

STROUD DISTRICT COUNCIL

AGENDA

ITEM NO

HOUSING COMMITTEE

5 FEBRUARY 2019

6b

Report Title	OLDER PERSON'S STRATEGY – TASK & FINISH GROUP: FINAL REPORT
Purpose of Report	To set out the Task & Finish Group's recommendations to the Housing Committee regarding the findings from the recent survey exploring the expectations of the 'next generation' in relation to the council's older people's accommodation.
Decision(s)	The Task & Finish Group recommends that the Committee RESOLVES to: a) Note this report and the findings of the survey; b) Approve the use of these findings so that they may shape the Older Person's Strategy; c) Agree the recommendations set out in paragraph 5 of this report.
Consultation and Feedback	Detailed within the report
Financial Implications and Risk Assessment	Any costs associated with the recommendations in paragraph 5 would need to be met from existing resources where possible. Any additional funding requirement associated with the Older Person's Strategy should be considered as part of the wider HRA budget setting process to ensure affordability across the service. Lucy Clothier, Principal Accountant Tel: 01453 754343 Email: Lucy.Clothier@stroud.gov.uk
Legal Implications	The report contains a number of matters which the Committee is asked to note as well as a number of recommendations for future actions which are largely exploratory in nature. Consequently, there are no legal implications arising from this report; the legal implications of any substantive actions which arise from this project would be considered prior to their implementation.R1501D2101C2101 Mike Wallbank, Solicitor E-Mail: Mike.Wallbank@stroud.gov.uk

Report Author	Kimberley Read, Project Manager in consultation with and on behalf of the Task & Finish Group Telephone: 01453 754175 Email: Kimberley.Read@stroud.gov.uk
Options	The Council can choose not to have a specific Older Person's Strategy but continue to accommodate any modernisation works in line with the Ark Report issued in 2015.
Background Papers/ Appendices	Appendix A - Terms of Reference Appendix B - Future Focus Report: Older Person's Survey

1. Background

- 1.1 At the September 2018 meeting the Housing Committee agreed to set up a task and finish group to explore 'the expectations of the next generation in relation to SDC's older people's accommodation'. It was agreed that the findings of the group would be developed into the emerging Older Person's Strategy.

2. Progress

- 2.1 At the initial task and finish group meeting, the group agreed the terms of reference and scope (Appendix A), as well as the method of the survey and questions. The group agreed to instruct Future Focus Research (FFR) to undertake a telephone survey of 500 Stroud district residents, to explore the expectations of the next generation in relation to SDC's older person's accommodation.
- 2.2 The second meeting was centred on a tour of some of SDC's existing sheltered housing accommodation (Malvern Gardens, Walter Preston Court both in Stroud and Sherborne House, Stonehouse). Following this tour the group recognised that SDC's existing sheltered stock lends itself to providing a range of accommodation, which will meet a diverse housing need, although some of the stock does not lend itself to housing for older people. The third meeting included a final presentation of the findings from FFR. In addition to the above, representatives of the group also visited Woodchester Valley Village, to explore best practice in the private sector.
- 2.3 Within the scope of the group, members were invited to agree some key strategic objectives for the older person's strategy as well as discussing suggestions for an alternative name for sheltered housing. The majority of the group agreed that '*Independent Living*' provided a better description of the level of support SDC are able to offer within existing resources and better reflects the needs of current and future residents.

3. Consultation

- 3.1 The purpose of the resident telephone consultation was to understand the views of a range of age groups across the wider community in terms of their expectations and aspirations for housing in older age.

- 3.2 The task and finish group agreed that 500 Stroud district residents would be interviewed; FFR adopted a 'quota sampling approach' which aimed to ensure that the final survey sample had been constructed to represent the target survey population (i.e. the adult population of the Stroud District area) based on the latest 2011 census data.
- 3.3 The consultation ran from 2 November 2018 until 26 November 2018. FFR achieved a full quota of responses which included a designated number of interviews per age group, based on the 2011 census data (the survey could be completed by anyone in the household who was over 18).
- 3.4 In order to ensure that all wards were covered, FFR grouped these into 7 geographic areas as outlined below (this is the same sampling methodology used successfully for the budget survey for the last 7 years).
- 3.5 FFR achieved the target number of interviews in each age and location group, and the results have been summarised in a report which is attached at Appendix B.

4. Summary

- 4.1 The following summarises the key outcomes of the survey:
 - 4.1.1 The survey found that two thirds of residents perceived the term 'Sheltered Housing' to be associated with older person's accommodation where 24 hour care is provided. There have been a number of changes to the sheltered housing service over the past 5 years, and the results of the survey suggest that there is a need to re-brand sheltered housing with something which reflects the current service on offer.
 - 4.1.2 The survey confirmed that 61% of residents interviewed, plan to retire in the Stroud district, with the majority having access to friends/family and/or social groups in the area.
 - 4.1.3 Accessibility in and around the home are important to most residents, with good access to healthcare and support services a high priority. When asked what else the communal lounge could be used for, health clinics were the most popular choice.
 - 4.1.4 The use of communal spaces by outside groups was not as popular, with only 37% of residents believing this would be a good idea.
 - 4.1.5 Access to Wi-Fi in communal areas was considered a priority by 77% of residents interviewed. SDC currently provides Wi-Fi access to tenants in all communal lounges and it is important that this is retained to ensure tenants are able to connect with friends and family.

5. Recommendation

- 5.1 The task and finish group recommends that discussions held within the group and the findings of the survey be fed into the developing older person's strategy, this should include (but should not be limited to) the following key outcomes:
- 5.1.1 Work towards the development of a range of accommodation for older people, rather than 'one size fits all'. This may involve the re-designation of some schemes which could potentially be linked to a hub scheme to ensure that access to services is not lost.
 - 5.1.2 Re-brand Sheltered Housing to Independent Living.
 - 5.1.3 Improve awareness of Independent Living to encourage households to downsize – schemes should become more desirable as a result of the Sheltered Modernisation Project which is improving communal areas and accessibility to these spaces.
 - 5.1.4 Consider conversion of communal areas, which are not utilised, to additional accommodation where those communal areas are not suitable to offer genuinely desired facilities for both residents and older people in the vicinity.
 - 5.1.5 Seek areas of improvement to the Council's asset management strategy to ensure that SDC's older person's accommodation enables rather than disables – allowing tenants to live as independently as possible.
 - 5.1.6 The older person's strategy should seek to enhance partnership working with external agencies to improve support and care provision across the district.
 - 5.1.7 Undertake further visits to other affordable housing providers to examine the range of accommodation and best practice on offer.
 - 5.1.8 Carry out focus groups with existing tenants to further examine specific areas within the survey.
- 5.2 It is currently anticipated that the draft Older Person's Strategy will be presented to Housing Committee in April 2019. The strategy will be used to shape the outcomes of the sheltered modernisation project and the service moving forward.