

## EXETER CITY COUNCIL

### SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – COMMUNITY 4 SEPTEMBER 2012

#### UPDATE ON THE OLDER PERSONS HOUSING STRATEGY 2010-2015 ACTION PLAN

#### 1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 To update Members on the progress in delivering the Older Persons Housing Strategy 2010-2015 Action Plan. A copy of the Strategy is available in the Members' Room, on request from Member Services or on the Council's website at <http://www.exeter.gov.uk/index.aspx?articleid=12521>

#### 2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The older population will increase in Exeter by 39% over the next 20 years. This growing population needs consideration in terms of housing options, support and services. Exeter City Council recognises the implications of the increasing older population and wants to ensure that the older residents of the City age well and have good quality housing. The Council wants to be able to help people meet their housing and support needs as they grow older.
- 2.2 The aims of the strategy are to:-
- Anticipate, plan and satisfy the housing needs of the ageing population
  - Provide prevention and support services required for older people to remain living independently at home
  - Provide a range of good quality affordable housing options by making the best use of existing stock and suitable new build developments.
- 2.3 The updated Action Plan is attached at Appendix I. Over the past two years we have completed most of the actions outlined in the Action Plan and started others which are on-going. Some examples of the actions achieved are:
- Technical officers are now authorised to agree minor adaptations to prevent falls of older tenants.
  - The Lifetime Homes standard has been incorporated into the Residential Design Guide Supplementary Planning Document and Core Strategy.
  - We have publicised the availability of grants for home owners to areas known to have the poorest housing conditions.
  - An equity release product is now available through Wessex Home Loans
  - We have recently reviewed the Councils housing adaptation policy to allow the maximum use of the aids and adaptations budget and we follow the Disabled Facilities Grant model. Currently £450,000 is allocated each year to carry out aids and adaptations to our Council properties.
- 2.4 Due to changes in Devon County Council's funding for Targeted Support, Homes and Communities Agency grant and changes in Housing Revenue Account funding, some actions have not yet been completed (14a, 14g, 14h, 16a and 26e). Due to a drop in demand for some services, a few of the actions have been deleted (13a, 13b, 25a and 27d).

3. **RECOMMENDED** that Scrutiny Committee notes the progress made on the Action Plan for the Older Persons Housing Strategy 2010-2015.

**SARAH WARD**  
**ASSISTANT DIRECTOR HOUSING AND CONTRACTS**

**Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985 (as amended)**  
**Background papers used in compiling this report:**

Older Persons Housing Strategy 2010-2015