

Housing Strategy Consultation - Written Comments and Responses

| Q1. Do you agree with the priorities set out in the Strategy? | Response |
|---|---|
| The answers don't matter. You will build build build and there will be no infrastructure. Goodbye fields, hello gridlock. | The Housing Strategy doesn't control development, this relates to the Local Plan. Comment will be passed to the Planning Department. |
| Instead of huge housing estates being built to attract rich people from outside the area, and country, the focus should be on affordable housing for local families and young people from the area. | The Local Plan review has looked at housing need and this also incorporates the level of affordable housing. The Housing Allocations Policy looks at need and also includes residency criteria. Priority 1 - Delivering Affordable Housing is looking to maximise affordable housing in the borough. |
| It fails to tackle the core issue of uneven population growth into Kent. | This is outside of the control of the Council and the Housing Strategy. |
| Affordable housing such as park homes, given 12 months residency | This is a matter for planning, but licencing regulations would also needed to be considered. |
| Q4. What other priorities do you think should be included? | |
| For the council to build more council owed homes that are affordable. Where are the new council owned estates as in years gone by. | The Council's approach to this is covered in Priority 1 - Delivering Affordable Homes. However, due to financial and viability constraints there is a limited role for the Council in direct delivery. The creation of Swale Rainbow Homes Ltd is aimed at the Council delivery new homes in the borough. |
| Infrastructure, schools, police, health services, little things like that | This is the responsibility of the Local Plan not the Housing Strategy and these comments will be passed to the Planning Department. |
| To build on brownfield sites rather than on farms and countryside. | This would be determined through the planning system. |
| Norway had regional imbalance of population to the south like Kent solved by tax incentives for levelling up. Until that happens Kent will continue to be swamped and never able to rebalance resources and infrastructure to the resident population. | This is outside of the control of the Council. |
| Site provision for van campers | The Council has a regulation role for licencing but does not provide directly. |
| Park homes for older and retired people given 12 months occupancy | This is a matter for planning, but licencing regulations would also needed to be considered. |
| Q9. Do you have any comments about the housing strategy actions? | |
| It would be good to control the number of houses which are used as Airbnb and holiday lets; maybe tax landlords to discourage these properties which push up house prices and prevent local people from being able to buy. | This is outside of the control of the Council. |
| It is unfair on LAs in having to tackle problems that emigrate from a national failure to recognise the core problem best solved by a national solution without which a LA is likely to spend inordinate amount of time and limited resources with far less progress than can be mad3 by national intervention. | Noted. |
| No mention of Van Dwellers | The Council has a regulation role for licencing but does not provide directly. |
| The government believe that Park homes are the way forward for older people. Affordable bungalows which are not available on Sheppey. The whole of Kent has Park homes in community parks, why not Sheppey? | This is a matter for planning, but licencing regulations would also needed to be considered. |
| Service Improvement | |
| Offer an initial face to face triage service | This feedback is noted and will feed into the service review process. |
| More people answering phones and a face to face initial triage service | This feedback is noted and will feed into the service review process. |