



ABERDEEN  
CITY COUNCIL

# Consultation



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The Housing Scotland Act 2001 requires local authorities to consult on their proposed local housing strategy. There is also a statutory equality duty for local authorities to ensure that a wide range of residents are consulted on the strategy. The Scottish Housing Regulator places an obligation on councils to consult with their tenants on new or changes to any policies or strategies.

Making sure that our consultation is effective is necessary because the implementation of the local housing strategy will affect all citizens of Aberdeen. We contacted tenants, residents, community councils, the universities to capture the student population and used a range of media to ensure that the local housing strategy consultation reached out to the widest audience possible.

The first stage in the consultation process involved a series of workshops. The workshops related to each of the themed chapters within the local housing strategy. This involved engagement with council staff from different services including Planning, Housing Access, Housing Management, Asset Management and Private Sector teams.

Key partners from a variety of organisations were also consulted. These included:

- Aberdeen Health & Social Care Partnership.
- Registered Social Landlords including Castlehill Housing Association, Grampian Housing Association, Langstane Housing Association, Sanctuary Housing Association, Hillcrest Housing Association and Places for People.
- Shelter Scotland.
- The Foyer.
- NHS Grampian.
- Save Cash and Reduce Fuel (SCARF).
- Grampian Regional Equality Council.
- Cyrenians.
- Disabled Persons Housing Service.
- Bon Accord Care.
- Marywell Homeless Healthcare Centre.
- Homes for Scotland.
- Landlord Accreditation Scotland.
- Local architects and designers working in the private sector.

The workshops were held in August 2017 with the aim of agreeing the strategic outcomes and identifying the key issues and associated priorities, together with the actions required to address the issues in the local housing strategy. The six priorities were agreed as:

- Housing Supply and Place Making.
- Homelessness.
- Independent Living and Specialist Provision.
- Private Rented Sector.
- Fuel Poverty and Climate Change.
- House Condition in the Private Sector/Social Sector.

The workshops helped to develop the vision for housing across the city as well as the strategic outcomes and priorities which builds on the progress achieved over the last local housing strategy for 2012 – 2017. They reflect emerging challenges both at local and national level.

The information provided by stakeholders and partners at the workshops were incorporated into the themed local housing strategy chapters.

In addition to the consultation carried out with partners and stakeholders, all community councils in Aberdeen City were contacted and provided with information on the strategy.

Officers of the council also attended community meetings and social housing events including the Sheltered Housing Network meeting and attended the Scottish Government sponsored Housing Day in order to provide more detail on the strategy and sought the views of these groups on what the priorities and vision should be.

The draft strategy was then finalised and issued for full public consultation in early 2018. A wide range of media and communication methods were used in order to gather views on the strategy.

The following organisations were provided with information on the strategy which they could publish through their media channels. Also included, was a link to an on-line questionnaire where people could express their views on the local housing strategy.

- Aberdeen Journals.
- Scottish Housing News.
- The University of Aberdeen.
- Robert Gordon University.
- North East of Scotland College .
- Aberdeen City Council website and social media.
- Aberdeen Council of Voluntary Organisations (ACVO).
- Aberdeen and Grampian Chamber of Commerce.
- Aberdeen Health and Social Care Partnership.
- Community Councils.
- Bon Accord Care.

Our equalities team also helped in reaching ethnic minority groups. This ensured that their views were considered in developing the local housing strategy.

There were a total 54 responses to the consultation, the main outcomes include the following:



The finalised local housing strategy was presented to elected members at a committee meeting in September 2018 for their approval.

Our sincere thanks go to all who assisted us with the development of the strategy and to those who participated in the consultation.