

Appendix 2 - Housing Strategy Consultation Response

Between June and September the housing strategy was made available for consultation. The consultation was made available through the City Council's web site and a newspaper advert was placed in attempt to draw attention to it. In addition, the strategy was circulated to Gloucestershire Associations for Voluntary and Community Action (GAVCA) with a request for it to be shared amongst all of its members. A stall was set up on two afternoons in the City Centre, and a further three stakeholder events were held, where it was anticipated we would be able to engage with a broad cross section of the community. The Strategy was circulated to all Members of the Council also.

One stakeholder event was conducted at 'Gloucester City Homes' property Nova House and was directed at individuals who had experienced homelessness or were waiting to be housed. An event at St Oswalds was held to try and engage with some of our older residents.

The most successful of all the events was the 'professional stakeholder' group, where around 120 relevant professionals or organisations were invited along, and around 50 or so attended. Invitations went to statutory partners, elected members, Council Officers involved with the built environment, Developers, letting agents, Registered Providers involved with development, housing management and support.

Despite the publicity around the public events and web consultation we were disappointed with only three web responses. The stakeholder events were poorly attended, with the exception of the professional event, so as a result, the feedback will just be shown as key themes identified below; there was insufficient feedback received to adapt action plan priorities/timescales with confidence. Officers have therefore considered the feedback and have proposed timescales based on knowledge/experience. Key elements of feedback have been used to inform changes to the final draft where they were necessary.

Key aspects reported to us: -

Some concern around the density of flatted developments and the availability of parking.

Influencing who buys and lets homes in certain areas.

That homes should be spacious, accessible and create a sense of community.

Areas too densely populated aren't desirable.

Families need to have functional space to avoid social issues or disputes.

Concern that road widths are adequate, and if not can be exacerbated if insufficient parking.

Adequate areas for storage of recycling facilities.

Query whether there is sufficient infrastructure for increasing population growth.

Are we building homes of sufficient size that people wish to live in them.

Homes should have good sound insulation

You should focus on healthy individuals and developing communities.

10% to Wheelchair standard may be better without mention to Lifetime Homes

The loss of mortgage rescue will leave owners in difficulty with no help from what I can see. As it is no more is there much point it being in a strategy going forward?

Under 'Resources' rather than only referring to commuted sums being possible where it is an unsuitable site for affordable could it be added that it would be considered where greater community benefits can be achieved through contributions?

A good point raised was whether there could there be a central register in Gloucester or across the JCS area of people seeking adapted property and a central area where adapted properties can be advertised/made available?

There is agreement that we need to do something to encourage older people to downsize. In the social sector we need an attractive product and we need to communicate and market the offer.