

### Appendix 3

## FEEDBACK FROM PRIVATE SECTOR HOUSING STRATEGY CONSULTATION

CONSULTATION FEEDBACK	OUR RESPONSE
<p><b>From – Scarisbrick Parish Council</b></p> <p>The consultation is a detailed document which has clearly been researched to a great degree and contains much useful information.</p> <p>In Scarisbrick there appears to be a higher than average number of dwellings with disrepair and excess cold. This may be attributed to both the rural location of the housing stock and perhaps the age profile of the Village being higher than the average.</p> <p>The Parish Council resolved at the November meeting that we strongly supported all actions WLBC propose to take to help the vulnerable within our Parish with a hope that the numbers of houses in Scarisbrick meet the decent homes standard when your survey is next carried out.</p> <p>Hopefully the finalised Private Housing Strategy 2017-20 will provide us all with some positive ways of achieving an improvement for our residents, particularly those in the vulnerable sector.</p>	<p>Noted – no direct change to the strategy is required</p>
<p><b>From – Jan Lennon</b></p> <p>I've been looking at the draft document and have just a couple of observations to make.</p>	

1. Given the state of local government resources and the pressures on budgets I appreciate attempts to improving housing conditions can only be limited. I feel the best approach is to address a particular hazard identified in the strategy as a priority for action. In my opinion the most important is that of temperature. Poor heating levels have a significant impact on health (consequently ability to work, attend school or live independently)and quality of life no matter what age.

2. Private landlords who fail to maintain their properties to recognised standards must be subject to the legal process. As a community we must demonstrate our opposition to those who feel at liberty to profit from substandard housing risking the well-being of tenants.

3. Much of the draft action plan is very disappointing. Vague statements of intent which have no targets, no measures of success give the whole plan a tone of 'let's make sure we can't fail'. Such a shame given the valuable research undertaken for the draft strategy which I found very interesting. The Action Plan draft left me feeling like the potential for real improvement in any aspect of the concerns highlighted was an illusion the council was required to sustain without any hope of achieving it.

Sorry I sound so pessimistic, I worked in local government and became jaundiced at the council speak of documents like this. Your targets can be tiny but please have some.

Noted – no direct change to the strategy required as the Council has focussed on excess cold through provision of the Winter Warm scheme.

Noted – no direct change to the strategy required.

Noted – Action Plan has been updated with some timescales. Some tasks have on-going timescales due to their nature.