

# Durham County Council Equality Impact Assessment

**NB:** The Public Sector Equality Duty (Equality Act 2010) requires Durham County Council to have 'due regard' to the need to eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation, advance equality of opportunity and foster good relations between people from different groups. Assessing impact on equality and recording this is one of the key ways in which we can show due regard.

## Section One: Description and Screening

<b>Service/Team or Section</b>	Spatial Policy
<b>Lead Officer</b>	Mike Allum
<b>Title</b>	Housing Strategy
<b>MTFP Reference (if relevant)</b>	
<b>Cabinet Date (if relevant)</b>	
<b>Start Date</b>	July 2023
<b>Review Date</b>	May 2024

## Subject of the Impact Assessment

Please give a brief description of the policy, proposal or practice as appropriate (a copy of the subject can be attached or insert a web-link):
<p>The County Durham Housing Strategy sets out the strategic direction for housing activity in County Durham and a vision to provide good quality housing that meets everyone's needs, is affordable for local people and supports the creation of great places to live. Its purpose is to set the context as to how we will meet the housing challenges we face.</p> <p>The strategy recognises the importance of placemaking and how housing needs to complement and integrate with the spaces around it so that people feel part of a community and can easily access the services and amenities they need. Providing the right infrastructure is of vital importance to good placemaking. We must increase the delivery of new homes, including secure, affordable housing and new council owned housing.</p> <p>Everyone in County Durham should have fair and equal access to safe and secure housing that meets their needs. This includes addressing the specific needs of groups including children in care, children leaving care, people with disabilities, those with complex health issues and older people.</p>

We will help and support people to prevent them becoming homeless and enable them to secure and maintain, and sustain living in, good quality, permanent accommodation, with support in place where it is needed. We must also ensure that a comprehensive range of supported and specialist housing is available for those who need it.

We are committed to providing high quality homes and will work with local communities and put them at the heart of the decision-making process in a way that meets their needs and priorities. We will also strive to drive up standards in the private rented sector.

Who are the main stakeholders? (e.g. general public, staff, members, specific clients/service users):

Anyone who lives in, studies in, works in, visits, or has an interest in living in County Durham may be interested in the Housing Strategy. This includes the general public, council staff, Elected Members, landlords, registered providers, housing developers and landowners, various partners, stakeholders from various sectors and interest groups or communities, Area Action Partnerships, Town/Parish Councils, Neighbourhood Forums and statutory consultees / prescribed bodies as defined by the Government.

## Screening

Is there any actual or potential negative or positive impact on the following protected characteristics?

Protected Characteristic	Negative Impact Indicate: Y = Yes, N = No, ? = unsure	Positive Impact Indicate: Y = Yes, N = No, ? = unsure
Age	N	Y (younger workers)
Disability	N	Y
Marriage and civil partnership (workplace only)	N	Y
Pregnancy and maternity	N	Y
Race (ethnicity)	N	Y
Religion or Belief	N	Y

Sex (gender)	N	Y
Sexual orientation	N	Y
Transgender	N	Y

Please provide **brief** details of any potential to cause adverse impact. Record full details and analysis in the following section of this assessment.

Negative impact is not anticipated as the Housing Strategy sets out a framework for a Strategy that will be for the whole County .

How will this policy/proposal/practice promote our commitment to our legal responsibilities under the public sector equality duty to:

- eliminate discrimination, harassment and victimisation,
- advance equality of opportunity, and
- foster good relations between people from different groups?

The Housing Strategy will be a strategy for County Durham that will be developed and delivered in partnership across the county and for the benefit of all of our residents. We will make use of the County Durham Partnership and other relevant groups in developing and delivering the Strategy.

The Housing Strategy will promote community consultation and engagement as part of the delivery of its priorities. It will also jointly develop local solutions with partners, residents and relevant agencies, which will foster good relations between people from different groups.

There are potential positive impacts across the protected characteristics especially in terms of age (younger and older people), disability, race/ethnicity (GRT communities) and sex (both male and female). Engagement and assessment of equality impact is very much locality specific depending on the scale of development.

## Evidence

What evidence do you have to support your findings?

Please **outline** your data sets and/or proposed evidence sources, highlight any gaps and say whether or not you propose to carry out consultation. Record greater detail and analysis in the following section of this assessment.

There is national, regional and local evidence available which shows that people with certain protected characteristics can face multiple barriers in employment, health, access to services and information, participation in decision making and in

consultation. Census 2021, data available on the ONS platform, data from Durham Insights, evidence from the Children and Young People's services Annual Reports, from the DfE, and a report by the Albert Kennedy Trust have been used in section two of this assessment.

This also links to the [Durham Insight](#) portal and uses data from the Office for National Statistics and other Government sources.

<https://democracy.durham.gov.uk/documents/s104486/Outcomes%20Report%20Education.pdf>

<https://democracy.durham.gov.uk/documents/s120686/OSC%20-%20outcomes%20report.pdf>

<http://www.durham.gov.uk/article/2389/2011-Census>

In addition Evidence has been collected as part of a Housing Conversation and Strategy Development: A broad conversation with stakeholders and partners which has been used to develop a draft strategy.

### **Consultation update**

**The Principles and Priorities Paper was the first stage in the preparation of the Housing Strategy. As part of the County Durham Housing Conversation, the council sought views on a draft vision, seven principles and five priorities.**

**The Housing Conversation took place between the 26 June 2023 and the 18 August 2023. The Housing Conversation included: Presentations to 13 Area Action Partnerships.**

Attendance at 9 County Durham Partnership groups including the County Durham Together Partnership, the Health and Wellbeing Board and the Place, Health and Communities Board.

A workshop for all Members of Scrutiny.

Presentations to the County Durham Association of Local Councils.

A Rural Housing Event.

Online consultation events.

The Housing Conversation was also supported by a social media and communications campaign which included:

A dedicated webpage, which had 1,039 page views and 789 unique page views during the Housing Conversation.

A Facebook advert, which started on the 28 July and had a total reach of 22,248 and an engagement of 953 (859 link clicks)

6 Facebook posts, which had a total reach of 16,924 people and an engagement of 166 (51 link clicks).

Facebook and Instagram Stories with a total reach of 8,099 and 3,471 respectively.

22 Tweets on Twitter with a total of 23,102 impressions and a total engagement of 205 (70 link clicks).

The Housing Conversation was supported by three specialist surveys. A survey for residents, a survey for young people and a survey for industry. The following numbers of surveys were returned as part of the Housing Conversation:

Residents: 368.

Young people: 257.

Industry: 15.

The Housing Strategy draft consultation was the second stage of consultation for the Housing Strategy. This Draft was then consulted on between 30<sup>th</sup> October and the 18<sup>th</sup> of August.

The consultation included:

emailing consultees who stated they wished to be kept informed of the next stage of the Housing Strategy consultation from the Principles and Priorities consultation publicising via the council's online consultation portal;

making the draft Housing Strategy available on the council's website;

presentations to 8 AAP's,

engagement with and presentations to 24 Partnerships

Presentation to Members of Scrutiny

2 Online events

Youth Council presentation

Meetings and workshop with Registered Providers

Meetings and workshop with Durham University

Workshop with Public Health

using the council's corporate notifications, communications and social media outlets; and press releases.

The council considered all feedback and made updates, changes and additions where necessary, these included:

The development of a 6-12 month delivery plan to set out what the outcomes and actions for the next 12 months would be to ensure delivery of the Principles and Priorities

Priority 1- Further information giving recognition students and the unique function of student accommodation as part of the private rented sector

Additional consideration and explicit reference to families who are pregnant and children, regarding groups with specific needs and as groups that are vulnerable to homelessness

Priority 2- Specific reference to affordable rent regarding everyone being able to afford their own home

Priority 3- further information regarding damp and mould to improve the quality of housing stock

Priority 4 – pregnant women and with babies specifically referenced regarding adopting a Housing First Approach to prioritise getting people quickly into stable homes.

## Screening Summary

On the basis of this screening is there:	Confirm which refers (Y/N)
Evidence of actual or potential impact on some/all of the protected characteristics which will proceed to full assessment?	Y
No evidence of actual or potential impact on some/all of the protected characteristics?	

## Sign Off

Lead officer sign off:	Date:
Service equality representative sign off: M Gallagher, E&D Team Leader	Date:

If carrying out a full assessment please proceed to section two.

If not proceeding to full assessment please return completed screenings to your service equality representative and forward a copy to [equalities@durham.gov.uk](mailto:equalities@durham.gov.uk)

If you are unsure of potential impact please contact the corporate research and equalities team for further advice at [equalities@durham.gov.uk](mailto:equalities@durham.gov.uk)

## Section Two: Data analysis and assessment of impact

Please provide details on impacts for people with different protected characteristics relevant to your screening findings. You need to decide if there is or likely to be a differential impact for some. Highlight the positives e.g. benefits for certain groups, advancing equality, as well as the negatives e.g. barriers for and/or exclusion of particular groups. Record the evidence you have used to support or explain your conclusions. Devise and record mitigating actions where necessary.

Protected Characteristic: <b>Age</b>		
What is the actual or potential impact on stakeholders?	Record of evidence to support or explain your conclusions on impact.	What further action or mitigation is required?
<p>Principle 3: Housing will be the cornerstone of communities and should support improved health community safety, educational attainment, and the local economy. This will have a positive impact on young people who will benefit from housing being built with regard to outdoor space and within reach of good schools.</p> <p>Principle 5 All new homes should be accessible, this will have appositive impact on groups including older persons who are more likely to need homes that are accessible as their mobility may decrease and adaptations may be needed in their homes. This principle recognises the importance of supporting people to live independently and remain in their homes for as long as they wish, including older people.</p> <p>Priority 1: Increase the delivery of new homes, including secure, affordable</p>	<p>Census Data (2021) estimates that the population of County Durham now stands at 522,100. ONS (2020) predicts that the county's population will continue to grow over the coming years, increasing by <b>3.7%</b> by 2028 and by <b>6.6%</b> overall by 2043.</p> <p>The 2020 mid-year population estimates for County Durham shows that the population of those 65+ is 20.9%, and 41.5% for those 50+, this is higher than the Northeast percentage of 20.1% and 40.5% and the percentage of the population in England 65+ of 18.5% and 37.8%. The mid-year population estimates for County Durham shows that the population of those aged 18-24 years olds is 9.4%. This higher than the Northeast percentage of 8.9% and England percentage of 8.3%.</p> <p>The Housing Conversation involved engagement with the County Durham community through surveys, including a</p>	<p>Annual review of the Housing Strategy and Delivery Plan</p>

<p>housing to meet housing needs together with the infrastructure required. This will have a positive impact on younger people who are more likely to be first time buyers in need of affordable housing products. Housing can also shape educational outcomes for children.</p> <p>Priority 1 will have a positive impact on younger people as it includes delivery of student accommodation. Young people are more likely to use student accommodation.</p> <p>Priority 1 will have a positive impact on older people as it includes delivering homes to meet the needs of older people.</p> <p>Priority 4: Ensure a comprehensive range of housing options for older and vulnerable people, disabled people and children and young people, including specialist accommodation and support. This will have a positive impact on age for older people and young people in the following ways:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• by promoting and sustaining independent living by planning for the provision of specialist and supported housing, such as care homes, children’s homes and supported living housing products,</li> <li>• ensure the provisions of adaptations together with flexible,</li> </ul>	<p>young person’s survey, events with AAP’s , Youth Parliament. The Conversation yielded 257 Young persons surveys and 368 general surveys of which the majority of respondents were aged 50+.</p> <p>19% of young people said they did not feel safe in the area they lived in.</p> <p>Based on this consultation feedback the Housing Strategy has established that priorities include creating safer living environments through careful neighbourhood design, homes that are accessible and housing products that meet the needs of older people and specialist products to meet the needs of older people and children and young people.</p>	
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<p>personalised care and support to enable people to live independently for as long as possible as their care needs develop with age.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Undertake a Needs Led Accommodation Review (NLAR) to consider longer term specialist accommodation needs – the NLAR is considering the longer term needs of specific groups including children and young people, older people, people with mental health or learning difficulties and homelessness</li> <li>• Implement policies of the CDP including Require 100% of specialist housing for older people will meet M4(2) accessible and adaptable standards, and a minimum of 25% of accommodation to meet M4(3) (wheelchair user dwellings); and</li> <li>• Require new development to provide an attractive range of housing options for older people with a minimum of 10% of dwellings to be of a design and type that will increase the housing options of older people, such as bungalows.</li> </ul>		
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<p>Priority 5: Ensure high quality placemaking, creating safe, accessible, prosperous and sustainable places to live. This priority is likely to have appositive impact on older and young people as older people are more likely to feel unsafe or vulnerable whilst outside their homes and young people are more likely to be out in their communities playing or socialising in their local area such as parks or outdoor communal areas.</p> <p>Priority 1- Further information giving recognition students and the unique function of student accommodation as part of the private rented sector. This will have a positive impact on younger people who make up the majority of the student population.</p> <p>Priority 1- Additional consideration and explicit reference to families who are pregnant and children, regarding groups with specific needs and as groups that are vulnerable to homelessness. This is likely to have appositive impact on young people and children who make up this group and are identified as a vulnerable group with specific need. This means that their specific needs and vulnerabilities will be identified and addressed.</p> <p>Priority 2- Specific reference to affordable rent regarding everyone being able to afford their own home will be likely to have a positive impact on</p>	<p>The student population makes up a large proportion of the private rented sector in the Durham City and wider area. The consultation involved consultation with Durham University and Durham Students Union. It was agreed that student accommodation is a unique function of the Private Rented Sector and so required specific action to deliver principles and priorities set out.</p> <p>Consultation with Public Health found that families who are pregnant and children, regarding groups have specific needs and as groups that are vulnerable to homelessness.</p>	
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<p>young people who may be more likely to rent as getting on to the property ladder is more difficult.</p> <p>Priority 3- further information regarding damp and mould to improve the quality of housing stock. This will be likely to have a positive impact on younger age groups and older persons who are more likely to be more seriously impacted by respiratory issues and more likely to be vulnerable to damp and mould.</p>	<p>Consultation with Registered Providers, Public Health found that Housing is particularly important in ensuring a healthy start in life and is a key factor causing health inequalities. Some groups are more vulnerable to these housing conditions, such as children and young people, the elderly or people with pre-existing illness, are at a greater risk of ill health associated with cold or damp homes.</p> <p>Some groups of people are more likely to live in poor quality cold and damp housing conditions, including households with an older person living in them, households with a lone parent, households with children, low-income households and households with people from minority ethnic backgrounds</p>	
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Protected Characteristic: <b>Disability</b>		
What is the actual or potential impact on stakeholders?	Explain your conclusion considering relevant evidence and consultation	What further action or mitigation is required?
<p>Principle 5: All new homes should be accessible, tenure blind and provide flexible living for different stages in a person's life, always aiming to allow people to be independent, including remaining in their home for</p>	<p>County Durham has a higher percentage of people with long term health issues and disabled people than the Northeast average, representing nearly a quarter of the overall population.</p>	<p>Annual review of the Housing Strategy and Delivery Plan</p>

<p>as long as they desire. This will have appositve impact on people with disabilities as they will benefit from the delivery of homes that are accessible and flexible and homes that allow people with disabilities to live independently and remain in their home for as long as they desire.</p> <p>Priority 4: Ensure a comprehensive range of housing options for older and vulnerable people, disabled people and children and young people, including specialist accommodation and support.</p> <p>This will have a positive impact on age for older people and young people in the following ways:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• by promoting and sustaining independent living by planning for the provision of specialist and supported housing, such as care homes, children’s homes and supported living housing products, ensure the provisions of adaptations together with flexible,</li> <li>• personalised care and support to enable people to live independently for as long as possible as their care needs develop with age.</li> <li>• Undertake a Needs Led Accommodation Review (NLAR) to consider longer term specialist</li> </ul>	<p>County Durham has a percentage of working age (16-64) people classed as having a limiting long-term illness or disability (LLTI) of 23.6%. This is higher than the overall figures for the North East, at 21.6%, and England and Wales, at 17.9%. (ONS 2011 Census (NOMIS extract))</p> <p>The ONS 2022-09 reported the County Durham disabled employment rate is 45.7% compared to the general employment rate for County Durham of 72.4%.</p> <p>The Housing Conversation involved engagement with the County Durham community through surveys, events with AAP’s and Working groups. 22% of respondents to the general survey identified as disabled, 11% of respondents for the young peoples survey identified as disable.</p> <p>Based on this consultation feedback the Housing Strategy has established that one of the concerns of residents is that their homes will meet their health needs in the future.</p> <p>48% of those with a disability disagreed that their home allowed them to live independently.</p> <p>This is reflected through: Principle 5: All new homes should be accessible, tenure blind and provide flexible living for different stages in a person’s life, always aiming to allow people to be independent, including</p>	
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<p>accommodation needs – the NLAR is considering the longer term needs of specific groups including children and young people, older people, people with mental health or learning difficulties and homelessness</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Implement policies of the CDP including Require 100% of specialist housing for older people will meet M4(2) accessible and adaptable standards, and a minimum of 25% of accommodation to meet M4(3) (wheelchair user dwellings); and</li> <li>• Require new development to provide an attractive range of housing options for older people with a minimum of 10% of dwellings to be of a design and type that will increase the housing options of older people, such as bungalows.</li> </ul> <p>Priority 5: Ensure high quality placemaking, creating safe, accessible, prosperous and sustainable places to live.</p> <p>This priority is likely to have apposite impact on older and young people as older people are more likely to feel unsafe or vulnerable whilst outside their homes and young people are more likely to be out in their</p>	<p>remaining in their home for as long as they desire</p> <p>Priority 2: Ensure that everyone has access to appropriate, safe and secure housing that support health and wellbeing.</p> <p>Priority 4: Ensure a comprehensive range of housing options for older and vulnerable people, disabled people and children and young people, including specialist accommodation and support.</p>	
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communities playing or socialising in their local area such as parks or outdoor communal areas.		
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Protected Characteristic: <b>Marriage and civil partnership (workplace only)</b>		
What is the actual or potential impact on stakeholders?	Explain your conclusion considering relevant evidence and consultation	What further action or mitigation is required?
N/A		

Protected Characteristic: <b>Pregnancy and maternity</b>		
What is the actual or potential impact on stakeholders?	Explain your conclusion considering relevant evidence and consultation	What further action or mitigation is required?

Protected Characteristic: <b>Race (ethnicity)</b>		
What is the actual or potential impact on stakeholders?	Explain your conclusion considering relevant evidence and consultation	What further action or mitigation is required?
The Housing Strategy principles will have a positive impact on the GRT community through: Principle 2: Everyone should have access to a home that is affordable to them, which includes that we will also seek to make sure there is sufficient housing for everyone, including Gypsy and Roma Travellers.	County Durham has the second highest number of social pitches for the GRT community of all English authorities and over a third of all GRT pitches in the North East.	Annual review of the Housing Strategy and Delivery Plan

<p>The Housing Strategy priorities will have a positive impact on ethnic minorities through:</p> <p>Priority 3 Ensure high quality, energy efficient homes and effective landlord services. This includes; Inspect properties as part of ongoing projects such as the Supported Housing Improvement Programme, Asylum Widening Dispersal Scheme and Homes for Ukraine, to ensure these properties offer safe accommodation.</p> <p>Priority 3- further information regarding damp and mould to improve the quality of housing stock will be likely to have a positive impact on this protected characteristic who are more likely to live in poor quality housing.</p>	<p>The Housing Solutions Team are currently working on projects such as: Supported Housing Improvement Programme, Asylum Widening Dispersal Scheme and Homes for Ukraine, to support relevant groups.</p> <p>Consultation with Registered Providers, Public Health found that Housing is particularly important in ensuring a healthy start in life and is a key factor causing health inequalities.</p> <p>Some groups of people are more likely to live in poor quality cold and damp housing conditions, including households with an older person living in them, households with a lone parent, households with children, low-income households and households with people from minority ethnic backgrounds</p>	
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Protected Characteristic: <b>Religion or belief</b>		
What is the actual or potential impact on stakeholders?	Explain your conclusion considering relevant evidence and consultation	What further action or mitigation is required?
N/A		

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Protected Characteristic: <b>Sex (gender)</b>		
What is the actual or potential impact on stakeholders?	Explain your conclusion considering relevant evidence and consultation	What further action or mitigation is required?
<p>The Housing Strategy has a range of principles and priorities that will have a specifically positive impact on female. These include:</p> <p>Principle 1: Everyone has a right to a warm, safe and decent home. Homes should be well maintained, free of damp and mould. People should feel safe in their homes from domestic abuse and anti-social behaviour. This will have appositive impact on females who are more likely to be victims of domestic abuse.</p> <p>Priority 5: Ensure high quality placemaking, creating safe, accessible, prosperous and sustainable places to live. This includes creating safer living environments, promoting well designed places.</p> <p>This will have a positive impact on females who are more likely to feel vulnerable when out in public, particularly when it is dark.</p> <p>The Housing Strategy has a range of principles and priorities that will have a specifically positive impact on males. These include: Principle 2: Everyone should have access to a home that</p>	<p>The ONS 2022-09 reports that females make up 50.8% of the County's population. In 2022-09 the ONS reported that the female claimant count is lower than males, however females in County Durham have a lower rate of economic activity, lower employment rate and rate of fulltime employment than men. Females have a higher rate of part-time employment than men.</p>	<p>Annual review of the Housing Strategy and Delivery Plan</p>



<p>is affordable to them, which includes prevent homelessness.</p> <p>Priority 2: Ensure that everyone has access to appropriate, safe and secure housing that support health and wellbeing. This includes focusing on homelessness prevention. Single males are more likely to present as homeless or at risk of becoming homeless.</p> <p>Priority 1- Additional consideration and explicit reference to families who are pregnant and children, regarding groups with specific needs and as groups that are vulnerable to homelessness. This is likely to have appositive impact on women who are pregnant and women are more likely to be part of families with and children who make up this group and are identified as a vulnerable group with specific need. This means that their specific needs and vulnerabilities will be identified and addressed.</p> <p>Priority 4 – pregnant women and with babies specifically referenced regarding adopting a Housing First Approach to prioritise getting people quickly into stable homes.</p> <p>Priority 3- further information regarding damp and mould to improve the quality of housing stock will be likely to have a positive impact on this protected characteristic</p>	<p>Consultation with Public Health found that families who are pregnant and children, regarding groups have specific needs and as groups that are vulnerable to homelessness.</p> <p>Consultation with Registered Providers, Public Health found that Housing is particularly important in ensuring a healthy start in life and is a key factor causing health inequalities.</p> <p>Some groups of people are more likely to live in poor quality cold and damp housing conditions, including households with an older person living in them, households with a lone parent, households with children, low-income</p>	
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who are more likely to live in poor quality housing.	<u>households and households with people from minority ethnic backgrounds</u>	
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Protected Characteristic: <b>Sexual orientation</b>		
What is the actual or potential impact on stakeholders?	Explain your conclusion considering relevant evidence and consultation	What further action or mitigation is required?
N/A		

Protected Characteristic: <b>Transgender</b>		
What is the actual or potential impact on stakeholders?	Explain your conclusion considering relevant evidence and consultation	What further action or mitigation is required?
N/A		

## Section Three: Conclusion and Review

### Summary

Please provide a brief summary of your findings stating the main impacts, both positive and negative, across the protected characteristics.
<p>The Housing Strategy is intended to support everyone in the County but there is evidence that certain groups such as older persons, young people, disabled persons, ethnic minority groups, women and cohorts of males may be more positively impacted than other groups.</p> <p>This Strategy identifies the key housing opportunities and challenges facing County Durham in the next five years. Our vision is:  <b>‘By 2035 County Durham will be a place that has good quality homes that meet the needs of existing and future residents that they can afford. The</b></p>

**provision and quality of housing will support economic growth, contribute to improved health, community safety and create and maintain sustainable, mixed and balanced communities. People will live long and independent lives within connected and safer communities.'**

The Housing Strategy provides the strategic framework to deliver our housing priorities and supports the delivery of the Council Plan and the County Durham Vision.

- The Council Plan sets out the council's vision and overall priorities and programme of work for the period 2019-2035.
- The County Durham Vision 2035, which was developed together with partner organisations and the public, sets out what we would want the county to look like in 15 years' time. This vision is structured around three ambitions which are:
  - More and better jobs;
  - People live long and independent lives; and
  - Connected communities.

The Housing Strategy will align with a number of other strategies and plans to ensure that communities are safer, healthier and more prosperous. These include the Inclusive Economic Strategy, the Joint Local Health and Wellbeing Strategy, the Growing Up in County Durham Strategy and the principles of the Anti-Social Behaviour pledge in supporting safe neighbourhoods.

To ensure that the strategy benefits people across the county

There are inequalities across our county, for example in access to housing, suitable housing products, health, education, and infrastructure. This Strategy will be based on the following principles to address this.

Principle 1: Everyone has a right to a warm, safe and decent home.

Principle 2: Everyone should have access to a home that is affordable to them.

Principle 3: Housing is the cornerstone of communities and should support improved health, community safety, educational attainment, and the local economy.

Principle 4: The strategy will be for the county, not the council, and will promote local solutions underpinned by community engagement.

Principle 5: All new homes should be accessible, tenure blind and provide flexible living for different stages in a person's life, always aiming to allow people to be independent, including remaining in their home for as long as they desire.

Principle 6: Existing and new communities should be physically, digitally, culturally and economically connected to support the creation of sustainable, safe, mixed and balanced communities, including bringing empty homes back into use.

Principle 7: The strategy will support energy efficiency and carbon reduction in existing and new housing and contribute towards the council's Climate Emergency Response Plan

Will this promote positive relationships between different communities? If so how?

The Housing Strategy vision for County Durham is that: 'By 2035 County Durham will be a place that has good quality homes that meet the needs of existing and future residents that they can afford. The provision and quality of housing will support economic growth, contribute to improved health, community safety and create and maintain sustainable, mixed and balanced communities. People will live long and independent lives within connected and safer communities.'

We will achieve this vision by working together with our partners and engagement with our communities. The Housing Strategy will be a strategy for County Durham that will be developed and delivered in partnership across the county and for the benefit of all of our residents. We will make use of the County Durham Partnership and other relevant groups in developing and delivering the Strategy.

The Housing Strategy will promote community consultation and engagement as part of the delivery of its priorities. It will also jointly develop local solutions with partners, residents and relevant agencies.

The Housing Strategy recognises the diversity of communities across County Durham and the differing issues and opportunities they face. It has a role to coordinate activity of the council, its partners and wider investment opportunities to support sustainable, safe, mixed, and balanced and connected communities.

The next steps for the Housing Strategy will be that delegated authority will be sought for the approval of the Draft Strategy and to consult on the Draft Strategy. This round of, consultation will be undertaken on the document between the 30 October 2023 to 18 December 2023.

The consultation will be undertaken with residents of County Durham and other stakeholders, including those from protected characteristic groups, with a potential interest in the content of the document. As part of the consultation the council will use a wide range of approaches including:

Presentations / information dissemination to Area Action Partnerships.

Presentations to the County Durham Partnership groups. Meetings with protected characteristic groups.

Online consultation events.

A social media and communications campaign; and

Briefing for elected members.

The consultation will seek comments on the Draft Housing Strategy. The Draft Strategy will then be modified as necessary and presented to Cabinet and Full Council for Adoption in Spring 2024.

## Action Plan

Action	Responsibility	Timescales for implementation	In which plan will the action appear?
Take the Housing Strategy to full cabinet	DCC	Short-Term	
Review the Housing Strategy Delivery Plan	DCC	Medium-term	

## Review

Are there any additional assessments that need to be undertaken? (Y/N)	Y
When will this assessment be reviewed? Please also insert this date at the front of the template	Y

## Sign Off

Lead officer sign off:	Date:
Service equality representative sign off: M Gallagher, E&D Team Leader	Date:

Please return the completed form to your service equality representative and forward a copy to [equalities@durham.gov.uk](mailto:equalities@durham.gov.uk)