

Housing Strategy

Report of the Overview and Scrutiny Board – November 2015

At its meeting on 23 November 2015, the Overview and Scrutiny Board considered the draft Housing Strategy.

The Board agreed that the following views and recommendations be forwarded to the Council for its consideration:

1. The Board would wish to see more detail within the Housing Strategy in order to give it confidence that the Strategy can be delivered practically over its lifetime.
2. The Housing and Health Needs Assessment clearly identifies the needs of the different communities in Torbay. The Housing Strategy should be amended to articulate how those needs will be met.
3. The targets for the delivery of units of affordable housing within the lifetime of the Housing Strategy should be explicit within the Strategy.
4. Alternative methods of bringing forward affordable housing units should be explored within the Strategy rather than just relying on the requirement within the Local Plan that 30% of new housing developments should be affordable.
5. There should be reference in the Housing Strategy to the policy in relation to Community Investment Areas in the Local Plan.
6. There should be a representative of the Overview and Scrutiny Board on the Housing Partnership Steering/Monitoring Group.
7. The criteria for the Aligned Investment Plan should include outcomes which meet the identified needs of the community rather than being wholly treasury management led (as indicated within the Supporting Information for the Housing Strategy). The timescale for the implementation of that Fund should also be included within the Strategy.
8. The timescale for the preparation of the delivery plans which sit below the Housing Strategy should be included within the document.
9. The Board notes that, within the Housing and Health Needs Assessment (summarised in My Home is My Life), there has been a significant increase in referrals for Disabled Facilities Grants and is pleased that this stream of funding has not been re-allocated at this stage.