

# North Somerset Housing Strategy 2016–21 Executive Summary

Our new housing strategy sets out how we will strive to meet the housing needs of communities in North Somerset over the next five years by delivering the strategy's vision, aims, ambitions and associated actions. It's an over-arching document developed using a robust evidence base and reflects issues and challenges raised during consultation. The diagram below shows a range of areas that housing impacts on and which in turn affect housing. This illustrates why 'getting housing right' has such an effect on other aspects of life.

In our new draft Corporate Plan we set out our clear vision for North Somerset as:

***"A great place to live where people, businesses and communities flourish. A council which delivers modern, efficient services and a strong voice for North Somerset"***.

The housing strategy has developed three strategic aims that will support the delivery of the Corporate Plan. These are increasing the supply of homes, improving homes and providing housing solutions.

The housing strategy is about meeting housing needs including those of vulnerable people, housing affordability and improving the condition, health and safety of existing housing.

This housing strategy is a separate document from the Core Strategy (part of the Local Plan) which along with the West of England Joint Spatial Plan will set out the number and location of new homes to be built across the district over the next 20 years (including the number and type of affordable homes) with a view to accelerating the delivery homes in sustainable locations. The Core Strategy also covers planning policy and standards for new housing.

We have aligned the housing strategy with the plans above and also the council's Corporate Plan.

The housing strategy establishes the national and regional context in which we are operating before focusing in on more local issues and challenges.

The strategy then concentrates on each of our three strategic aims and establishes, the ambitions and actions the council (in many cases with partners) will deliver to improve housing outcomes for the people of North Somerset. The **strategic aims** and ambitions are set out below:



## Increasing the supply of homes

- Accelerating the delivery of homes in sustainable locations
- Making best use of existing housing stock
- Contributing to the regeneration of our town centres
- Increasing the supply of low cost, decent homes in the private rented sector (PRS) for those in most need

## Improving homes

- Improving conditions in the private housing sector through assistance and loans
- Regulating housing conditions in the private rented sector
- Providing support to maintain independent living
- Improving home energy efficiency

## Providing housing solutions

- Improving housing options for vulnerable households and people with support needs
- Working in partnership to tackle and prevent homelessness
- Ensuring the provision of adequate accommodation for homeless people
- Ensuring the allocation of social housing meets needs in the best way
- Improving training and employment opportunities linked to the development of housing

We will only be able to achieve many of our aims and ambitions by working in partnership and we have appreciated the support of our partners in developing the strategy. A detailed action plan which gives more detail on delivery and monitoring of the strategy is available from the contacts below. The housing strategy and action plan are live, evolving documents which will be updated as conditions change.

For questions regarding the Housing Strategy contact the Housing Development and Strategy Team

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