



### **Transport and Infrastructure Development Scrutiny Board (6)**

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#### **Time and Date**

9.30 am on Wednesday, 28th November, 2012

#### **Place**

Committee Rooms - Council House

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#### **Public Business**

1. **Apologies**

2. **Declaration of Interest**

3. **Minutes** (Pages 3 - 8)

- a) To agree the minutes of the meeting held on 17<sup>th</sup> October, 2012
- b) Matters arising

4. **Private Sector Empty Homes** (Pages 9 - 12)

Briefing Note of the Director of Community Services

5. **Coventry Housing and Homelessness Strategy - Consultation** (Pages 13 - 20)

Briefing Note and presentation slides of the Director of Community Services

6. **Work Programme 2012/13** (Pages 21 - 24)

To consider the Board's Work Programme 2012/13

7. **Outstanding Issues**

Outstanding issues have been picked up in the Work Programme

8. **Meeting Evaluation**

To discuss and evaluate the effectiveness of the meeting.

9. **Any other items of public business which the Chair decides to take as matters of urgency because of the special circumstances involved.**

#### **Private Business**

Nil

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Bev Messinger, Director of Customer and Workforce Services, Council House  
Coventry

Tuesday, 20 November 2012

- Notes: 1) The person to contact about the agenda and documents for this meeting is Suzanne Bennett or Lara Knight Democratic Services, Council House, Coventry, telephone 7683 3072 or 7683 3237, alternatively
- 2) Council Members who are not able to attend the meeting should notify Suzanne Bennett or Lara Knight as soon as possible and no later than 8.30 a.m. on 28<sup>th</sup> November, 2012 giving their reasons for absence and the name of the Council Member (if any) who will be attending the meeting as their substitute.
- 3) Scrutiny Board Members who have an interest in any report referred to this meeting, but who are not Members of this Scrutiny Board, have been invited to notify the Chair by 12 noon on the day before the meeting that they wish to speak on a particular item. The Member must indicate to the Chair their reason for wishing to speak and the issue(s) they wish to raise.

Membership: Councillors M Hammon, D Howells (Chair), T Khan, R Lancaster, K Mulhall, H Noonan, R Sandy (Deputy Chair), B Singh and T Skipper

By invitation Councillors J McNicholas, L Kelly, A Khan, J Mutton and E Ruane

Please note: a hearing loop is available in the committee rooms

If you require a British Sign Language interpreter for this meeting  
OR if you would like this information in another format or  
language please contact us.

**Suzanne Bennett**

**Minicom: (024) 7683 3029**

**Fax: (024) 7683 3266**

## TRANSPORT AND INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT SCRUTINY BOARD (6)

17<sup>th</sup> October 2012

Scrutiny Board (6) and  
Substitute Members

Present:-

Councillor Clifford (Substitute for Councillor Lancaster)  
Councillor Hammon  
Councillor Howells (Chair)  
Councillor Mulhall  
Councillor Noonan  
Councillor Sandy (Deputy Chair)  
Councillor B Singh  
Councillor Skipper

Cabinet Member Present:-Councillor Ruane (Cabinet Member (Neighbourhood Action  
Action, Housing, Leisure and Culture)

Employees Present:-

P. Barnett (Chief Executive's Directorate)  
M. Checkley (City Services and Development Directorate)  
A. Hook (Chief Executive's Directorate)  
L. Knight (Customer and Workforce Services Directorate)  
A. Maqsood (Community Services Directorate)  
S. Roach (Community Services Directorate)

Apologies:-

Councillor Lancaster

### 24. **Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

### 25. **Minutes**

The minutes of the meetings held on 5<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> September 2012, were agreed as true records. There were no matters arising.

### 26. **Fundamental Service Review of Sustainability and Low Carbon**

The Scrutiny Board considered a presentation and briefing note from the Director of City Service and Development on the Fundamental Service Review (FSR) of Sustainability and Low Carbon.

The Scrutiny Board noted that the FSR had concluded earlier in the year and had recommended a number of actions to achieve required savings in the Medium Term Financial Strategy. Coventry was already recognised nationally as a leader in low carbon and the presentation and note outlined the guiding principles behind the FSR to further minimise the Council's environmental impact and embed sustainability into its culture. The FSR had not predicated on the decision on the 'Our Space' Review, the current energy and carbon prices and energy requirements, or achieving the Medium Term Financial Strategy savings of £298k to neutralise the cost of CRC liability.

The briefing note outlined the approach adopted in respect of operational buildings, ICT and behavioural change and the savings plan established for each area to assist in achieving the required savings. The note also outlined the projected savings between 2012/13 and 2013/15 in relation to 'green projects', which included building closures, Salix invest to save projects, other invest to save projects, behavioural changes, ICT, and streetlighting (carbon cost only), along with the investment required to assist with progressing metering and behavioural changes. These projected savings rose from £91k (2012/13) to £220k (2013/14) and £230k (2014/15). 'Amber projects' were also identified to achieve savings, although it was noted that some investment would be required in order to achieve these savings. The amber projects included draught proofing works to buildings, heating modifications, external lighting upgrades and the installation of a biomass boiler at Whitley Depot. It was anticipated that these amber projects could achieve further savings of £9k (2012/13), £71k (2013/14) and £108k (2014/15).

The outcome of the FSR was reported to the Transformation Programme Delivery Board, who approved the following recommendations:

- Note the means by which the MTFs savings target for this FSR will be achieved.
- Note the delivery of the energy and carbon reduction projects identified as 'green'
- Approve the upgrading of metering provision to allow improved monitoring, management and reporting of energy use & carbon emissions: a one-off cost of £12k.
- Approve an ongoing budget of £20k to undertake a behavioural change programme within the city council.
- Approve in principle the allocation of c.£240k of invest to save funding for further energy and carbon reduction projects subject to them complying with the proposed invest to save policy of a 12.5% rate of return over ten years.
- Allow the delivery of the above actions and those outlined in more detail on the tables above under a 'business as usual' approach and end the formal FSR process.
- Officers to investigate the feasibility of bolder carbon and energy saving ideas such as iconic renewables projects, restricting building opening times or closing for a day per week, hot desking at other public sector buildings in Coventry and Warwickshire or using under-utilised minibuses to provide transport between key council buildings.

The Director of City Services and Development reported that, in addition to those matters detailed, there were further ideas still to be explored that may achieve further savings in the future, which included Solar PV or thermal on City Council roofs; reduction/restriction of building opening times; closure of some buildings one day per week; completion of the 'Our Space' review; promotion of biomass boilers for schools; broader hot desking opportunities; and a shuttle bus between key Council sites.

Having considered the details raised, the Board acknowledged that there were a number of bold projects outlined within the FSR to achieve savings and, in particular, requested that additional information be provided on the potential reduction of carbon usage through the expansion of homeworking opportunities and increasing the use of solar panels through 'economy of scale' purchasing in the future.

**RESOLVED that the contents of the briefing note and presentation be noted and that further information be provided on the potential reduction of carbon usage through the expansion of homeworking opportunities and increasing the use of solar panels through 'economy of scale' purchasing.**

## **27. Coventry Tenancy Strategy - Consultation**

The Scrutiny Board considered a briefing note and presentation by the Director of Community Services on the development of the Coventry Tenancy Strategy.

The note indicated that the Government had introduced wide-ranging reforms to social housing legislation, regulation and policy. This marked a significant shift in the way that social housing was developed, let and managed. Changes had been made to the types of tenancies that social housing provider could offer, the rents they could charge and the way that the Council could meet its duties towards homeless households.

A requirement of the Localism Act 2011 was that the Council must produce a Tenancy Strategy, setting out the Council's views on how social housing providers should use these new flexibilities. Social housing providers must then consider the views in the Tenancy Strategy when they set their own Tenancy Policies.

The Scrutiny Board noted that registered providers must have regard to anything the Council sets out in its Tenancy Strategy when developing their own Policies, but were not required to comply with the Strategy.

A consultation document on the Tenancy Strategy had been produced, which summarised the key policy area and set out the possible issues and implication for Coventry. Whilst the Scrutiny Board were asked to provide their views in respect of 6 of the questions within the consultation document, the members were also encouraged to provide an individual response to the consultation if they had additional comments.

The 6 consultation questions on which the Scrutiny Board were asked to provide a view were:

- Q1. Should the Council support the use of Fixed Term Tenancies?
- Q3. Are there any particular groups of people that should only be offered lifetime tenancies?
- Q4. If Fixed Term Tenancies are to be used, do you think that a minimum 5 year fixed term tenancy is reasonable? Should a longer term tenancy (eg 7 years) be used?
- Q7. What factors should be taken into account when setting the level of 'Affordable Rent'?
- Q.9 Are there any types of properties that should NOT be converted to 'Affordable Rent' when they become available for re-letting?

Q.10 Should the Council use the option to discharge the main homelessness duty in the private rented sector without the applicant's consent, provided the accommodation is suitable and is available for a minimum of one year?

In respect of question 1, the Scrutiny Board's view was that the Coventry Tenancy Strategy should be consistent with the City Council's response to the recent Government White Paper on the subject, which was submitted in September 2011. This would be to object to and oppose registered providers offering anything less than the most secure tenancy for households in social and affordable rent properties. The Board felt that weakening the security of tenure for new tenants would damage social cohesion in the City and lead to a group of second class tenants.

In considering question 3, the Scrutiny Board reiterated that their view was as detailed in question 1, and that only lifetime tenancies should be offered. However should registered providers seek to restrict lifetime tenancies the Board felt that lifetime tenancies should definitely be made available to those whose housing needs are unlikely to change; the elderly / retired; people who require specialised, adapted or sheltered housing, extra care etc., and people with disabilities or long term / lifetime illnesses.

In response to question 4, the Scrutiny Board was firmly of the view that it did not support Fixed Term Tenancies. Should registered providers choose to introduce them the Scrutiny Board felt that as long a length of time as possible should be allowed before any review takes place, perhaps 7 years or longer. The Scrutiny Board also re-emphasised that reviews at the end of fixed term tenancies were a particularly vital part of the process and that there should be robust renewal criteria developed and assistance given to households if their tenancies were not renewed. The option should be investigated for shorter contract extensions to be available in circumstances where tenancies were not renewed to allow tenants some security whilst finding alternative accommodation. The Scrutiny Board felt that vulnerable tenants, in particular, should be supported in this process.

The Scrutiny Board considered carefully the issues around the introduction of 'affordable rents' which could be set up to 80% of comparable market rents, as raised in question 7. The introduction of this measure could have a particularly serious impact, particularly for those families in low paid work who pay their rent and are not dependent on benefits. The Scrutiny Board was concerned that the introduction of a measure to fund the increased availability of affordable rented properties was being funded inappropriately and was likely to contribute to further exacerbating housing problems in the City.

Should the measure be introduced, household incomes and housing as a part of universal Credit should be a fundamental consideration along with careful analysis of the mix of social and affordable housing in different parts of the City. There would also need to be protection to ensure that the introduction of 'affordable rent' particularly for tenants with longer term tenancies should have built in protection to ensure that subsequent rent increases do not take them above the 80% threshold.

In response to question 9, the Scrutiny Board had some concerns about the appropriateness of converting large family housing, specialist or adapted properties for disabled people and sheltered housing to 'Affordable Rent'. These properties were unlikely to be occupied by tenants who would be in a position to pay additional rent to fund additional affordable provision. In this regard however, the Scrutiny Board also was concerned that there should be some consideration of the individual circumstances of each tenant who was being asked to contribute more.

The Scrutiny Board was concerned by the report of the Head of Housing regarding the increased pressure on the Council to meet its homelessness obligations, and in particular the amount of time young families might be spending in short term accommodation which whilst adequate was not ideal for families. It concluded that, in fact, the move to looking more to the private rented sector may actually provide more opportunities for families to be placed in parts of the City with limited social and affordable housing availability. The Scrutiny Board agreed that the move proposed in question 10 of the consultation paper should be supported.

**RESOLVED that the responses detailed above be submitted as the Scrutiny Board's response to the Tenancy Strategy consultation.**

**28. Work Programme 2012/13**

The Scrutiny Board noted the current Work Programme for the Municipal Year 2012/13 and gave consideration to further items for inclusion.

**29. Outstanding Issues**

The Scrutiny Board noted that all outstanding issues had been incorporated into their work programme for the Municipal Year (Minute 28 above refers).

**30. Meeting Evaluation**

The Scrutiny Board noted feedback from Twitter, which had been taking place as part of the Local Democracy Week events.

The meeting concluded at 11.50 a.m.

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## Briefing note

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**To:** Transport and infrastructure Development Scrutiny Board (6)

**Date:** 28<sup>th</sup> November 2012

**Subject:** Private Sector Empty Homes

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### 1 Purpose of the Note

- 1.1 This report provides an update on performance and initiatives with respect to private sector empty homes.

### 2 Recommendations

- 2.1 Members are asked to note the contents of this report and progress to date.

### 3 Information/Background

- 3.1 On 1<sup>st</sup> April 2012 Council tax records indicated there were 134,181 dwellings (excluding student halls of residence) in Coventry of which 2,225 were private empty homes and of which 1361 had been empty for longer than 6 months.

- 3.2 Your officers continue to progress work to bring empty properties back into effective use. This has included targeting resources at the highest profile and highest risk properties, whilst in so doing bringing as many others back into use as possible. The table below details the team's performance over the past few years:

Period	No. of empty homes brought back into use	Those which had been empty for more than 2 years
2010/11	142	52
2011/12	201	73
2012/13 (first 6 months)	145	65

- 3.3 The issue of empty homes is also a key part of the Coventry Housing Strategy, which is currently open for consultation.
- 3.4 Government encourages local authorities to create more new homes, either by facilitating new builds or bringing long term empty properties back into use. The New Homes Bonus Scheme Grant Determination commenced in April 2011, and will match fund the additional council tax raised for new homes and empty properties brought back into use, with an additional amount for affordable homes, for the following six years. To date the empty

home element of the grant determination has resulted in £812,685 being allocated to the Council. This funding supports the Council's overall bottom line.

#### **4 Recent changes - Fundamental Service Review**

4.1 Public Safety and Housing were both subject to a fundamental service review (FSR) during 2011/12. One of the key aims of the FSR was to bring together relevant enforcement capability to tackle the key corporate objectives of:

- Coventry, proud to be a city that works for better pavements, streets and roads, where streets are cleaner and there is less litter and fly tipping
- Coventry, proud to be a city that works to protect our most vulnerable residents, where we have less crime and anti-social behaviour in our most vulnerable neighbourhoods

4.2 This led to the creation of Environmental Services, which consists of the Environment and Housing Enforcement Team (this combined both Private Sector Housing Enforcement and the Environmental Crime Unit), Neighbourhood Wardens and the Pest Control and Animal Welfare Service. Environmental Services brings together a range of officers responsible for street scene enforcement with a mandate to target the key priorities of fly tipping and empty properties.

4.3 Ultimately, the aim of the new service is to train and equip all officers in the Environment and Housing Enforcement Team with skills to deal with empty properties. This will ultimately provide greater resource to deal with these priority issues. Six months on, officers from both teams have started to work with empty properties.

#### **5 How empty properties are brought back into use**

5.1 Properties are brought back into use by a mix of persuasion, advice and enforcement under a range of statutory Acts. The Environment and Housing Enforcement Team work closely with colleagues in Planning and Legal Services, to collectively utilise their enforcement powers to achieve this aim.

5.2 In order that the authority can target and prioritise its resources at those empty properties which represent the greatest nuisance and risk to health i.e. anti-social behaviour, fly tipping and arson etc. we have recently purchased some specific software. This software 'bolts on' to the existing software used within all of Public Safety and Housing and will 'risk rate' empty homes and identify those for priority action by the enforcement team.

5.3 In addition, the software is also capable of giving a 'city wide' picture of all empty properties, the types of house, their geographical spread and the reasons why they are empty. To minimise data entry, a proportion of this data can be readily refreshed with current information from the Revenue and Benefits Service (all properties that have been empty for six months or longer); the enforcement team are currently negotiating with the Information Governance Team to ensure that this data can be accessed and used to benefit the people of Coventry.

5.4 This information will enable officers to work with owners of empty properties to support them, where appropriate, to bring their property back into use. This can be done in a number of ways including bringing together the owner with property investors.

## 6 Strategic Initiatives

6.1 In addition to the above mentioned programmed work, the Environment & Housing Enforcement Team work closely with colleagues in the Housing Service and partner agencies to bring empty properties back into use. For example:

- **WM Housing Group – Property Leasing Scheme**

WM Housing Group have successfully bid for funding from the Government's Affordable Homes Programme to acquire, improve and lease 40 long-term empty properties (which would not have come back into use without additional financial intervention).

This funding is available over the period 2012-15 and negotiations are ongoing with the Council as to how appropriate properties in this area may be identified and targeted.

- **Partnership Working - Cyrenians**

Coventry Cyrenians and Citizens Advice Centre have been awarded a DCLG contract to help single people and couples get a private tenancy. They are seeking landlords with vacant properties to house people registered on this scheme.

- **Private Sector Landlords Working Group**

This initiative follows direct approaches to the Council from a number of private sector developers, wishing to acquire and renovate long term empty properties. A marketing/information leaflet is being developed for provision at the first point of contact with empty home owners. This is envisaged to be a valuable option for owners wishing to undertake their own negotiations, merely requiring an introduction to interested developers.

- **Private Sector Accommodation Team**

This team will be based in Housing Options and has been set up as part of the Fundamental Service Review. The aim of this team will be to facilitate access to the private rented sector for households in need, to prevent homelessness and discharge the main homelessness duty. It will be actively seeking vacant property available for rent.

- **Emmaus**

This charity has gained funding to bring a property back into use through a leasing scheme. Our officers are assisting Emmaus in finding a suitable empty property.

Craig Hickin  
Head of Environmental Services

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Coventry City Council

## Briefing note

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**To: Transport and Infrastructure Development Scrutiny Board (6)**

**Date: 28<sup>th</sup> November 2012**

**Subject: Draft Coventry Housing & Homelessness Strategy**

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### **1 Purpose of the Note**

- 1.1 To inform the Transport and Infrastructure Development Scrutiny Board (6) of the development of the Draft Coventry Housing & Homelessness Strategy and the consultation being carried out.

### **2 Recommendations**

- 2.1 Members of the Transport and Infrastructure Scrutiny Board (6) are recommended to:
1. Consider the content of the Draft Housing & Homelessness Strategy attached.
  2. Participate in the consultation which is open until 15th January 2013 and available online: <http://www.coventry.gov.uk/housingandhomelessnessconsultation>

### **3 Information/Background**

- 3.1 A Draft Housing & Homelessness Strategy has been produced which identifies four main themes that the Council will concentrate on addressing. This has been developed by taking into account the national, regional and local housing contexts and also the results of previous consultation.
- 3.2 The Draft Housing & Homelessness Strategy has been published on the Council website along with a consultation survey. Everyone with an interest in housing in Coventry is welcome to respond to this consultation, which will run for twelve weeks from 24<sup>th</sup> October 2012 to 15<sup>th</sup> January 2013 and is available on the council website: <http://www.coventry.gov.uk/housingandhomelessnessconsultation>
- 3.3 After the consultation, the comments received will be used to develop the final Housing & Homelessness Strategy. The results of the consultation will also be used to develop a comprehensive Action Plan.
- 3.4 The final Strategy will be considered by both the Cabinet and full Council at their meetings in March 2013, so that the Strategy can be implemented from April 2013.

3.5 The consultation questions are:

- To what extent do you agree that the strategy is clear in identifying the main issues and challenges for Coventry?
- Are there any other issues/challenges that should be included?
- To what extent do you agree that the 'what we will do' sections of the strategy have identified appropriate ways to tackle these issues?
- Are there any other ways to tackle the issues/challenges that should be included?
- Are there any comments you would like to make regarding the impact that the Housing & Homelessness Strategy might have for different groups of people who have characteristics that are protected by the Equalities Act?
- Did you find the Draft Housing & Homelessness Strategy easy to read?
- Do you have any further comments or suggestions for improvement to make on the strategy?

**NAME, DIRECTORATE, TELEPHONE NUMBER**

**Ayaz Maqsood  
Head of Housing**

**Public Safety and Housing  
Community Services Directorate**

**Tel: 024 7683 1958  
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Attachments – Presentation Slides



## **Scrutiny Board 6 – 28<sup>th</sup> November 2012**

# **Coventry Housing & Homelessness Strategy Consultation**

**Ayaz Maqsood  
Head of Housing**

## **What is the Housing & Homelessness Strategy?**

- Coventry City Council no longer owns any council housing after the stock was transferred to Whitefriars Housing Group in 2000.
- However, the Council still has strategic housing responsibilities.
- The Council also has a duty to carry out a periodic review of homelessness in the area and publish a homelessness strategy.
- The way we will meet these responsibilities will be set out in the five-year Housing & Homelessness Strategy 2013-18.

## What is the Housing & Homelessness Strategy?

- A Draft Housing & Homelessness Strategy has been produced.
- A twelve week consultation is running from 24<sup>th</sup> October 2012 to 15<sup>th</sup> January 2013.
- The document and an online survey are available on this link: <http://www.coventry.gov.uk/housingandhomelessnessconsultation>
- The final Strategy will be considered by Cabinet and full Council at their meetings in March 2013, so that the Strategy can be implemented from April 2013.



## Consultation Questions

- The online consultation asks key questions about the draft Housing & Homelessness Strategy document:
  - To what extent do you agree that the strategy is clear in identifying the main issues and challenges for Coventry?
  - Are there any other issues/challenges that should be included?
  - To what extent do you agree that the 'what we will do' sections of the strategy have identified appropriate ways to tackle these issues?
  - Are there any other ways to tackle the issues/challenges that should be included?
  - Are there any comments you would like to make regarding the impact that the Housing & Homelessness Strategy might have for different groups of people who have characteristics that are protected by the Equalities Act?
  - Did you find the Draft Housing & Homelessness Strategy easy to read?
  - Do you have any other comments or suggestions for improvement?





## Ambition and Strategic Themes

*“To ensure decent homes, housing choice and support for Coventry citizens”*

- **Theme 1:** Increase the supply, choice and quality of new housing.
- **Theme 2:** Prevent & tackle homelessness.
- **Theme 3:** Strive for a healthier and more sustainable City by improving the quality and use of existing housing.
- **Theme 4:** Support balanced, stable and sustainable communities.



## Theme 1: Increase the supply, choice and quality of new housing.

- Priorities under this theme:
  - Optimise opportunities for increasing new affordable housing supply to ensure that the delivery of new affordable housing is at a level that supports the economic growth ambitions of the city.
  - Promote balanced and sustainable communities by diversifying the size, type and tenure of new housing, particularly family sized housing.
  - Develop new affordable housing to a high quality without compromising the deliverability and viability of new housing schemes.
  - Regenerate neighbourhoods where poor quality, low demand housing exists.
  - Improve existing site provision to meet the needs of Gypsies and Travellers.



## Theme 2: Prevent and Tackle Homelessness (Our Homelessness Strategy)

- Priorities under this theme:
- **Overarching Priority**
  - To deliver upon the challenges set out in the Government report 'Making Every Contact Count: A Joint Approach to Preventing Homelessness' (2012).
- **Local Priorities**
  - To establish a revised process for the assessment, allocation and procurement of temporary accommodation.
  - To re-commission external homelessness services which better align with homelessness priorities.
  - To review the local social housing allocation system – Coventry Homefinder



## Theme 3: Strive for a healthier and more sustainable City by improving the quality and use of existing housing.

- Priorities under this theme:
  - Improve energy efficiency and affordable warmth in the private sector.
  - Improve property condition and management standards in the private rented sector.
  - Make best use of existing housing by reducing the number of empty properties and addressing under-occupation.



## Theme 4: Encourage balanced, stable and sustainable communities

- Priorities under this theme:
  - Support independent living for vulnerable and marginalised groups.
  - Improve housing choice for an ageing population.
  - Improve the quality of our neighbourhoods to support safe, inclusive and cohesive communities.



## Recap - Consultation Questions

- To what extent do you agree that the strategy is clear in identifying the main issues and challenges for Coventry?
- Are there any other issues/challenges that should be included?
- To what extent do you agree that the 'what we will do' sections of the strategy have identified appropriate ways to tackle these issues?
- Are there any other ways to tackle the issues/challenges that should be included?
- Are there any comments you would like to make regarding the impact that the Housing & Homelessness Strategy might have for different groups of people who have characteristics that are protected by the Equalities Act?
- Did you find the Draft Housing & Homelessness Strategy easy to read?
- Do you have any other comments or suggestions for improvement?





**Any questions?**

## Transport and Infrastructure Development Work Programme 2012/13

*For more details on items, please see pages 2 onwards*

### 4<sup>th</sup> July 2012

Cycling Coventry  
Coventry Homefinder

### 5<sup>th</sup> Sept 2012

Update on the Green Deal and subsidies and offers available  
Brownfield site development and Core Strategy

### 25<sup>th</sup> Sep 2012

Coventry Homefinder immediate policy changes  
Coventry Homefinder Policy

### 17<sup>th</sup> Oct 2012

Low Carbon FSR  
Tenancy Strategy Consultation

### 28<sup>th</sup> Nov 2012

Empty and Neglected Properties  
Coventry Housing and Homelessness Strategy - consultation

### 30<sup>th</sup> Jan 2012

Support to first time buyers

### 13<sup>th</sup> Mar 2013

Items to be identified

### 9<sup>th</sup> April 2012

Climate Change Strategy

### Date to be decided

Future housing provision for older people  
Aerial Thermal Survey  
Connectivity to key transport hubs – HS2  
Coventry Bus review  
Re-commissioning of homelessness services  
Site for Gypsy/Traveller Families  
Collective purchasing for energy

Meeting Date	Work programme item	Lead officer	Brief Summary of the issue	Source
4 <sup>th</sup> July 2012	Cycling Coventry		To look at the £3.5 million Cycling Coventry project grant in more detail to enable the Board to identify further areas of work on this item.	First meeting 30 <sup>th</sup> May 12
	Coventry Homefinder	Ayaz Maqsood	To review the service and identify trends following the changes made in November 2011	First meeting 30 <sup>th</sup> May 12
5 <sup>th</sup> Sept 2012	Update on the Green Deal and subsidies and offers available	David Shiner	Following a briefing note at the Board on 18th January, the Board requested a further update on progress and detail on the Green Deal and other offers. Focussing on publicity of the offers, uptake and any potential barriers to why people may not be making use of the offers. Also to include Green investment bank information	SB4 Meeting 18/1/12
	Brownfield site development and Core Strategy	Mark Andrews	To look at the availability of brownfield (council and privately owned) land in the city (in advance of the housing FSR coming to scrutiny). Also to contribute to the consultation on the housing aspect of the Core Strategy.	Chair
25 <sup>th</sup> Sep 2012	Coventry Homefinder immediate policy changes	Ayaz Maqsood	A review the immediate changes to the Homefinder Service due to welfare reform	Officer
	Coventry Homefinder Policy	Ayaz Maqsood	This will cover a full in-depth review of the Homefinder Policy regarding changes due to Welfare Reform and also looking at relationships with Housing Associations. A request will be made to create a task and finish group to look at this in detail.	
17 <sup>th</sup> Oct 2012	Low Carbon FSR	Michael Checkley	An update on progress on the Low Carbon FSR and also to look at what low carbon measures are being taken to increase the Council's energy efficiency, including Directorate level information. Also to look at what Coventry is learning from best practice from other areas and organisations.	First meeting 30 <sup>th</sup> May 12

Meeting Date	Work programme item	Lead officer	Brief Summary of the issue	Source
	Tenancy Strategy Consultation	Ayaz Maqsood	The Council requires a Tenancy Strategy by January 2013. This will state the Councils policy to tenancy agreements which Housing Associations need to consider when implementing their own policies. SB6 will be involved as consultees	Officer
28 <sup>th</sup> Nov 2012	Empty and Neglected Properties	Craig Hicken	To provide information on what steps are being taken to reduce the number of empty and neglected properties in the city.	
	Coventry Housing and Homelessness Strategy - consultation	Ayaz Maqsood	This is a large piece of work and the Board will want to look at the development of the strategy in detail. It is likely that there will be further items related to this on the work programme.	
30 <sup>th</sup> Jan 2012	Support to first time buyers	Chris West	To look as possible options available to support first time buyers in the city.	Chair 15/11/12
13 <sup>th</sup> Mar 2013	Items to be identified			
9 <sup>th</sup> April 2012	Climate Change Strategy	Michael Checkley	The annual report on progress against the actions and outcomes of the Climate Change Strategy brought to the Board in January 2012. Members are particularly interested in finding out how the city is adapting to climate change as well as reducing our carbon footprint.	SB4 Meeting 7/12/11
Date to be decided	Future housing provision for older people	Ayaz Maqsood	The Board wish to discuss how the housing needs of older people could be met in future.	SB3 22/2/12 meeting
	Aerial Thermal Survey	David Shiner	Following the report to the Board in December 2011 the Board were supportive of the survey being repeated in 2012/13.	SB4 Meeting 7/12/11
	Connectivity to key transport hubs – HS2	Colin Knight	This would include links with Birmingham International, Coventry Airport, Milton Keynes, Leicester and London, within the wider context of HS2	
	Coventry Bus review	Cllr McNicholas	To look at the changes to the bus service and their effectiveness.	
	Re-commissioning of	Ayaz	To look in more detail at support and services to homeless	

<b>Meeting Date</b>	<b>Work programme item</b>	<b>Lead officer</b>	<b>Brief Summary of the issue</b>	<b>Source</b>
	homelessness services	Maqsood	people, and to look at tools to tackle homelessness linked to Welfare Reform	
	Site for Gypsy/Traveller Families	Ayaz Maqsood	Un update on progress in terms of planning policy H6 and ensuring Siskin Drive it is suitable and usable for the needs of this community.	Meeting 5/9/21
	Collective purchasing for energy	Michael Checkley	Members of the Board requested information on the exploration into the possibility of the local authority using its purchasing power for the benefit of local residents.	Meeting 5/9/12