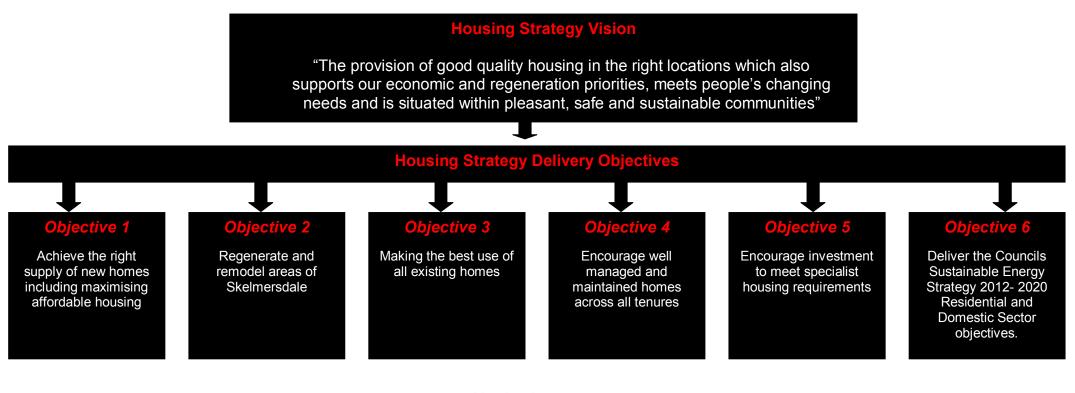


# Housing Strategy 2014 – 2019

ACTION PLAN for 2014/15 – Year 1

The diagram below shows our Housing Strategy Vision and our six delivery objectives. This Action Plan incorporates a number of delivery actions that will assist West Lancashire Borough Council to deliver its Housing Strategy Vision.



#### **Monitoring**

The Council produces a number of strategies and plans directed at achieving our vision and priorities. These plans and strategies contain numerous tasks and targets which, when completed successfully, are the building blocks of our success.

To keep track of our progress we use a performance monitoring framework. This helps us monitor progress and take any remedial action to make sure that what is supposed to be done gets done. Each of our service areas produce Service Action Plans which reflect the key delivery actions we are working on as contained in our strategies and plans. These are monitored regularly through our monitoring framework with performance updates being provided to relevant service managers and service heads. Performance and achievement is also reported to our Elected Members in line with our constitution so that progress is fully understood.

The Housing Strategy action plan will be monitored as part of the process outlined above.

All actions have an identified lead officer responsible for implementation and monitoring of the target

Listed below are the key abbreviations for each lead officer. The current post holder is also shown:

ADP Assistant Director Planning (John Harrison)

ADHR Assistant Director Housing and Regeneration (Bob Livermore)
SPIM Strategic Planning and Implementation Manager (Peter Richards)

**HPSHM** Homeless and Private Sector Housing Manager (Laura Lea)

HOM Housing Operations Manager (Leigh McGarry)
E&VM Estates and Valuation Manager (Rachel Kneale)

DADH&R Deputy Asst. Director Housing & Regeneration (lan Gill)

**HS&DPM** Housing Strategy & Development Programme Manager (Jonathan Mitchell)

PSM Property Services Manager (Phil Holland)
SHM Strategic Housing Manager (Steve Jones)

ASPIM Assistant Strategic Planning & Implementation Manager (Gillian Whitfield)

HNAM Housing Needs and Allocations Manager (Nicola Bradley)

AM Asset Manager (William Berkeley)

RMASM Rent and Money Advice Service Manager (Stephen Jackson)

#### **Objective 1** ACHIEVE THE RIGHT SUPPLY OF NEW HOMES INCLUDING MAXIMISING AFFORDABLE HOUSING Monitoring **Action** Timescale/ Lead **Partners** Resources/ **Targets** Anticipated outcomes/ responsibility milestones Conditional impacts arrangements Upon ADP Development of Planning 1. • As per Local Staff • A sustainable Overall Implementation of Plan. 4860 net new Committee RP Providers economic housing offer the West Lancashire dwellings conditions suitable for the See Planning Private Local Plan 2012web pages for during the plan housing and Cabinet and developers Inward economic needs of 2027 Council details at investment period Housing www.westlancs. from HCA the local population Reporting Strategy gov.uk Local Service Action Provide New Homes Economic Plan Monitoring Bonus for the Partnership Borough 2. HSDPM Existing In line with Service Action In line with Planning Help provide direction Contribute to Plan Monitoring officer time planning timetable in relation to planning development of affordable housing timetable Master Plan / requirements and the **Development Briefs** provision of older for Strategic Housing persons Sites accommodation e.g. Yew Tree Farm, Grove Farm. Firswood Road As per HCA **HSDPM** • HCA Achieve HCA Affordable Increase the supply Secure HCA inward grant of affordable housing Service Action Grant Bid RP Providers Housing Fund Plan Monitoring Affordable Housing Programme.\* investment over National to help households in Planning the life of the Grant Investment. affordable housing Affordable Land agents Housing Strategy \*There is not a need. Housing Private Programme to assist in the fixed timetable but Provide New Homes developers sites are identified development of Council land Bonus at higher rate ready for the affordable housing and building opening of bid assets as rounds. appropriate

Action	Timescale/ Milestones	Lead responsibility	Partners	Resources/ Conditional Upon	Targets	Anticipated outcomes/ Impacts	Monitoring arrangements
4. Achieve development of no less than 500 new affordable homes 2014-2019.  Note:  - Aim to develop a minimum of 10 affordable housing units per settlement  - Min of 20% of the 500 units to be for older households	Review overall delivery annually	HSDPM	HCA     RP Providers     Planning     Private developers     Legal	Affordable     Housing     Fund     National     Affordable     Housing     Programme     Council land     assets as     appropriate     Section 106     affordable     housing     contributions	2014/15 = 60     2015/16 = 110     2016/17 = 110     2017/18 = 110     2018/19 = 110  Overall target is no less than 500 during the life of the housing strategy and shall include a range of dwelling types and bed sizes including 1 bed accommodation where it will meet housing need.	Increase the supply of affordable housing to help households in affordable housing need.      Provide New Homes Bonus at the higher rate      Important note  The overriding target is 500 units to be achieved during the life of the strategy. The annual targets are indicated to help structure the delivery approach.	Service Action Plan Monitoring
5.  Optimize affordable housing contribution provided through Section 106	Each planning application will be considered within planning timescales	HSDPM	<ul><li>Planning</li><li>RP Providers</li><li>Private developers</li><li>Legal</li></ul>	Economic viability of sites to support affordable housing contribution	In line with Planning policy targets in respect of affordable housing contribution	Obtain the maximum affordable housing contribution able to be supported by the economic viability of each site.	Service Action Plan Monitoring
6. Use Council land assets where appropriate to support the delivery of affordable housing	In line with the Strategic Asset Management Plan (SAMP) process.	E&VM And HSDPM	<ul> <li>Estates and Regeneration SAMP Team</li> <li>RP Providers</li> <li>Affordable Housing Cabinet Group</li> <li>Legal</li> </ul>	Whether the site/s should be made available for affordable housing when considered against other corporate	No target set as each site will be considered upon its merits.	<ul> <li>Increase the supply of affordable housing to help households in affordable housing need.</li> <li>Provide New Homes Bonus at higher rate</li> </ul>	Cabinet reporting throughout the life of the SAMP project

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			priorities.		

Action	Timescale/ milestones	Lead responsibility	Partners	Resources/ Conditional Upon	Targets	Anticipated outcomes/ impacts	Monitoring arrangements
7. Identify land sites suitable for affordable housing development using our partnership with Regenda Housing Group.	Viable sites to be developed and completed in 2015 / 2016 / 2017	HSDPM	<ul> <li>Planning</li> <li>RP Provider</li> <li>Private developers</li> <li>Legal</li> <li>Land Agents</li> <li>HCA</li> </ul>	Use of     Affordable     Housing     Fund	Identify and assess viability for potential pipeline schemes.	<ul> <li>Will provide details of land that can be used to develop affordable housing as required by our partnership arrangement.</li> <li>Provide New Homes Bonus at higher rate</li> </ul>	Service Action Plan Monitoring
8.  Review current approaches for using S106 affordable housing obligations in order to meet local affordable housing need.	Complete review by March 2015	HSDPM	<ul><li>Planning</li><li>Legal</li><li>Consultant Support</li></ul>	Existing officer time     Consultant budget	Consideratio n of the affordable housing products that could be used via section 106 contribution	May assist in introducing other affordable housing products and/ or approaches that will broaden our affordable housing offer.	Service Action Plan Monitoring
9.  Promote all new affordable housing schemes	Commence promotion no less than six months ahead of intended scheme handover date.	HSDPM	<ul> <li>PR Unit</li> <li>Parish         Councils     </li> <li>Registered         Providers     </li> <li>Voids and         Allocations     </li> <li>Team</li> </ul>	Existing officer time	On a scheme by scheme basis	Promote all new affordable housing schemes to the local community in good time so that applicants in affordable housing need are able register an interest and be considered for the new scheme in line with Council Allocation policy	Service Action Plan Monitoring
10. Explore developing a LA new build programme	Report by March 2015	ADHR HS&DPM	<ul><li>Finance</li><li>Business</li><li>Plan</li><li>Legal</li></ul>	Government Borrowing Headroom limits		Will provide identification and due consideration of the issues that will need to be considered in trying to develop a LA New Build programme including factors relating to physical	Service Action Plan Monitoring

					build of dwellings and funding availability such as HCA grant, right to buy receipts and borrowing headroom.
11.  Develop Affordable Housing SPD / Developer Guide	Complete / Adopt by December 2014	ASPIM	Housing Strategy	Existing officer time	A reference document that assists housing developers to understand the Councils affordable housing requirements and how they should be delivered.      Service Action Plan Monitoring
Review impact of CIL upon the provision of affordable housing in line with planning policy	<ul> <li>Commencing monitoring from CIL introduction</li> <li>Produce review report two years after first CIL eligible application</li> </ul>	ASPIM HSDPM	Planning	CIL introduction     Existing officer time	Determine if the introduction of CIL and the scale of charges is having an adverse impact upon the level of affordable housing being provided.      Service Action Plan Monitoring

<b>Objective 2</b>							
		REGENERATE	AND REMODE	L AREAS OF	SKELMERSDA	ALE	
Action	Timescale/ milestones	Lead responsibility	Partners	Resources/ Conditional Upon	Targets	Anticipated outcomes/ impacts	Monitoring arrangements
13.  Complete £65 Million Capital Investment Programme	The Capital Investment Programme is of five year duration. Please refer to the Housing Business Plan for full details of delivery milestones located at <a href="https://www.westlancs.gg">www.westlancs.gg</a>	PSM	Response & cyclical maintenance contractors.     Partner Contractors	Capital Programme	Please refer to Housing Business Plan.	Improvements in Council Housing Stock	DMT  Business Plan Working Group  Service Action Plan Monitoring
14.  Commence clearance of area occupied by Findon / Firbeck flats	Clearance of 90% of the flats by April 2014.	PM	Demolition contractors     Legal .	<ul> <li>Funding has been identified for demolitions and clearance works.</li> <li>Vacation of occupiers</li> </ul>	Flats to be cleared and site prepared for future redevelopment	Clear the site ready for redevelopment as part of Firbeck revival activity.	Monitoring by Project team Cabinet Working Group
15.  Consider delivery options to redevelop the sites that have been cleared as part of Firbeck revival programme.	<ul> <li>Decide which approach will be used to redevelop the sites</li> <li>Seek HCA funding and a delivery partner if required</li> <li>Commission redevelopment</li> </ul>	ADHR	<ul> <li>Housing Strategy</li> <li>RP</li> <li>HCA</li> <li>Consultant to assist with options appraisal</li> <li>Planning</li> <li>Legal</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Viability appraisal</li> <li>Consideration of funding approaches / options</li> <li>HCA</li> <li>HRA borrowing headroom.</li> </ul>	2015/16 - Phase 1 site - Physical build commences	Improve the street scene and broader housing offer in the area and make additional affordable housing available in the locality.	Monitoring by Project team Cabinet Working Group

	work.						
Complete Land Auctions Pilot – Whalleys	• End of March 2014	E&VM	HCA     Partnership Officer     Planning     Private Developers     RP Providers     Legal     HCA Developmen t Partner Panel	Project Budget Established  Market conditions / appetite for housing developers to acquire the sites		The provision of sites that are ready for developers to acquire that have outline planning permission secured.  As sites are acquired then the work will have enabled an:  increase in housing supply including affordable housing.  a diversification of the local housing offer.  provide new homes bonus and capital receipt for the Council	Monitoring by Project team and by Cabinet Reporting
Enable the development of Findon, Delph Clough and site of former Skelmersdale Sports Centre	Market engagement commences Autumn 2014	DADH&R	<ul> <li>Housing Strategy</li> <li>Private Developers</li> <li>Planning</li> <li>RP Providers</li> <li>Legal</li> </ul>	Existing officer time	Engage with housing developers and consider how best to enable development of the sites	Outcome to support regeneration of Skelmersdale Town Centre     Improvements to economic and social indicators     Increase in housing supply including affordable housing	Service Action Plan Monitoring
18.  Review and develop second revival scheme and where appropriate remodel or dispose of housing stock.	Identify next revival scheme March 2014     Commence public consultation on the preferred option and present a further report to Cabinet in due course	AM PSM ADHR	Estates and Valuation Team     Tenants / Resident Groups     Legal	Existing officer time initially but may need consultant support.      HRA funding		Will identify where the second revival scheme / remodelling activity will be focused and scope initial activity required      Ensure that any remodelling / disposal decisions in respect of Council housing stock is endorsed by Estates and Valuation Team.	Service Action Plan Monitoring

### Objective 3

### MAKING THE BEST USE OF ALL EXISTING HOMES

Action	Timescale/ milestones	Lead responsibility	Partners	Resources/ Conditional Upon	Targets	Anticipated outcomes/ impacts	Monitoring arrangements
Be honest about whether we can help by ensuring the provision of regularly reviewed and updated information about Council Services.	<ul> <li>Review existing         web pages and         documents         every six months         to ensure they         are appropriate</li> <li>Ensure staff are         aware of Council         services and         where to sign         post customers         too if required.</li> </ul>	Service Heads	Web     Champions     All staff	Existing officer time		This action relates to the provision of accurate information and appropriate advice to our customers so it enables households to make informed choices about their housing options in relation to their query.	Service Action Plan Monitoring Team Meetings
20.  Develop financial inclusion strategy	<ul> <li>01-May-2014 -         Complete draft         FI strategy</li> <li>30-Jun-2014 -         Consultation         with customers         and feedback</li> <li>30-Sep-2014 -         Finalise FI         strategy and         present to         Council</li> </ul>	RMASM	PR Section     Tenants     Groups	Existing officer time		The development a financial inclusion strategy which will be aimed at supporting Council tenants through Welfare Reform.	Service Action Plan Monitoring
Bring private sector empty homes back in to use	On-going activity	H&PSHM	Legal     Partner     Agencies     Building     Control	Existing officer time		<ul> <li>Brings empty housing back into use</li> <li>May attract New Homes Bonus</li> <li>Improve street scene</li> </ul>	Service Action Plan Monitoring

Produce a new Private Sector Housing Strategy	<ul> <li>Commence July 14</li> <li>September 2014 Cabinet</li> </ul>	H&PSHM	<ul> <li>Partner     Agencies</li> <li>Housing     Strategy</li> <li>Neighbourin     g local     authorities</li> <li>Legal</li> </ul>	Existing officer time		Identification of private sector housing delivery objectives and the development of an action plan to address the private sector housing challenges and issues in the borough	Service Action Plan Monitoring
23.  Review all housing association nomination agreements	Commence review in August 2014     Complete by March 2015	HSDPM	Voids and Allocations     Legal	Existing officer time	Optimise take up of Local authority nominations in line with nomination rights.	Will enable the nomination process to be understood by our RP colleagues within the context of West Lancs HomeFinder and any local connection criteria. In addition will assist in maximising the take up of L/A nominations	Service Action Plan Monitoring

Objective 4	ENCOURAG	E WELL MAN	AGED AND MA	INTAINED HO	MES ACRO	SS ALL TENURES	
Action	Timescale/ milestones	Lead responsibility	Partners	Resources/ Conditional Upon	Targets	Anticipated outcomes/ impacts	Monitoring arrangements
Promote the Private Landlord Accreditation Scheme	On-going	H&PSHM	<ul><li>Landlord Forum</li><li>PR</li><li>Benefits and Revenues</li></ul>	Existing officer time	To increase membershi p of private landlords participatin g in the scheme.	Attract more landlords to register with the scheme and encourage improved management and maintenance of private tenancies.	Service Action Plan Monitoring
Maximise use of enforcement powers to deal with problem landlords and target resources to address disrepair, unsafe properties and management issues within the private rented sector	As and when required	H&PSHM	<ul><li>Legal</li><li>Building control</li><li>PR</li></ul>	Existing officer time	In line with any local and / or statutory timescales.	Appropriate use of enforcement powers where required.	Cabinet report / Member updates
26. Review Tenure Strategy and Policy	Commence light touch review in July 2014	SHM	<ul> <li>Voids and Allocations</li> <li>Legal</li> <li>Registered Providers</li> <li>Neighbourin g authorities</li> </ul>	Existing officer time		The light touch review is intended to establish whether the policy and strategy is	Service Action Plan Monitoring

Objective 5	ENCOUR	AGE INVESTM	ENT TO MEET	SPECIALIST H	OUSING R	EQUIREMENTS	
Action	Timescale/ milestones	Lead responsibility	Partners	Resources/ Conditional Upon	Targets	Anticipated outcomes/ impacts	Monitoring arrangements
Enable the development of a Foyer for young people	The Council will use its enabling role to signpost the Birchwood Centre to information and expertise so that they can fully explore the viability of developing a Foyer tacking account of delivery / funding considerations	HSDPM	Birchwood Centre     Supporting People     Other contributors working with the Birchwood Centre.	The Birchwood Centre / their chosen partner developing a viable business plan and securing capital and revenue funding and overcoming any associated development challenges Suitable development site		The development of a Foyer for vulnerable young people, to improve their well-being, provide training, development of independent living skills along with mediation and counselling where required and other support / coaching activity to develop the young people to achieve their full potential.	Service Action Plan Monitoring
28. Identify sites suitable for Gypsy and Traveler Pitch Provision	In line with Planning time scales	SPIM	<ul> <li>Planning</li> <li>Gypsy Group</li> <li>Legal</li> </ul>	Existing officer time     Endorsemen t by Planning Inspectorate	Allocate Gypsy and Traveller / Travelling Show people sites to meet assessed locally arising needs.	Provision of sites to meet the needs of the travelling community in compliance with national policy.     Improve the ability of the Council to take swift and effective action in the light of unauthorised encampments.	Through existing reporting structures to Members

Work with the Supporting People (SP) Team to support the needs of vulnerable clients groups including consideration of further Extra Care provision in the borough.	On-going     Also in line with Supporting People contract renewal schedule	HSDPM	<ul> <li>SP Team</li> <li>Support Providers</li> </ul>	<ul><li>Existing officer time</li><li>SP Budget</li><li>HCA</li></ul>	<ul> <li>An on-going understanding of the housing related support needs of vulnerable client groups</li> <li>A mechanism to contribute to shaping service delivery and remodelling services where appropriate within the context of improving services and SP funding availability.</li> <li>A consideration of the emerging LCC Supporting People Extra Care Strategy as it relates to West Lancashire.</li> </ul>	Service Action Plan Monitoring
Work with Lancashire County Council, Health, CCG and RPs to develop housing solutions for a range of client groups such as those with learning disability, mental health difficulties, physical disability and other client groups where need is identified.	<ul> <li>2014/15 -         Identify need for each client group</li> <li>2014/15 - Work with partners to explore delivery options and viability</li> <li>Where viable options exist, develop delivery action plan for implementation during this strategy period.</li> </ul>	HSDPM	<ul> <li>SP Team</li> <li>HCA</li> <li>CCG</li> <li>Carers Groups</li> <li>Health</li> <li>LCC</li> <li>Registered Providers</li> </ul>	Existing officer time     HCA     RP partners     Partner Funds	<ul> <li>Work with partners to identify broader housing requirements required for specific vulnerable client groups and determine if accommodation solutions can be developed. Where appropriate scope out work activity and build into housing strategy action plan during this strategy period.</li> <li>Provide accommodation options in West Lancashire for vulnerable client groups.</li> </ul>	Service Action Plan Monitoring

# Objective 6 DELIVER THE COUNCILS SUSTAINABLE ENERGY STRATEGY 2012-2020 "RESIDENTIAL AND DOMESTIC" SECTOR THEME

Action	Timescale/ milestones	Lead responsibility	Partners	Resources/ Conditional Upon	Targets	Anticipated outcomes/ impacts	Monitoring arrangements
31.  To improve the energy efficiency of West Lancashire Housing	Please refer to the Sustainable Energy Strategy 2012-2020 for full details of delivery milestones located at www.westlancs. gov.uk	WLBC / Private Sector Housing Service	As described in the Sustainable Energy Strategy 2012-2020.	As     described     in the     Sustainable     Energy     Strategy     2012-2020	Targets across each action range from on-going, short term and medium term.	There are 8 delivery actions attached to this element of the Sustainable Energy Strategy 2012-2020.	Service Action Plan Monitoring
32.  Tackle hard to treat properties, reduce fuel poverty and ensure affordable warmth for all.	Please refer to the Sustainable Energy Strategy 2012-2020 for full details of delivery milestones located at <a href="https://www.westlancs.gov.uk">www.westlancs.gov.uk</a>	WLBC / Private Sector Housing Service	As described in the Sustainable Energy Strategy 2012-2020.	As     described     in the     Sustainable     Energy     Strategy     2012-2020	Targets across each action range from on-going, short term and medium term.	There are 5 delivery actions attached to this element of the Sustainable Energy Strategy 2012-2020	Service Action Plan Monitoring