

# Economic Prosperity Scrutiny Committee

## Housing Strategy consultation update



# Our Strategic Housing Priorities

1. Maximising housing growth and increasing the choice of housing
2. Making the best use of existing homes and improving our neighbourhoods
3. Supporting vulnerable people to access and maintain housing



# Consultation overview

- Consultation opened 17<sup>th</sup> October
- It asked what gaps there are within the draft strategy
- Online – social media, resident newsletter to all households
- Closed 5<sup>th</sup> December
- 24 respondents
- Majority of respondents were owner occupiers, living in Washington



# Chapter One: GROW

## Maximising housing growth and increasing the choice of housing

This section looks at how we can make sure there is enough and the right kind of housing to meet the city's needs. The strategy considers the actions that should be taken to look at:

- How we innovatively use land
- How we deliver the housing that is needed
- How we meet the demands of an ageing population



# GROW: feedback

- Suitable housing for needs
- More executive housing
- More information on architectural style
- Look at regeneration rather than building new
- More medium density flats in City Centre
- Develop on brownfield sites

6 respondents (29%) answered **Housing** for this question.





# Chapter Two: IMPROVE

## **Making best use of our existing housing and improving our neighbourhoods**

This section considers how we can make the most of housing already available in the city as well as helping to grow and improve communities. The strategy looks at:

- How we can support and improve the private rented sector
- How we can tackle empty homes
- How we can make sure homes provide a healthy living environment



# IMPROVE: feedback

- Private Rented Sector tenancy training
- Accreditation to be made more attractive
- Monitor standards in the PRS better
- Financial assistance for owner occupiers to improve homes
- Community activities to improve neighbourhoods

6 respondents (32%) answered **housing** for this question.



# Chapter Three: SUPPORT

## Supporting vulnerable people to access and maintain housing

This section looks at how we can make sure the needs of some of the most vulnerable groups in the city are met through housing. The strategy considers actions to look at:

- How we work to prevent homelessness
- How we consider the impact of the cost of living crisis
- How we strengthen accommodation options available for survivors of domestic abuse
- How we help young people and care leavers access appropriate accommodation
- How we create a welcoming environment for refugees and asylum seekers
- How we strengthen relationships with the gypsy and traveller communities





# SUPPORT: feedback

8 respondents (50%) answered **housing** for this question.



- Tenancy training and support for Care Leavers
- Temporary accommodation for medical needs
- Bungalows for all vulnerable people not just over 55
- Refine homelessness prevention activities
- Supported accommodation for homeless and vulnerable people
- More joined up work with police and voluntary sector



# Next steps

- Multi agency working groups will drive strategy delivery
- Drafting of Housing Strategy and Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy to be completed 8<sup>th</sup> February
- Cabinet 16<sup>th</sup> March
- Launch event in April

