

Rother Housing & Homelessness Strategy – Proposed Priorities & Actions

Priority 1 – Homelessness and rough sleeping	
Proposed action	Rother
Partnership working	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establish regular local multi-agency homelessness forum to design and deliver homelessness prevention measures • Engage with partners to reduce costs by preventing duplication of services • Establish protocols and procedures with social landlords and lettings agents operating in Rother • Work with the Homeless Unity Group (HUG) and others to improve community provision of rough sleeper support services
Homelessness	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Put in place additional homeless prevention measures including setting up and managing a social lettings agency and other measures to secure greater access to private rented properties through closer partnerships with local landlords • Improve the accessibility of the Housing Needs Service and its integration with related services through greater colocation, home visits and improved referral pathways under Duty to Refer • Improve the supply of temporary accommodation and reduce its use by targeting improved support measures and improve supply of self-contained accommodation
Rough Sleeping	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work with the voluntary sector to explore options for creating a street homelessness centre/hub in Bexhill, with outreach available to rural areas of Rother • Work with partners to deliver and expand the Sussex Rough Sleeping Prevention Project to support those at high risk of rough sleeping • Support the delivery of Housing First and the Rough Sleeping Initiative • Work with partners to draw down resources as they become available to improve the support pathway for rough sleepers and reduce rough sleeping in Bexhill.
Housing Needs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop a communications plan to include training, to ensure front line officers, partners and Members are aware of the support available • Put in place actions to encourage raising aspirations, particularly those of young people, to access training and employment as a route into better quality housing • Continue to improve the triage of customers to enable greater levels of self-service and improve service accessibility
Priority 2: Increasing the supply of affordable housing	
Proposed action	Rother
Affordable rented housing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create a local housing company or public/private partnership to purchase housing for those in housing need, for market, private rent or to meet temporary accommodation needs • Purchasing and developing 'stalled' sites that are vital to the delivery of affordable housing , using CPO where other options have failed
Temporary accommodation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create a local housing company or public/private partnership to purchase housing for those in housing need, for market, private rent or to meet • Improve accessibility of support services for people in temporary accommodation to include employability and tenancy readiness

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve the supply of self-contained temporary accommodation locally
Shared Ownership	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase the delivery of low cost home ownership options
Community led housing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue working with Action in Rural Sussex, Parish and Town Councils and community groups in identifying suitable sites and delivering community led housing
Partnership working	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strengthen partnership working with Registered Providers by expanding the number of preferred partners to work with and developing a joint framework/protocol agreement
Modern methods of construction	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Working with Registered Providers (social landlords) to explore the opportunity to introduce modern and innovative methods of construction, for example timber framed kits, for all affordable housing developments
Priority 3: Improving the quality of housing	
Proposed action	Rother
Affordable warmth	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Working with Registered Providers (social landlords) to explore the opportunity of introducing affordable warmth methods of construction for all affordable housing developments
Target improvements in private rented sector	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Put in place an action plan which would target poor tenanted sector property
Empty homes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Put in place an action plan which would set out a number of methods for bringing into use empty homes, from contacting owners and offering incentives through to the use of compulsory purchase orders

To access Rother's consultation questionnaire please go to:

<http://www.rother.gov.uk/housing-consultation>