterly during 2012/13 using the familiar “traffic light” symbols of green, amber and red. The Strategic Housing Panel’s meeting on 19 April 2012 will also include the final report of the Year 1 Delivery Plan.

Delivery Plan Year 2

Tasks	Milestones	Due dates	How measured	Lead partner
Strategic Objective One: Facilitation the right housing offer to support economic growth and community sustainability				
Objective 1.1: Facilitating the right supply of new homes				
1.1.1 Continue to ensure identified housing needs of Copeland are acknowledged within the HCA Cumbria Local Investment Plan			Copeland housing needs to be covered in Local Investment Plan evidence documents	Copeland Borough Council
1.1.2 Develop framework for the use of New Homes Bonus	Take draft policy for the use of the New Homes Bonus to the Housing Partnership			
1.1.3 Publish Preferred Options Draft Site Allocations Development Plan Document (DPD) for consultation				
Objective 1.2: Improving the quality of our places				
1.2.1 Development of Neighbourhood Planning routes to be informed by outcomes of pilot schemes	Findings of pilot scheme evaluations fed into scoping exercises for Neighbourhood Planning			
1.2.2 Continue to work with locality projects to identify common ground between community, parish and locality plans and the overarching housing strategy				
1.2.3 Investigate potential for use of local	Findings of Cumbria Choice			

Tasks	Milestones	Due dates	How measured	Lead partner
<p>lettings policies in light of 'Cumbria Choice' Choice Based Lettings review and publication of Empty Homes Strategy</p> <p>1.2.4 Publish wider Whitehaven prospectus</p>	<p>review to be examined by partnership Empty Homes Strategy to be published April 2012</p> <p>Whitehaven prospectus document consulted on February 2012 and published Summer 2012</p>	<p>Summer 2012</p>		
Objective 1.3 Ensuring sufficient affordable housing				
<p>1.3.1 Continue to support Affordable Housing Programme bids via the Copeland Housing Partnership</p> <p>1.3.2 Develop new models of delivering affordable housing including through Public and Private Sector partnerships</p> <p>1.3.3 Continue six-monthly monitoring of the housing market and access to housing through the Council's Economic Impact report</p>	<p>Dates for reports to Full Council?</p>			
Objective 1.4 Developing the role of the private rented sector				
<p>1.4.1 Continue to work with landlords, using the Landlord Forum, to provide information and training on issues including welfare reforms, the Green Deal and stock condition and others as required</p> <p>1.4.2 Continue to raise awareness of Copeland Borough Council Rent Deposit scheme, designed to help prevent homelessness by assisting people through the loan of rent</p>	<p>Information and training delivered through regular six-monthly Landlord Forum and through special sessions</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>		

Tasks	Milestones	Due dates	How measured	Lead partner
deposits, using the Landlord Forum, Council website and publications				
Strategic Objective Two: Making the best use of existing stock				
Objective 2.1: Focus attention on the energy efficiency of existing stock				
2.1.1 Continue to support the delivery of the Cumbria Warm Homes Project	Home surveys completed and works recommended and installed	July 2012		
2.1.2 Continue to support the delivery of the "Keep Warm, Keep Well" campaign and "Warm Homes, Hot Spots" scheme		March 2012		
2.1.3 Support the delivery of the ERDF Cumbria Cohesion Scheme and CESP Scheme		ERDF Scheme to complete by end 2013 CESP scheme to complete end October 2012		
2.1.4 Housing Strategy Partnership to respond to the Green Deal programme as this develops		Ongoing		
Objective 2.2: Enable improvements in private sector stock condition				
2.2.1 Private Sector Stock Condition Survey report due early 2012. Copeland Housing Partnership to analyse findings of report and review implications for Strategy Delivery Plan	Partnership to review findings of Private Sector Stock Condition Survey at March 2012 meeting	March 2012 to review findings Update delivery plan		

Tasks	Milestones	Due dates	How measured	Lead partner
		in order to respond to findings at half-yearly review		
Objective 2.3: Reduce the number of empty homes in the borough				
<p>2.3.1 Implement Copeland Empty Homes Strategy</p> <p>2.3.2 Enable and support community and voluntary groups in addressing empty and second homes in their communities</p>				
Objective 2.4: Complete the programme to bring all social housing up to Decent Homes Standard (DHS)				
<p>2.4.1 Registered providers to complete Regeneration Programmes</p> <p>2.4.2 Registered Providers to maintain properties at Decent Homes Standard and/or Decent Homes Plus Standard</p>				
Strategic Objective Three: Enabling people to access the housing and support that they need, when they need it				
Objective 3.1: Ensure the right housing provision for older people				
3.1.1 Hold first meeting of Older People's Housing Task Group		June 2012		

Tasks	Milestones	Due dates	How measured	Lead partner
3.1.2 Older People's Housing Task Group to determine how to diversify the range of housing options available to older people		March 2013		
Objective 3.2: Continue to prevent and deal effectively with homelessness				
<p>3.2.1 Establish Task and Finish group to oversee review of Housing Options Service and current Homeless Strategy, to be completed by August 2012</p> <p>3.2.2 Publish new five year Homeless Strategy draft March 2013 (end Year 2), taking into account implications of welfare reforms</p> <p>3.2.3 All partners to be involved in establishing agreed framework for the use of the increase in the discretionary housing payment from 2012, and the homelessness prevention fund, in preventing homelessness</p> <p>3.2.4 Continue to provide financial support to tenants with small amounts of rent arrears if they are being threatened with eviction</p> <p>3.2.5 Support providers in bidding for funding contracts</p> <p>3.2.3 Continue to raise awareness of Homelessness Prevention activity</p>				

Tasks	Milestones	Due dates	How measured	Lead partner
Objective 3.3: Respond appropriately to the opportunity of more flexible affordable homes, tenancies and allocations				
<p>3.3.1 Develop Copeland Tenancy Strategy and publish in December 2012</p> <p>3.3.2 Develop joint partnership approach to taking forward work in responding to developments in tenure and social housing reforms</p> <p>3.3.3 Continue review of 'Cumbria Choice' Choice-Based Lettings scheme</p>		December 2012		
Objective 3.4: Ensure that the housing needs of vulnerable and socially excluded people are met				
<p>3.4.1 Improve move-on housing opportunities for young people through the development of additional trainer flats in Whitehaven town centre by the Whitehaven Community Trust</p> <p>3.4.2 Progress the Whitehaven foyer project</p> <p>3.4.3 Continue work of the task group to determine accommodation needs of the Gypsy and Traveller Community and work to establish needs</p> <p>3.4.4 Maintain time taken to approve Disabled Facilities Grants</p> <p>3.4.5 Influence development of Design Guide to ensure that new homes are built to Lifetime Homes Standards and meet higher standards for accessibility and carbon management</p>				

Tasks	Milestones	Due dates	How measured	Lead partner
3.4.7 Continue to work with partner agencies to determine approaches to addressing child poverty				
Strategic Objective Four: An integrated delivery approach				
Objective 4.1: Working with partners				
4.1.1 Copeland Housing Partnership to continue to hold regular meetings with wider sustainability partners invited				
4.1.2 Continue Cumbria Housing Partnership working				
4.1.3 Copeland Housing Partnership to maintain Housing Strategy Delivery Plans				
Objective 4.2: Monitoring and Reporting				
4.2.1 Continue to report quarterly on the Housing Strategy Delivery Plan to the Copeland Borough Council Strategic Housing Panel and Copeland Housing Partnership				
Objective 4.3: Localities and Copeland Partnership				
4.3.1 Continue to report to Copeland Partnership at least once a year on the progress of the Strategy and Delivery Plans and gather feedback on future priorities				
4.3.2 Continue to attend localities and Locality Together meetings as requested to discuss Housing Strategy and Delivery Plan				

