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Monitoring Officer
Christopher Potter

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Agenda

Name of meeting	POLICY AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE FOR NEIGHBOURHOODS AND REGENERATION
Date	THURSDAY 5 OCTOBER 2023
Time	5.00 PM
Venue	COUNCIL CHAMBER, COUNTY HALL, NEWPORT, ISLE OF WIGHT
Members of the committee	Cllrs N Stuart (Chairman), J Lever (Vice-Chairman), M Beston, K Love, C Quirk and I Ward

Democratic Services Officer: Sarah MacDonald
democratic.services@iow.gov.uk

1. **Apologies and Changes in Membership (if any)**

To note any changes in membership of the Committee made in accordance with Part 4B paragraph 5 of the Constitution.

2. **Minutes** (Pages 5 - 10)

To confirm as a true record the Minutes of the meeting held on 6 July 2023.

3. **Declarations of Interest**

To invite Members to declare any interest they might have in the matters on the agenda.



Details of this and other Council committee meetings can be viewed on the Isle of Wight Council's Committee [website](#). This information may be available in alternative formats on request. Please note the meeting will be audio recorded and the recording will be placed on the website (except any part of the meeting from which the press and public are excluded). Young people are welcome to attend Council meetings however parents/carers should be aware that the public gallery is not a supervised area.

4. **Public Question Time - 15 Minutes Maximum**

Questions may be asked without notice but to guarantee a full reply at the meeting, a question must be put including the name and address of the questioner by delivery in writing or by electronic mail to Democratic Services at democratic.services@iow.gov.uk, no later than two clear working days before the start of the meeting. Therefore the deadline for written questions will be Monday 2 October 2023.

Members of the public are invited to make representations to the Committee regarding its workplan, either in writing at any time or at a meeting under this item.

5. **Progress on outcomes and recommendations from previous meetings**
(Pages 11 - 12)

The Chairman to give an update on progress with outcomes and recommendations from previous meetings.

6. **Pre-Decision Scrutiny - Draft Island Planning Strategy** (Pages 13 - 14)

The committee to receive an update on the Draft Island Planning Strategy.

7. **Housing Strategy 2020-2025 Action Plan Progress Report** (Pages 15 - 36)

The committee to receive a written update on progress the council, and its partners, have made against the Housing Strategy action plan since adoption in October 2020.

8. **Isle of Wight Skills Plan** (Pages 37 - 42)

The committee to receive a written update on the key issues highlighted in the IW Skills Plan as well as review the progress and implementation of the Action Plan.

9. **Committee's Work Plan** (Pages 43 - 46)

To note the content of the current work programme, and to approve the scope of identified items: - Coastal Path Maintenance & Beach Access

(a) **Beach Management Framework 2021-2026** (Pages 47 - 48)

The committee to receive a written update on the progress of the framework in line with the action plan and target dates that were approved by Cabinet in January 2021.

10. **Members' Question Time**

To guarantee a reply to a question, a question must be submitted in writing or by electronic mail to democratic.services@iow.gov.uk no later than 5pm on Tuesday 3 October 2023. A question may be asked at the meeting without prior notice but in these circumstances there is no guarantee that a full reply will be given at the meeting.

CHRISTOPHER POTTER
Monitoring Officer
Wednesday, 27 September 2023

Interests

If there is a matter on this agenda which may relate to an interest you or your partner or spouse has or one you have disclosed in your register of interests, you must declare your interest before the matter is discussed or when your interest becomes apparent. If the matter relates to an interest in your register of pecuniary interests then you must take no part in its consideration and you must leave the room for that item. Should you wish to participate as a member of the public to express your views where public speaking is allowed under the Council's normal procedures, then you will need to seek a dispensation to do so. Dispensations are considered by the Monitoring Officer following the submission of a written request. Dispensations may take up to 2 weeks to be granted.

Members are reminded that it is a requirement of the Code of Conduct that they should also keep their written Register of Interests up to date. Any changes to the interests recorded on that form should be made as soon as reasonably practicable, and within 28 days of the change. A change would be necessary if, for example, your employment changes, you move house or acquire any new property or land.

If you require more guidance on the Code of Conduct or are unsure whether you need to record an interest on the written register you should take advice from the Monitoring Officer – Christopher Potter on (01983) 821000, email chris.potter@iow.gov.uk, or Deputy Monitoring Officer - Justin Thorne on (01983) 821000, email justin.thorne@iow.gov.uk.

Notice of recording

Please note that all meetings that are open to the public and press may be filmed or recorded and/or commented on online by the council or any member of the public or press. However, this activity must not disrupt the meeting, and if it does you will be asked to stop and possibly to leave the meeting. This meeting may also be filmed for live and subsequent broadcast (except any part of the meeting from which the press and public are excluded).

If you wish to record, film or photograph the council meeting or if you believe that being filmed or recorded would pose a risk to the safety of you or others then please speak with the democratic services officer prior to that start of the meeting. Their contact details are on the agenda papers.

If the press and public are excluded for part of a meeting because confidential or exempt information is likely to be disclosed, there is no right to record that part of the meeting. All recording and filming equipment must be removed from the meeting room when the public and press are excluded.

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Minutes

Name of meeting	POLICY AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE FOR NEIGHBOURHOODS AND REGENERATION
Date and Time	THURSDAY 6 JULY 2023 COMMENCING AT 5.00 PM
Venue	COUNCIL CHAMBER, COUNTY HALL, NEWPORT, ISLE OF WIGHT
Present	Cllrs N Stuart (Chairman), M Beston, R Downer, K Love and C Quirk
Also Present (Non voting)	Cllr I Stephens, Cllr Jones-Evans, Cllr Jordan and John Irvine
Officers Present	Christopher Ashman, Sarah Philipsborn and Melanie White
Apologies	Cllrs J Lever and I Ward

1. **Apologies and Changes in Membership (if any)**

Cllr Lever and Cllr Ward sent their apologies.

2. **Minutes**

RESOLVED:

THAT the minutes of the meeting held on 4 May 2023 be approved with the following amendment;

Page 8 Item 47

Discussions took place around funding and sustainability and the importance of developing young person's skills and keeping hold of skilled young people...

3. **Declarations of Interest**

None were declared at this time.

4. **Public Question Time - 15 Minutes Maximum**

None were received

5. **Progress on outcomes and recommendations from previous meetings**

None known to be commented on at this meeting

6. **Pre-Decision Scrutiny - Acquisition Strategy**

The Committee set to discuss immediately on the issues included in the Acquisition Strategy Report.

Questions were asked about homelessness and it being a priority for the Cabinet. Debate surrounding this topic ensued regarding the funding available for the strategy and how best the funding could be utilized.

Cllrs wanted clarification over the target of how many homes were to be provided. The strategy was stated as a starting point, and the main difficulty was around funding and that the acquisition strategy referred to delivering 50 homes within a three-year period.

Cllrs asked for figures to be provided to the committee about how much money was available now for such homes.

The amount available was stated as being £500,000 but this was to be supplemented with £800,000 in external grants. It was also hoped that the Council would obtain Homes England funding. The discussion led to the site in East Cowes which was explained as being more complex than initially anticipated.

The debate returned to the question of funding and whether it was not more economical to fund the homes rather than the amount of money spent in temporary accommodation for homeless families.

Opinions felt the strategy needed time scales and details on how the strategy was going to be delivered with clear process definitions and firm targets.

Questions were also raised by the Chair regarding what effects homelessness had on people and discussion followed regarding mental and physical health and children's education.

The idea of creating a new task and finish group was mooted to the committee by the Chair but Cllrs questioned the need for such a group as the findings would not differ very much to what was established by the 2017 task and finish group when dealing with this subject, apart from the situation being worse. Cllrs were also mindful of officer time, as well as any further delay to the implementation of the acquisition strategy and delivering homes to those people who desperately needed them.

A suggestion was put forward to pull the report and do more work on it with the intention of bringing it back to the Cabinet meeting in September, but this was seen as causing further delay by some committee members.

The committee looked to make some recommendation regarding the report.

There was the opinion that recommendations should be made now so that they could be taken to the Cabinet meeting on 11 July 2023. Concern was raised over voting for recommendations that the committee had not seen as there would be no written record.

Other committee members put forward the option to go away and come up with a list of recommendations to be considered and circulated by email. This option was voted through by the committee.

RESOLVED:

THAT the Chairman would circulate a list of recommendations for the members to consider ahead of the cabinet meeting on 11 July 2023.

7. **Pre- Decision Scrutiny - Electric Vehicle Charge-Point Infrastructure Strategy**

The Committee set about discussing the report regarding the Electric Vehicle Charge Point Infrastructure. Questions were raised about the strategy and how it was part of the IW Council's Net Zero Strategy.

It was stated as being a draft strategy with £325,000 of funding so far, but there was the focus to partner up with other organisations to deliver the necessary infrastructure.

Cllrs raised questions on reliability, cost and ways of payment when accessing the charge points. It was stated that the target for the strategy to be implemented was 2030 but that there was talk in government of a delay to 2035 so it was very up in the air. It was advised that currently on the Island only three percent of vehicle ownership was electric.

Concerns on the impact on the tourist industry and the ability for rapid charging to make sure individuals were not discouraged to come to the Island. Discussion took place on the ability of the charging network to provide enough charging points for tourist and visitors to the Island and whether the ferry companies could be involved in further discussion about providing charging points at the ports or on their vessels.

Further points were raised about the effectiveness of electric vehicles over a certain tonnage, and it was stated that hydrogen was the preferred option for vehicles over 26 tonnes, but the use of hydrogen was dependent on government policy.

The Chairman raised the issue of solar panels being installed above car parks.

Grid capacity was also discussed and if the grid could cope with the expansion of electric vehicles ownership and the supply and flow of power.

Cllrs debated the need to put requirements regarding electric vehicle charging points into local plans and all future developments.

The following recommendations were voted on and approved by the committee:

THAT there is a requirement placed on all future development on the Island to include electric charging points.

THAT the Council consider the ability of the charging network in dealing with electric vehicles coming on to the island and have discussions with ferry operators about the potential of having charging points at the ports or on their vessels.

THAT the committee is provided with regular updates regarding the progress of the electric vehicle charging point strategy

THAT the issue of grid capacity and grid flow is further investigated.

RESOLVED

THAT the above recommendations be forwarded onto the Cabinet Member for Transport and Infrastructure, Highways PFI and Transport Strategy for consideration in the draft strategy.

8. Island wide Digital Connectivity

The CEO of Wight Fibre presented a video to the committee which showed the work of Wight Fibre on the Island. The presentation gave an update on how far the company was in providing world class optic fibre broadband availability to all areas of the Island. The cost of the various packages were explained to the committee along with maps showing the areas of the Island and what stage of service availability they were at.

Questions were asked about streets in Ventnor not being on the recent list of availability. The CEO of WightFibre explained that that had encountered tremendous issues in Ventnor which has slowed down the works in that area considerably.

Comments were made that there was high satisfaction with the service but dissatisfaction with the installation works.

The CEO responded by saying that mistakes can happen and that WightFibre endeavour to respond quickly to any issues. The CEO also stated that blocks of flats were more difficult to connect as were certain unadopted roads. Where it was financially unviable to connect outlying properties, there was the hope that there would be a grant forthcoming to enable these properties (estimated to be 1000-1500 properties) to be connected.

Concerns were raised by the Chair of the number of properties especially in rural areas that were not being connected and that Wightfibre had informed him previously they were unwilling to disclose which properties were not being connected at this moment. After discussion the WightFibre CEO offered to provide a map of the areas that were currently not going to receive Fibre, specifically in rural areas.

RESOLVED:

THAT the presentation from the CEO of WightFibre be noted

9. **Island Roads Annual Survey**

Not discussed due to the meeting becoming inquorate.

10. **Isle of Wight Skills Plan**

Not discussed due to the meeting becoming inquorate

11. **Committee's Work Plan**

Not discussed due to the meeting becoming inquorate.

12. **Members' Question Time**

None, due to the meeting becoming inquorate.

CHAIRMAN

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Policy and Scrutiny Committee for Neighbourhoods & Regeneration - Progress on Actions & Outcomes

Meeting Date	Agreed Action	Responsibility	Update	Actioned
Outstanding Actions				
4 May 2023	Annual Waste & Recycling Survey The committee to visit the Waste Education Centre on the Forest Park site once it is ready.	Strategic Manager Environment	Waiting for a visit to be organised once the Waste Education Centre is open.	
Actions Completed (Since Last Meeting)				
6 July 2023	Acquisition Strategy The committee agreed for the paper to continue through Cabinet but they would be putting forward some recommendations for improvements to the strategy outside of the formal meeting	Chairman of the committee	Recommendations were circulated to the committee on 11 July for comment before being passed to Cabinet on 13 July. The strategy has been updated since its approval with scrutiny recommendations	Aug-23

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Committee Update

Committee	POLICY & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE FOR NEIGHBOURHOODS AND REGENERATION
Date	5 OCTOBER 2023
Title	DRAFT ISLAND PLANNING STRATEGY UPDATE

BACKGROUND

1. The last update regarding the draft Island Planning Strategy (IPS) was given in May 2023, when the Leader of the Council updated Full Council of the Cabinet's decision to await the expected publication of new legislation, policy and guidance by the Government in the 'spring' of 2023 before progressing the draft IPS.
2. The publication by the Government of the revised national planning policy framework (NPPF) that incorporates changes set out in the 2022 consultation has been delayed – this revised NPPF was originally promised in Spring 2023, however DLUHC are now saying an 'update' will come in the Autumn of 2023 which will be focused on a response to the tens of thousands of comments received to the consultation.
3. The Levelling Up and Regeneration Bill (LURB) has now passed through the House of Lords and is now in its final stages, with Royal Assent expected before the Kings Speech on 7 November 2023.
4. Further public consultation is then likely to take place on revisions to the NPPF and accompanying planning practice guidance that incorporate the legislative provisions for the planning system set out in the LURB.
5. Due to the above timescales and following the Full Council meeting on 20 September 2023 where a commitment was made by the Leader to ensure cross-chamber discussion on a wide range of issues, the Alliance Group wish to undertake that cross-chamber discussion on the draft IPS prior to moving the document forward through Scrutiny and then onto Cabinet and Full Council.
6. The Cabinet and the Alliance Group continue to recognise the benefits of a new local plan and how the adoption of a new plan can make a significant contribution towards addressing key issues on the island, such as the delivery of affordable housing. The Cabinet and the Alliance Group remains keen to see the draft IPS progress through the formal stages in a timely manner.

7. It remains the commitment that this committee will review the draft IPS before it goes to Cabinet and Full Council to seek approval to publish and then submit to the Secretary of State for public examination.

APPROACH

8. As the next Policy & Scrutiny Committee for Neighbourhoods and Regeneration meeting is not scheduled until 4 January 2024, the committee is to consider what format / forum they wish to use to review the draft IPS once it is made available.
9. The Chair to discuss and agree the approach with the Portfolio Holder for Planning, Coastal Protection and Flooding to ensure that the committee can appropriately report their findings to Corporate Scrutiny Committee ahead of the draft IPS being reported to Cabinet and Full Council.

Contact Point: James Brewer, Planning Policy Manager, ☎ 821000 extension 8567 e-mail james.brewer@iow.gov.uk

CLLR PAUL FULLER
*Cabinet Member for Planning,
Coastal Protection and Flooding*



Agenda Item Introduction

Committee	POLICY AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE FOR NEIGHBOURHOODS AND REGENERATION
Date	5 OCTOBER 2023
Topic	HOUSING STRATEGY 2020-25 ACTION PLAN PROGRESS REPORT

BACKGROUND

The Housing Strategy 2020-25 was approved by Cabinet in October 2020. The action plan had several actions set out to support the key priorities including ensuring the right supply and the right mix of new homes and increasing affordable housing delivery. Reducing homelessness and rough sleeping through effective prevention work and building a new homeless pathway with partner services and providing primary and extra-care housing for older and disabled people.

The committee is to receive the update with progress the council and its partners have made against the Housing Strategy action plan since adoption ahead of it going to Cabinet on 12 October 2023.

FOCUS FOR SCRUTINY

- Being now over halfway through the strategy life span what have been the successes and challenges?
- Have all the targets on the action plan been achieved up to date?
- Are there any recommendations to be put forward to Cabinet in regard to the action plan?

APPROACH

A Cabinet report to be provided.

DOCUMENTS ATTACHED

- Cabinet Report
- Appendix 1

Contact Point: Melanie White, Statutory Scrutiny Officer, ☎ 821000 ext 8876
e-mail melanie.white@iow.gov.uk



Cabinet report

Date **12 OCTOBER 2023**

Title **HOUSING STRATEGY 2020-2025
ACTION PLAN PROGRESS REPORT 2023**

Report of **CABINET MEMBER FOR ADULT SERVICES AND HOUSING,
PUBLIC HEALTH AND HOMELESSNESS**

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1. The purpose of this report is to inform Cabinet of progress the council and its partners have made to develop and implement the Housing Strategy through an action plan since adoption of the strategy in October 2020.
2. The Cabinet is responsible for monitoring delivery of the action plan annually; this is the third annual review, but progress reports have been provided during this period.

RECOMMENDATION

3. That Cabinet notes the Housing Strategy 2020-2025 Action Plan Progress Report 2023 contained at Appendix 1 of this report.

BACKGROUND

4. The council adopted its current Housing Strategy 2020-2025 in October 2020 and this was supported by a detailed action plan which covered the five-year period.
5. The Covid-19 pandemic significantly increased housing pressures and service disruption throughout the sector, which serves to emphasise the urgency of delivery of the housing objectives outlined in the Housing Strategy 2020-2025

CORPORATE PRIORITIES AND STRATEGIC CONTEXT

Provision of affordable housing for Island Residents

6. The Housing Strategy 'vision' is "To enable everyone living on the Island to have a place they call home". Six strategic priorities underpin this vision which in turn shape the desired outcomes in the action plan to prioritise key actions and expected outcomes.
- **Strategic priority 1: New housing supply** – Ensuring the right supply and mix of new homes and increasing affordable housing delivery through the efficient use of land and capital resources including those the council owns or has control of.
 - **Strategic priority 2: Housing affordability** – Defining "affordability" on the Island through detailed and on-going research of both incomes and housing costs to inform both planning and housing policy going forward.
 - **Strategic priority 3: Private sector housing** – Ensuring that the private housing sector provides enough good quality market housing through support for developers and landlords and, where necessary, robust quality control and regulation.
 - **Strategic priority 4: Partnerships** – Enabling housing associations and our other partners to build more new affordable homes for Island residents while maintaining their current homes to a high standard.
 - **Strategic priority 5: Homelessness and housing need** – Reducing homelessness and rough sleeping through effective prevention work and building a new homeless pathway through property solutions and wrap-around services.
 - **Strategic priority 6: Special housing needs and vulnerable people** – Ensuring that specialist accommodation is available for vulnerable people including primarily extra-care housing for older people and people with disabilities.
7. The housing strategy action plan commits the council and its partners to delivering the outcomes of the Housing Strategy together via agreed high-level strategic actions and contributions.
8. Details of progress made in delivering the Housing Strategy action plan is set out in Appendix 1 to this report. This also includes details of future milestones for delivery of those tasks not completed.
9. Responding to climate change and enhancing the biosphere
- The council has set a target to achieve net zero emissions:
- in its business and delivery of services by 2030;
 - across the school estate by 2035; and
 - as an island by 2040.
10. The housing strategy promotes the use of new construction technologies to create high quality, net-zero carbon and environmentally resilient homes to offset carbon emissions in the longer term to meet the council's 2030 zero carbon target and the government's 2050 legal requirement.

11. Following a successful bid to the LGA a report was produced in partnership with a Registered Provider setting out how Net Zero Carbon Homes could be delivered on the Isle of Wight.

Economic Recovery and Reducing Poverty

12. The economic landscape has changed significantly due to the impacts of the Covid-19 pandemic and it has never been more important for housing provision to meet local need and the council support its delivery.
13. The provision of housing is a key contributor to regeneration and economic recovery, supporting a large range of contractors on the Island, many of whom support skills development and apprenticeships for younger people.

Impact on Young People and Future Generations

14. The decisions the Council makes now not only affect current residents, but may have long term impacts, both positive and negative, on young people and future generations. These impacts may not immediately be apparent or may not emerge for a number of years or decades. Impacts will be interrelated across the various domains of young people's lives from housing, employment or training, health and the environment.
15. By providing adequate, affordable and good quality housing the strategy supports young people and future generations as housing has a significant impact on the life chances of individuals.

Corporate Aims

16. The Council set out their aspirations in the Corporate Plan 2021 - 2025 and this is based around a need to ensure that housing created is fit for purpose. They have prioritised truly affordable housing for Island residents, meaning housing that is not just affordable to rent or buy but affordable to live in and maintain.
17. The Corporate Plan includes the following key housing related activities, which are also included the Housing Strategy:
 - Work with partners, including town, parish and community councils to deliver innovative solutions to secure the provision of affordable housing for Island residents
 - Where necessary make use of the council's housing company to address market failure in meeting needs
 - Where possible use available powers including compulsory purchase
 - Introduce temporary housing schemes to meet local needs by September 2023
 - Increase the number of affordable housing units available by December 2023

PROGRESS & OUTCOMES

18. The Council has a Housing Strategy and associated action plan to bring together the full range of strategic thinking and possible housing interventions

to give confidence to both local residents, and the wider economy including investors and the UK government to deliver more and better housing on the Island.

19. There has been good progress across the majority of deliverables as set out in Appendix 1 including a step-change in delivering some long-standing housing objectives for the Island.

20. New Housing Supply:

- The target for 300 homes has been met. The following table provides details of the delivery of affordable homes over the last 4 years. *2022/23 figures are provisional

	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23*	Total
Homes granted planning permission	320	493	1005	487	2,305
Total homes built	253	445	490	357	1,545
Of which affordable homes	6	123	114	65	308
% of completed homes being affordable	2%	28%	23%	18%	20%

Breakdown of affordable tenure:	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	Total
Total affordable homes	6	123	114	243
Of which affordable/social rent	0	103	69	172
Of which intermediate tenure (e.g. shared ownership)	6	20	45	71

- Two extra-care schemes providing 150 homes have been built on the Island and these offer high quality affordable housing for older people.
- The Council has a range of projects underway to support the delivery of affordable housing.
- A bid to the Brownfield Land Release Fund was successful and this has provided £950k to enable 3 council owned sites to be disposed of for affordable housing. We have recently been advised that a further £427k has been awarded for delivery on a further 3 sites. The aim is for Registered Providers to develop these sites so that the maximum number of affordable rented units are delivered.
- An Affordable Housing Supplementary Planning Document was progressed in 2023 to better clarify our approach and facilitate delivery of a new type of affordable housing. RentPlus is a new model of housing and will offer a rent to buy product.

21. Housing Affordability:

- A housing affordability tool has been created that provides evidence to support the need and incomes levels for affordable homes on the Island.
- The Island now re-qualifies for Social Housing Grant which enables housing associations to claim grant to provide affordable homes for rent

and purchase. This was reimplemented following a campaign with partners in 2022.

- Conversations are taking place with Homes England around the Council accessing grant to support delivery of schemes on the Island.

22. Private Sector Housing:

- Disabled Facilities Grants delivered to improve accessibility for homeowners.

	£'000	No Grants completed in year
2021/22	1,162	157
2022/23	1,085	143

- A review of the position on empty properties has been carried out and an updated Empty Property Strategy has been approved which sets out the proactive approach that will be taken going forwards to manage empty properties and support communities with the issues these can create.
- Approval of Minimum Energy Efficiency Standards Policy (2022) which applies to private rented properties and allows for a financial penalty to be imposed where standards are not maintained. Whilst this has been promoted no penalties have been issued to date.
- Adoption of a Civil Penalties Policy (2021) to support housing act enforcement to provide a simplified process for taking action. This has been used in 5 cases and resulted in fines of £1,875.

23. Homelessness and Housing Need:

- The Homeless Strategy was reviewed, and an action plan is in place to ensure outcomes are delivered, minimising the number of families who need to go into B&B. The strategy ends in 2024 and so this will be refreshed and co-produced over the next year.
- Grant funding to purchase five flats for homeless people was secured in 2020 and by April 2023 all had been purchased and were occupied.
- Grant funding to purchase 9 houses for refugees was secured in 2023 and the purchase of these properties are in progress. Occupation is planned for November /December 2023.
- Capital funding has been secured for 2023/24 to purchase a property for use as temporary accommodation.

24. Special Housing Needs and Vulnerable People

- The Allocation Policy has been reviewed and HomeFinder updated to include extra care properties.
- A new Pathways contract was tendered and awarded to alleviate the pressure on temporary accommodation and B&B provision. The Homeless support services are commissioned through the Single Homeless Pathway, which provides accommodation and support for 181 single individuals. This is provided by 4 different service providers. There is also a Families pathway providing accommodation and support for 35 families, these are provided by 2 service providers.

25. Organisational changes have been made to pull together the councils housing functions and a full-time Strategic Manager for Housing Enabling & Delivery has been appointed.

CONSULTATION

26. The Housing Strategy and agreed action plan were produced following a detailed consultation exercise with key partners and the public.

SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

27. A report detailing the actions that have been taken with regards to the delivery of affordable homes on the Island, actions proposed, and a clear outline of the problems being encountered in the delivery of the Housing Strategy will be provided to the Policy and Scrutiny Committee for Neighbourhoods and Regeneration in October 2023 and any key points will be verbally updated at the meeting.

FINANCIAL / BUDGET IMPLICATIONS

28. The Housing Strategy and action plan refers to matters which are already reflected in approved budgets, and where additional resources are required to deliver the housing priorities set out in the strategy, the financial implications of these will be evaluated and reported once plans have been developed. Any further action requiring additional council funding will be the subject of a separate report to Cabinet.

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

29. There are no direct implications arising from the Housing Strategy 2020-2025 Action Plan Progress Report 2023.

EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY

30. The council as a public body is required to meet its statutory obligations under the Equality Act 2010 to have due regard to eliminate unlawful discrimination, promote equal opportunities between people from different groups and to foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and people who do not share it. The protected characteristics are: age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex and sexual orientation.
31. There are no direct equality and diversity implications arising from the Housing Strategy 2020-2025 Action Plan Progress Report 2023. The equality impact assessment for the Housing Strategy stated that it had either a neutral or positive impact in respect of all the equality strands and is unaffected by this update report.
32. There are no direct implications arising from the Housing Strategy 2020-2025 Action Plan Progress Report 2023. The strategic asset management and property implications of the Housing Strategy are linked to the use and sale of the council's own land and property to deliver or facilitate the delivery of new homes as part of the regeneration programme. Proper process will be followed for all acquisitions and disposals.

SECTION 17 CRIME AND DISORDER ACT 1998

33. Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 (as amended by Police and Justice Act 2006) provides that: ‘...it shall be the duty of each authority ... to exercise its various functions with due regard to the likely effect of the exercise of those functions on, and the need to do all it reasonably can to prevent, crime, disorder, antisocial behaviour adversely affecting the environment, and substance misuse in its area’.
34. The Local Development Framework provides the local policy context within which decisions on planning applications are made and their crime and disorder implications considered by our Planning Department.

OPTIONS

35. Option 1: That Cabinet notes the Housing Strategy 2020-2025 Action Plan Progress Report 2023 contained at Appendix 1 of this report.
36. Option 2: Not to note the Housing Strategy 2020-2025 Action Plan Progress Report 2023 contained at Appendix 1 and carry out a further update of the action plan.

RISK MANAGEMENT

37. Without the production of the annual update on progress there would be no overall view available on delivery against the Housing Strategy Action Plan.
38. A risk assessment is carried out for all relevant projects within the Housing Strategy and delivery is monitored through the housing governance framework.

APPENDICES ATTACHED

39. Appendix 1 – Housing Strategy Action Plan Progress Report

BACKGROUND PAPERS

Isle of Wight Housing Strategy 2020-2025.

Contact Point: Dawn Lang, Strategic Manager - Housing Enabling & Delivery,
☎ 821000 Ext 6187, e-mail dawn.lang@iow.gov.uk

LAURA GAUDION
Director of Adult Social Care & Housing
Needs

CLLR IAN STEPHENS
Cabinet Member for Adult Services and
Housing, Public Health and
Homelessness

Housing Strategy - Action Plan Update 2023

Strategic Priority 1 - Affordable Housing Supply

Action	Activity Update - Aug 2023	Milestones
<p>Adopt an Island Planning Strategy that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Seeks to enable the provision of new homes through a step change in delivery towards the Island's annual housing target when agreed with Government. Appropriately balances social, economic and environmental considerations for house building including net-zero carbon. Develops an Island affordable housing policy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Island Planning Strategy drafted following consultation Island wide needs analysis completed to inform planning policy LGA Peer Review of Planning Service completed. Corporate Scrutiny Committee to consider Draft Island Planning Strategy completed Sept 22 May 23 - The Leader updated Full Council of Cabinet's decision to await the expected publication of new legislation/policy/guidance by the Government in the 'spring' of 2024. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In the absence of this new legislation/policy/guidance in the 'spring' of 2023, the Cabinet will need to make a decision on whether to wait even longer for the Government publications, or to proceed with the IPS in its absence and then seek agreement of the approach to Full Council. Sept 23 - Currently programmed to take a report through Corporate Scrutiny and then Cabinet followed by Full Council in November. The content of the report is still to be confirmed, but the general approach has recently been discussed at informal Cabinet and will need to be established at the earliest opportunity to enable the papers to be prepared and submitted into the corporate cycle.
	<p>Affordable Housing Supplementary Planning Document (SPD)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> March 23 - Draft SPD internal discussion and agreed to progress April 23 – Housing Members Board approval to progress with drafting and consultation June 23 – Final draft SPD agreed and issued for consultation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sept 23 - Cabinet approval of SPD

Action	Activity Update - Aug 2023	Milestones
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Aug 23 – Consultation closed and SPD updated to reflect changes 	
Deliver or facilitate a programme of 300 homes 'affordable' homes through council led activity over the first three years of this strategy as part of the recovery plan (2020-2023)	Council enabling activities including assistance in securing Homes England Grants, Regular meetings with registered providers and Homes England to understand delivery and pipeline issues, provision of council owned sites, and project management support to enable development.	Target achieved <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 308 units delivered by Registered Providers and IWC (further details included in the covering report) Regular meetings in place with RP's who are actively working to deliver and have identified the potential for further c300 affordable units in the next 3 years
	Data analysis of affordability and market engagement to inform rent setting and viability challenges on the Island to inform their business cases and grant claims. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provided for the Island Planning Strategy 	Complete 2022
Council direct delivery approach	Modular Homes project <ul style="list-style-type: none"> approx. 8 family homes or 16 flats Jan 22: cabinet decision to initiate project. March 22: budget approved by full Council Apr 22: site surveys commenced June 22: second stage PIN¹ to identify potential delivery partners June 22: review of project to date and request for direction moving forward 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Project removed – delays in delivery meant Covid requirement for the scheme no longer applicable
	Brownfield Land Release Fund 1 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Potential development of 80 new homes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Oct 23 – Options agreements in place for disposal of sites

¹ The PIN or Prior Information Notice is used to engage with providers when we are either unsure of what we want/what the market can deliver and/or it is used to inform the market early of a future opportunity. This second PIN or a further request for information is only available for the original responders to complete and is the next step in the procurement journey of the Competitive Procedure with Negotiation. This further request for information was published to the included parties on 7th June 2022 and closes 28th June 2022.

Action	Activity Update - Aug 2023	Milestones
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Feb 22– awarded govt £1M funding for 3 sites needing infrastructure to develop housing longer term. • June 22: Sites marketed Berry Hill (Lake), Weston School (Toland) and Thompson House (Newport) • May 23 – Decision on disposal of sites to RPs to maximise affordable units delivered • July 23 – Demolition of Thompson House complete 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • March 24 – Land disposals completed • Dec 24 - Planning permission achieved • March 25 - Start on site
	<p>Sandham Middle School (potential development of 50 new homes)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Added to BLRF marketing exercise to increase development potential and “affordable” register provider demands for council owned sites • June 22: site marketed • Oct 22: Evaluation of offers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aug 23 – Site disposal being progressed with lawyers • Oct 23 – Cabinet to confirm disposal of site • Dec 24 – Disposal completed
	<p>Venture Quays</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Approx. 100 new homes potential across 2 sites • Apr 22: Members presented with site options • May 22: Completion of IWC Market expressions of interest with limited speculative bespoke offers from the market. • June 22: Report received from Wilmott Dixon on site feasibility study indicating severe negative viability and no “affordable” housing provider interest 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • March 23 – Homes England approved formal extension to March 24 for planning permission and March 25 start on site • July 23 – Sites remarketed • Oct 23 – Evaluation of bids • Nov 23 – Cabinet approval to dispose of site

Action	Activity Update - Aug 2023	Milestones
	<p>Community Led Housing Project</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • First five new homes funded by council using this model commissioned with Ryde Aspire. Delivery expected within 12 months. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Oct 23: Funding and legal agreements to be in place • Dec 23: Start on Site • Sept 24 – Completion of 5 units • Other schemes being progressed
	<p>One Public Estate</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Working with NHS – OPE Round 9. Long term project (5 yrs) to enable development of key worker housing, extra care housing and general needs housing through North hospital and old library site. • Quarterly Meetings to progress strategic milestones agreed with Govt. On-going engagement and master planning of site with LGA, NHS and stakeholder parties through this process of joint planning. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ongoing • BLRF1 Funding of £950k achieved for Berry Hill, Thompson House and Weston School • BLRF2 Funding achieved of £427k for Medina Avenue, New Street and Lowtherville • North Hospital site – NHS progressing with mixed housing and step down facilities • Pyle Street land purchase with Homes England progressing
	<p>Crossways</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sept 22 – Housing Members Board discussion on sites to be progressed and agreed to focus on brownfield with review in 12 months 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sept 23 – Review of possible sites for development, including understanding costs and routes to market/develop
	<p>Eddington Road</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Potential approx. 70 new affordable homes • Jan 21 Preferred bidder identified through robust independent procurement exercise subject to planning approval. • April 21 - Heads of Terms agreed • June 21 – RP carried out initial consultation and design work at risk 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Oct 23 – Review of future options for site

Action	Activity Update - Aug 2023	Milestones
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • May 21 - procurement paused as new administration. Need to obtain Cabinet approval to dispose of site • Sept 22 – Decision to focus on brownfield sites agreed by Housing Members Board 	
	<p>Rough Sleepers Accommodation Project</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Funding for purchase of 5 properties • June 22: 4 properties purchased • Sept 22: Refurbishment of 4 properties completed and tenants moved in • Nov 22: Completion of 5th property. • Mar 23: Refurbishment of 5th property completed, and tenants moved in 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Complete - 5 properties purchased and all occupied by April 2023
	<p>LA Housing Fund</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mar 23 - Funding accessed to purchase 9 houses for refugees 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nov 23 – Occupation of 9 properties (2 x 4 bed and 7 x 2 bed)
	<p>RentPlus</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aug 22 – Initial meeting instigated by Portfolio Holder for Housing • Feb 23 – RentPlus presentation to Informal Cabinet • March 23 – Legal route for operation on IOW agreed and SPD route agreed to be progressed 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Oct 23 – Confirmation of initial RentPlus sites on Island and timescale for delivery agreed
	<p>Pan Meadows</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • May 23 - Outline Business case submitted to S151 for decision on way forwards 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nov 23 – Decision on way forwards • Spring 24 – Update from BDW on estate completion • Summer/Autumn 24 – Delivery of new homes
<p>Enable the provision of around 100 new homes each year for those needing extra care in partnership with Housing associations.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Registered with Homes England as a provider of social housing, which allows the council to apply for grant funding to 	<p>Delivery of new homes covered in Council Direct Delivery above</p>

Action	Activity Update - Aug 2023	Milestones
	<p>subsidise development as an alternative delivery mechanism to the housing company in bringing forward “affordable housing” development.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ryde Village - 75 units occupied from Nov 20 • Green Meadows - 75 units occupied from Oct 21 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aug 23 – Work to update strategy including Extra Care housing survey to be carried out • Oct 23 – Island Independent Living Strategy refreshed and approved • Provision of units in progress – Polars 24 units for delivery Sept 24
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Acquisition Strategy linked to budget allocation to purchase up to 25 properties in 22/23 to meet needs for temporary accommodation provision • Sept 22 - Draft strategy criteria reported to Housing Members Board • Oct 22 develop financial criteria/business case to acquire properties 	<p>Complete - Acquisition Strategy approved by Cabinet in July 23</p>
<p>Create a council owned subsidiary housing company to increase the number of houses built on the Island to both invest in local communities and assist others on low or average household incomes to access housing.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Housing Company registered in Dec 2019. Focus on "affordable" housing and commercial business cases but evaluation needed to reassess purpose of company. • July 22 - session held to review the next steps and legal processes needed to progress operation of the company • March 23: Commissioned legal work for the legal procedures and governance requirements connected to set up of the housing company including a shareholders agreement between the council and company. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • July 23: Property portfolio review to commence to identify sites that are suitable for development • Dec 2023 Complete business case to assess the position on the company being able to trade once all legal arrangements are in place

Strategic Priority 2 - Understanding Island Housing Affordability

Action	Activity Update - Aug 2023	Milestones
Define and monitor 'true affordability' levels on the Isle of Wight.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Housing affordability tool created and used to provide evidence of the affordability of renting or buying homes in all IWC Wards or IWC Lower Super Output Areas. Affordability based on household earnings and average prices. Data can be drilled down to 1-5 bedroom properties and the affordability can be judged on mean, median or lower quartile income. Updates can be provided on a monthly, quarterly or ad-hoc basis. 	Complete 2022
Maintain a data base and develop tools that can drill down "affordability" to postcode and area level based on both wages and housing cost ratios for ongoing strategic and recovery planning.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Housing Tool and data updated and will be used in the new IPS. Currently can drill down to LSOA or Ward level but not to individual postcodes Annual refresh of Housing Affordability Tool in place 	Complete 2022
Incorporate our developing evidence base on "affordability" into the adopted Island Plan to increase the number of new 'affordable' homes delivered.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Data will be used to define policy in IPS Bespoke reports available for the underlying data that feeds to Housing Affordability Tool Agreed bespoke data reports for inclusion in Island Plan Data can be produced and shared with all appropriate stakeholders 	Complete 2022
Produce a special cases evidence base to challenge government agencies on non-availability of grant for our housing associations to provide 'affordable' housing at 60% of market levels as needed on the Island.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Evidence case submitted to MP and now address in new Homes England Grant Funds from April 21 Housing Tool can be used to identify the areas where housing would need to be 	Complete 2022

Action	Activity Update - Aug 2023	Milestones
	<p>60% of market level or lower to be considered affordable</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ad-hoc reports on affordability in support of grant bids or appeals can be provided 	
Complete a formal review of the scheme of allocation for 'affordable' housing - Home-Finder.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Completed by the housing needs team 	Complete 2022
Intervene in the market where possible to tackle the growing (un)affordability of rents, especially for vulnerable groups and those on low incomes.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Housing pressures unprecedented currently. Constantly being evaluated and assessed on a regular basis. Interventions as with projects above. 	Ongoing (see projects above)

Strategic Priority 3 - Private Sector Housing

Action	Activity Update - Aug 2023	Milestones
Assist homeless households and others on low incomes to access private sector homes.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rent Deposit/Rent In Advance Scheme extended to apply to all households who approach the council Jan 21 - Guarantor Scheme to be explored but not implemented due to cost 	Complete 2022
Undertake a feasibility study for introducing an Island-wide landlord registration scheme.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Draft being progressed - now halted The government will be issuing a white paper shortly concerning the private rented sector and one of the aspects will be introducing a UK wide scheme for registration/licensing – although we do not have any further details yet. June 22: Briefing provided to Cllr Stephens 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> On hold - Pending outcome of the consultation on the Decent Homes Standard in the Private Rented Sector White Paper
Expand the mandatory HMO licensing scheme to cover all properties identified.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mandatory HMO Licensing scheme currently covers all Island. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Project removed – not viable This is a complicated process which can only be put in for a temporary

Action	Activity Update - Aug 2023	Milestones
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review into additional licensing indicates higher risk opportunity, with no guarantee of viability. Other options being considered. Apr 23: Reg Services to explore alternatives taking into account the consultation feedback from A Fairer Private Rented Sector White Paper 	<p>period. The cost of implementation is fairly prohibitive with the number of properties/income that this would potentially generate.</p>
Undertake rigorous enforcement against rogue landlords who have a history of breaking the law.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Updated procedures embedded in 2020 to facilitate this, and process now in action June 22: Minimum Energy Efficiency Standards financial penalties policy paper agreed at Cabinet 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dec 23: Electrical Regulation penalties paper to be produced to identify requirements to implement
Support responsible landlords and work with them to become professional and grow their business.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Additional web resources available for landlords, and new enforcement processes allow for light touch intervention for compliant landlords. Civil Penalty Policy submitted to cabinet approved. Further changes to enforcement procedures to provide even further light touch intervention. 	Complete 2022
Use all available powers to bring genuine empty properties back into use.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> July/Aug 22: Carried out review of empty properties from 6 months to 2 years. Sept 22 - Letter sent to all surveyed properties identified as empty to seek interest on leasing to IWC 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Empty Property Officer appointed Jan 23 Empty Property Strategy and action plan approved July 23 Processes in place to work with owners to bring properties back into use

Action	Activity Update - Aug 2023	Milestones
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sept 22 – Capital bid for funding to provide grants to owners to fund works and bring properties back into use Dec 22 – Capital bid unsuccessful 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sept 23 – Capital bid for funding to provide grants resubmitted
Work with utility companies and other agencies to insulate homes and improve the energy ratings of older buildings.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Successful bid to BEIS for Green Homes Grant 2020-21. LAD2 scheme in place to March 2022. Sustainable Warmth scheme to be bid for 2022/23. Warm up Wight Scheme in place – 489 measures installed between Jan 21 and April 2022. Eco Flex declarations produced Dec 22 - Joined Portsmouth Consortium for retrofit March 23: Statement of Intent (subject to funding) approved April 23 – Fuel Poverty Grant – capital bid of £500k approved 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dec 23 – Fuel Poverty Grant scheme rolled out
Ensure a well-resourced Private Sector Housing Service to support good landlords and carry out the council’s statutory responsibilities towards tenants and landlords.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Statutory functions being delivered but restricted by limited resources. Some reduction of service and waiting lists. 	Ongoing
Continue to be first port of call for unsecured buildings, offering advice, assistance and enforcement powers if necessary.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Service not being provided due to vacant post, however urgent or dangerous situations are being managed on a case by case basis Section 29 powers delegated to Planning Enforcement to assist in delivery for commercial properties 	Complete 2022

Action	Activity Update - Aug 2023	Milestones
Work with private landlords to ensure properties are well managed and appropriately licensed as necessary.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mandatory HMO licensing scheme in place. High levels of housing standards intervention taking place. May 23 – Landlord Fair held 	Ongoing

Strategic Priority 4 - Homelessness and Housing Need

Action	Activity Update - Aug 2023	Milestones
Review the Homeless Strategy that has been co-produced with clients, landlords, the voluntary sector and other partner agencies.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Working with Ministry of Homes, Communities and Local Government and template issued. Full review of need and development of revised strategy and action plan for delivery. A full consultation with the public and all stakeholders has been undertaken. June 2022: Revised Homelessness Strategy and Action Plan agreed by cabinet 	Complete 2022
Develop new partnerships with private and third sector landlords to maximise opportunities for tenancies for homeless families and individuals.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Survey of private sector landlords completed, with aim to set up Forum in Q1 Forum meetings in place 21/22 Chair has joined Housing Partnership Board to represent private landlords 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Complete - Landlord Forum in place and Private Sector Leasing scheme operating (96 leases in place)
Commission and deliver a new homeless pathway to alleviate the pressures on temporary accommodation and bed and breakfast provision.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Nov 20 - Pathways contract tendered and awarded 	Complete 2022
End the use of bed and breakfast for families with children.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There were no families in B&B 2020/21 (pre Covid). Pressures in 2021/22 meant that we had to utilise B&B accommodation however, no family has exceeded 6 weeks since that date (this is the legal limitation criteria) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dec 23 - Strategic review for provision of temporary accommodation being carried out

	<p>Temporary Accommodation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mar 23 – Capital funding secured to purchase an HMO for use as temporary accommodation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nov 23 – Purchase completed • Jan 24 – Works completed • Feb 24 – Property brought into use
Develop a tenancy academy to ensure that tenants are adequately trained and prepared to sustain their own tenancies.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • July to Sept 2022 - Pilot underway • Oct 22: Analysis of outcome of pilot 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • April 23 – scheme in operation at Howard House • July 23 – Plans to roll out the scheme to other partners • Dec 23 – Review of scheme and decision on long term provision
Develop specialist pathways into services to minimise the impact and trauma associated with homelessness.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nov 21 - Single Homeless Pathway created • Dec 22: Research into existing mental health, hospital discharge and criminal justice pathways with a view to improve 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jan 23 - Successful bid for funding for Accommodation for Ex Offenders Scheme to deliver a local scheme to support into accommodation • March 23 – Agreement put in place with NHS that no discharges from hospital as homeless • Dec 23 – Allocation Policy reviewed to ensure that specialist pathways are supported
Deliver a Gold Standard homelessness assessment, information and advice service (National Practitioner Support Service NPSS)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Gold Standard assessment no longer exists and replaced by independent reviews of services completed by DLUHC • Oct 21 - MHCLG completed a deep dive audit. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Complete – DLUHC carried out a deep dive in July 23 and overall service assessed as good. Areas identified for improvement in Service Plan

Strategic Priority 5: Special housing needs and vulnerable people

Action	Activity Update - Aug 2023	Milestones
Ensure our internal systems and processes are adequately set up to capture interest and help ensure the right people access this form of housing.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HomeFinder extended to include extra care • Allocation Policy reviewed annually 	Complete 2022
Complete the commissioning for Pathways to Independent Adulthood supported accommodation offer for 16-25-year-olds.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Framework in place for 3 years from 2018, and extended to 2023 	Complete 2022
Ensure there is an age and stage approach with a range of providers which matches need to the level of support so vulnerable 16-25-year-olds including care leavers, build their skills to live independently.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In place and added two new providers to increase the range of providers and currently liaising with a third to join the framework. 	Complete 2022

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Agenda Item Introduction

Committee	POLICY AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE FOR NEIGHBOURHOODS AND REGENERATION
Date	6 JULY 2023
Topic	ISLE OF WIGHT SKILLS PLAN

BACKGROUND

In December 2021 Cabinet agreed to adopt the Isle of Wight Skills Plan and set up an Island Skills Board to oversee skills related activity, identify relevant resources and monitor outcomes of the action plan.

The plan promoted the development of a highly skilled, future-ready workforce, and proposed to ensure the availability of sufficient higher-level training provision, matched to the labour market needs. It would encourage upskilling, lifelong learning and was backed up with milestones and actions, with a long term, co-ordinated approach involving all relevant stakeholders

FOCUS FOR SCRUTINY

- The committee to receive an update on the key issues highlighted in the IW Skills Plan:
 - Aspiration and Opportunity
 - Higher Level Skills
 - Inclusion
 - Co-ordination and Communication
- What is the progress with the priorities identified in the Action Plan?
- What have been the successes and challenges faced with progressing the IW Skills Plan?

APPROACH

A committee report to be submitted.

DOCUMENTS ATTACHED

Isle of Wight Skills Plan Scrutiny Report

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Committee

Committee report

POLICY AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE FOR NEIGHBOURHOODS AND REGENERATION

Date

6 JULY 2023

Title

ISLE OF WIGHT SKILLS PLAN

Report of

DIRECTOR OF CORPORATE SERVICES

SUMMARY

1. This paper highlights the key issues in the IW Skills Plan and the progress being made on the implementation of the action plan as a key area which can help drive regeneration and economic growth.
2. The IW Skills Plan was adopted by the IWC in December 2022 and developed following consultation with key agencies engaged in the learning and skills agenda including training providers and business representative organisations.
3. The Skills Action Plan is delivered via the Isle of Wight Skills Board, which is made up of representatives from the council, training providers (IW College and HTP), business associations (Chamber and FSB), schools and regional bodies including the Solent Local Enterprise Partnership (SLEP).
4. The paper summarises that good progress is being made on delivery of the action plan and in particular the recent focus on the development and submission to government of the Solent Local Skills Improvement Plan (LSIP) which has been led by the Hampshire and IW Chambers of Commerce. The LSIP is intended to set out the key skills needs of the area as identified by businesses and will be a key document in ensuring the Island has access to future funding to train its workforce in order to meet the needs of the local economy and help drive sustainable growth.

BACKGROUND

5. The three (3) key objectives of the Skills Plan are:
 - Aligning aspiration and opportunity to better meet employers skills needs
 - Developing a highly skilled, productive and future ready workforce
 - Enabling opportunities for all and a more inclusive approach to growth

These objectives can be achieved by:

Developing a Skilled Workforce:

- Identify and address skills gaps and shortages in the local workforce.
- Promote lifelong learning and upskilling opportunities to adapt to changing job market demands.

Increasing Educational Attainment:

- Enhance educational quality and access for all residents.
- Improve literacy, numeracy, and digital skills across the Island.

Promoting Entrepreneurship and Innovation:

- Foster a culture of entrepreneurship and innovation.
- Provide resources and support for individuals and businesses to develop new ventures.

Improving Careers Information and Guidance:

- Enhance the provision of careers information, advice, and guidance services.
- Equip individuals with the knowledge and resources to make informed education and career decisions.

Enhancing Collaboration and Partnerships:

- Foster collaboration between educational institutions, businesses, government agencies, and community organizations.
- Create a cohesive ecosystem to address skills gaps, promote employment opportunities, and support economic growth.

6. The main actions of the Skills Plan are:

a. Aligning aspiration and opportunity to better meet employer skills needs

- LSIP model- Engage employers in a more detailed dialogue to better understand their needs
- Promote and grow apprenticeships and technical education
- Focus careers programmes on areas of current and future labour market needs

b. Develop a highly skilled, productive and future ready workforce

- I-spire and Uni Connect
- Increase Level 4/5 technical and work based skills provision
- Lifetime skills guarantee- mobilising it on the IOW

Enabling opportunity for all and a more inclusive approach to growth

c. Participation 16-18/target groups

d. Virtual college

e. Specialised Training and Employment Programme (STEP)

f. Sector-based work academy programme (SWAP's)

g. Skills boot camps

- h. Focus Adult Community Learning (ACL) programmes on areas of greatest need
 - i. Meeting the needs of priority groups
7. The Isle of Wight Skills Plan aims to develop a skilled workforce, increase educational attainment, promote entrepreneurship and innovation, improve careers guidance, and enhance collaboration and partnerships.
 8. By implementing the outlined main actions, the plan will address skills gaps, provide relevant education and training opportunities, support entrepreneurship, and create a cohesive ecosystem that drives economic growth and prosperity on the Isle of Wight.
 9. Regular monitoring and evaluation will ensure the plan's effectiveness and allow for adjustments based on emerging needs and changing circumstances.

SKILLS PLAN ACTION – PROGRESS

10. Skills Assessment and forecasting – the IW Skills Board actively contributed to the development of the Solent LSIP which is a government mechanism for identifying industry skills needs in the local area. An employer workshop was held on the Island, Friday 24 February, helped inform a regional report to be submitted to government in June. This will be followed by a bid for LSIP funding to support its implementation. Training providers, such as the Isle of Wight College and HTP, are required to pay due regard to LSIP when developing curriculum and to make explicit reference to LSIP priorities in their accountability statements.
11. Education/Industry partnerships - deep dives – Skills Board invited key employers from Health and Social Care and Hospitality and catering sectors to present their concerns – both sectors have recruitment difficulties – actions to promote range of careers available and look at ways of improving workforce retention including building direct relationships between key employers and providers/board members.
12. Education and training enhancement and Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) – raising awareness of Apprenticeships as a career route – improvement in take up:

For academic year 19-20		For academic year 20-21		For academic year 21-22	
Intermediate	220	Intermediate	270	Intermediate	250
Advanced	460	Advanced	420	Advanced	460
Higher	260	Higher	240	Higher	280
TOTAL	940	TOTAL	930	TOTAL	990

13. Higher level skills – development of the University Centre IOW in partnership with Portsmouth University including Higher Education (HE) courses in areas of industry demand at Level 4-6: engineering; ICT; childcare/education; business.
14. Partner in Solent Institute of Technology (£2m capital investment in Isle of Wight College) Higher Technical Qualifications: Engineering; marine; digital; creative industries; business; construction.

15. Digital Skills – development of Digital Island strategy and future engagement with a new initiative being led by Solent LEP (Digital Skills Partnership and Solent Tech Talent Taskforce).
16. Work based learning – Multiply programme being delivered by the IWC’s ACL to improve numeracy skills in the workforce (173 adults supported in year 1; target of 301 for year 2) and an increase in the reach and take up of ACL (from 700 enrolments to 830).
17. Island Futures – delivering the Island Careers Strategy and in particular (and in the context of rising of young people Not in Education, Employment or Training (NEET)) support for vulnerable groups; plus rolling out the post 16 Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) Employability Hubs – providing new pathways for young people with SEND to access employment opportunities working with local businesses to widen the talent pool, address recruitment challenges and ensure equal access to jobs and careers.
18. Reaching those furthest from the labour market to help address income poverty and broaden the skills pool is the focus for the “Skills for work” programme. Funded by the UK Shared Prosperity Fund this two year programme delivered on the Island in partnership with local housing associations helps those seeking to return to work with one to one support.

CONCLUSION

19. The Isle of Wight Skills Plan sets out a framework to develop a skilled workforce, enhance educational attainment, promote entrepreneurship and innovation, improve careers guidance, and foster collaboration.
20. By seeking adequate resources, implementing the proposed actions, and continually evaluating progress, the plan will contribute to the growth, prosperity, and sustainable development of the Isle of Wight.
21. It is crucial to maintain policy alignment, raise awareness, and remain adaptable to emerging trends and challenges in order to ensure the long-term success of the plan. Through the collective efforts of the council, officers, and members, the Isle of Wight can build a resilient and dynamic skills ecosystem that benefits individuals, businesses, and the entire community.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

22. IW Skills Plan 2021

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SHARON BETTS
Director of Corporate Services

JULIE JONES-EVANS (CLLR)
*Cabinet Member for Economy, Regeneration,
 Culture and Leisure*

DEBBIE ANDRE (CLLR)
*Cabinet Member for Children’s Services, Education
 and Lifelong Skills*

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Policy and Scrutiny Committee for Neighbourhoods & Regeneration - Workplan 2022/25

The committee assists Cabinet in the development and implementation of key plans, policies and activities set out in the Corporate Plan relating to the delivery of relevant services, including:

Waste & Recycling
Highways &
Transportation
Regeneration

Economic Growth
Housing
Local Enterprise Partnership

Countryside & Environment
Planning
Heritage

Date	Agenda Items	Description & Background	Lead Officer/Cabinet Member
5 October 2023	Pre-Decision Scrutiny - Draft Island Planning Strategy	The committee to review a paper on the Draft Island Planning Strategy ahead of it going to Cabinet and Full Council in November 2023.	Cabinet Member for Economy, Regeneration, Culture and Leisure Cabinet Member for Children's Services Education and Lifelong Skills
	Housing Strategy 2020-2025 Action Plan Progress Report	The committee to receive a written update on progress the council, and its partners, have made against the Housing Strategy action plan since adoption in October 2020.	Cabinet Member for Economy, Regeneration, Culture and Leisure Cabinet Member for Children's Services Education and Lifelong Skills
	Isle of Wight Skills Plan	The committee to receive a written update on the key issues highlighted in the IW Skills Plan as well as review the progress and implementation of the Action Plan.	Cabinet Member for Economy, Regeneration, Culture and Leisure Cabinet Member for Children's Services Education and Lifelong Skills
13 November 2023 - INFORMAL	Policy for Minimum Energy Efficiency Standards Penalties & Civil Penalties Policy	The committee to receive updates on the two policies to ascertain the actions undertaken and any proposed amendments to the policies in the light of practical implementation.	Deputy Leader, Cabinet Member for Adult Services and Housing, Public Health and Homelessness Director of Neighbourhoods

4 January 2024	Visitor Economy	To consider the previous tourist season and upcoming marketing plans from Visit IW as well as issues and concerns raised over the last 12 months and how can tourism can be improved.	Cabinet Member for Economy, Regeneration, Culture and Leisure
	Beach Management Framework 2021-2026	The committee to receive a written update on the progress of the framework in line with the action plan and target dates that were approved by Cabinet in January 2021.	Cabinet Member for Planning, Coastal Protection and Flooding Director of Neighbourhoods
11 March 2024 - INFORMAL	TBC		
2 May 2024	Industries of the Future	To hear from the engineering and service industries that already exist on the Island, and their approaches, to support them and encourage others to inwardly invest into the island.	Cabinet Member for Economy, Regeneration, Culture and Leisure
July 2024	Island Infrastructure	To consider the internal infrastrucure of the Island for households and businesses to look ahead to a long term strategy.	Cabinet Member for Transport and Infrastructure, Highways PFI and Transport Strategy
October 2024	Skills Development	To consider the level of skilled people on the Island and investigate ways to encourage people to stay or return to work on the Island.	Cabinet Member for Economy, Regeneration, Culture and Leisure

January 2025	Visitor Economy	To consider the previous tourist season and upcoming marketing plans from Visit IW as well as issues and concerns raised over the last 12 months and how can tourism can be improved.	Cabinet Member for Economy, Regeneration, Culture and Leisure
	Corporate Plan - Waste Management	The committee to receive an update on progress with the Corporate Plan activity of annually reducing the volume of non-essential waste sent to landfill to achieve net zero by April 2025.	Cabinet Member for Regulatory Services Community Protection, Waste and ICT

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NEIGHBOURHOODS AND REGENERATION SCRUTINY

WORKPLAN SCOPING DOCUMENT

TOPIC	Coastal Path Maintenance & Beach Access
PROPOSED COMMITTEE DATE	4 January 2024
BACKGROUND	To review the delivery of the agreed budget that relates to coastal path maintenance and beach access.
FOCUS FOR SCRUTINY	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To receive background information on how funding for the Coastal path is made up – i.e. Central Government Funding, Regional funding, IOW Council funding, any other if relevant • To receive a breakdown on how funding has been spent across the coastal areas of the Island • Identification of any spend not for construction or maintenance of footpaths • Identification of forward projects and budget estimates • Does this tie in with the Shoreline Management policy?
EXPECTED BENEFITS/ OUTCOMES	The committee to make any recommendations or suggestions for improvements
APPROACH	Committee Report
WITNESSES/ EVIDENCE REQUIRED	Cabinet Member for Planning, Coastal Protection and Flooding Director of Neighbourhoods
LINKS TO CORPORATE PLAN	<p>Core values Our purpose is to work with and support the Island’s community, finding ways to help it to satisfy its needs independently or to provide services directly where necessary. We value:</p> <p>1. Being community focused: This means, wherever possible, putting the needs of our residents first.</p> <p>2. Working together: This means engaging realistically with partners to make the most of integrated working, helping communities to help themselves and being a strong council team that delivers on these values.</p> <p>3. Being effective and efficient This means being the best that we can be in how we organise and deliver our services, using all our limited resources wisely and carefully, getting on with things where we can.</p> <p>4. Being fair and transparent This means making decisions based on data and evidence and in an open and accountable way.</p>

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