

Report to:	Cabinet	Date: 04 November 2026
Subject:	Approval to Undertake Public Consultation to Inform the Development of a Local Supported Housing Strategy for Bury	
Report of	Cabinet Member for Housing Services	

1.0 Summary

- 1.1 The Supported Housing (Regulatory Oversight) Act 2023 places a statutory duty on local authorities to prepare and publish a Local Supported Housing Strategy. The Strategy will provide the Council's strategic framework for understanding current and future supported housing need, identifying gaps in provision, improving outcomes for residents and informing future planning, commissioning, and investment decisions across the supported housing sector. The Council has appointed arc4 to support the development of the Strategy and accompanying delivery plan.
- 1.2 The Strategy will establish a five-year vision and set of priorities for supported housing in Bury. It will consider the housing and support needs of people who require accommodation with care, support or supervision to enable them to live independently, maintain wellbeing, prevent or recover from crisis, and achieve positive housing outcomes.
- 1.3 The Strategy will be developed through an evidence-led and co-produced approach, bringing together quantitative data, service intelligence, stakeholder expertise and the experiences of people who use, have used, or may require supported housing.
- 1.4 This report seeks Cabinet approval to undertake a six-week programme of consultation and engagement with residents, providers, partners and other stakeholders, to inform the development of the Strategy and five-year delivery plan and ensure that their views directly shape its priorities and actions.

2.0 Recommendation(s)

It is recommended that Cabinet:

- 2.1 Approve the commencement of a six-week public consultation and engagement programme to support the co-production and development of a Local Supported Housing Strategy for Bury.
- 2.2 Delegate authority to the Director of Housing to make any non-material amendments to the consultation and engagement programme, if required.

- 2.3 Note that following consultation and development of the Strategy, the proposed Local Supported Housing Strategy and five-year delivery plan will be presented to Cabinet for approval and adoption.

3.0 Reasons for recommendation(s)

- 3.1 National guidance emphasises that Local Supported Housing Strategies should be evidence led and developed in partnership with organisations who commission, refer into, deliver and regulate supported housing, alongside people with lived experience of supported housing services.
- 3.2 Undertaking a structured programme of consultation and engagement will strengthen the evidence base and ensure that local priorities are informed by both quantitative analysis and qualitative insight.
- 3.3 Meaningful engagement with residents and stakeholders, will help the Council better understand experiences of supported housing, identify unmet and emerging needs, understand barriers to accessing accommodation and support, and identify opportunities to improve pathways, outcomes and service quality where required. The consultation findings will directly inform the strategic priorities, actions and outcome measures contained within the Local Supported Housing Strategy and five-year delivery plan.

4.0 Alternative option considered and rejected

- 4.1 Develop the Local Supported Housing Strategy using existing evidence only, without a dedicated phase of public and lived experience consultation.
- 4.1.1 This option has been rejected as it would not fully reflect the principles of co-production set out within national guidance and may limit the Council's understanding of how supported housing services are experienced by residents and stakeholders. Quantitative evidence alone cannot adequately capture resident experiences, barriers to access, service quality issues, move-on challenges, aspirations for independent living or the outcomes achieved through supported housing.
- 4.1.2 Failure to undertake meaningful engagement could result in missed opportunities to identify hidden demand, unmet need, service gaps, and practical improvements that could strengthen future service planning and commissioning.
- 4.1.3 A dedicated consultation and engagement programme is therefore considered essential to ensuring that the Strategy is robust, inclusive, evidence based and responsive to local needs.

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5.0 Background and context

- 5.1 Supported housing provides accommodation alongside care, support or supervision for individuals who need assistance to live independently, avoid crisis, recover from challenging circumstances, or maintain their wellbeing and safety.
- 5.2 Supported housing plays a critical role within the wider housing, health and social care system by helping to:
- Prevent homelessness and repeat homelessness.
 - Promote independent living.
 - Support safe hospital discharge.
 - Reduce reliance on institutional care.
 - Enable recovery from mental ill health, substance misuse, and domestic abuse.
 - Support people with disabilities, long-term health conditions, and age-related support needs.
 - Provide pathways into employment, training, and community participation.
- 5.3 The Supported Housing (Regulatory Oversight) Act 2023 introduced new national arrangements aimed at improving oversight, quality, strategic planning, and value for money within the supported housing sector. As part of these arrangements, local authorities are required to prepare a Local Supported Housing Strategy setting out how supported housing needs will be understood and addressed within their area.
- 5.4 The Strategy will establish a five-year framework for supported housing across Bury and will include:
- A strategic vision and objectives.
 - An assessment of current and future need.
 - Analysis of supply, demand, and gaps in provision.
 - Strategic priorities for different client groups.
 - Plans to improve access, pathways, and move-on opportunities.
 - Priorities for quality, standards, and resident outcomes.
 - Partnership, governance, and commissioning arrangements.
 - Monitoring and performance measures.
 - A five-year delivery plan.
- 5.5 The Strategy will consider the needs of the thirteen priority client groups identified through national guidance and local evidence, including older people, people with learning disabilities, autistic people, people with mental health needs, people experiencing homelessness, care leavers, people

affected by domestic abuse, people with substance misuse issues, prison leavers and others who require supported housing.

- 5.6 The Council already holds a significant amount of quantitative and service intelligence to inform the needs assessment and is currently reviewing available evidence to identify and address any material gaps. Arc4 will support the Council in analysing this information and translating the findings into a comprehensive Local Supported Housing Strategy and delivery plan, with completion and adoption planned by 31 March 2027.

6.0 Consultation and engagement

- 6.1 A comprehensive programme of consultation and engagement will be undertaken to ensure that the Strategy reflects the experiences, aspirations and priorities of residents, providers, and partner organisations. The consultation will seek views from:

- People currently living in supported housing.
- People who have previously lived in supported housing.
- People seeking access to supported housing services.
- Older people using or considering supported housing.
- People with learning disabilities and autistic people.
- People with mental health needs.
- People with physical disabilities or sensory impairments.
- Young people transitioning from children's services and care leavers.
- People experiencing homelessness or rough sleeping.
- People affected by domestic abuse.
- People with drug or alcohol support needs and people leaving prison or asylum accommodation.
- Families, carers, and advocates.
- Supported housing providers.
- Registered providers.
- Health and social care partners.
- Voluntary, community, faith, and social enterprise organisations.
- Commissioners and statutory services.
- Probation services.
- Other organisations supporting vulnerable and excluded groups.
- Other stakeholders involved in the commissioning, referral, provision, or regulation of supported housing.

- 6.2 The consultation programme will explore current and future supported housing needs, gaps in provision, accessibility, service quality and resident experience, safeguarding and wellbeing, affordability, referral processes and pathways, move-on and flow through arrangements, partnership working and commissioning, and opportunities for service improvement and innovation. The findings, alongside the needs assessment and other evidence will be used to inform the strategic priorities and delivery plan.

7.0 Proposed methodology

- 7.1 The Council and arc4 will adopt a co-production approach throughout the development of the Strategy, ensuring that engagement activities are accessible, inclusive, and proportionate. These will include:
- An online consultation questionnaire.
 - A dedicated consultation webpage.
 - Targeted communications.
 - Stakeholder surveys.
 - Focus groups, workshops, one-to-one and small group options.
 - Facilitated discussions through trusted community organisations.
 - Engagement sessions with supported housing residents.
 - Easy read and alternative format materials.
 - Freephone telephone and e-mail engagement options.
 - Engagement supported by advocates, carers, and support workers where appropriate.
- 7.2 All consultation responses will be considered alongside evidence gathered through the needs assessment, to ensure the final Strategy reflects both strategic evidence and lived experience.

8.0 Next steps

- 8.1 Subject to Cabinet approval, the proposed six-week consultation and engagement programme will commence. The findings will be analysed alongside the supported housing needs assessment and other evidence sources. Arc4 will use the evidence gathered to prepare a draft Local Supported Housing Strategy and five-year delivery plan which will be reviewed and refined with key stakeholders prior to completion.
- 8.2 The final Local Supported Housing Strategy and accompanying delivery plan will be presented to Cabinet for approval and adoption, together with a summary of the consultation findings and stakeholder feedback.
- 8.3 Following adoption, implementation of the delivery plan will be monitored through appropriate governance arrangements, with progress reported periodically through the Council's established performance and oversight framework.

Links with the Corporate Priorities:

Development of the Local Supported Housing Strategy supports the Council's corporate priorities by helping residents who need care, support, or supervision to access suitable housing, live as independently as possible, prevent or recover from crisis, and achieve better health and wellbeing outcomes. Public and lived experience engagement will help ensure the Strategy reflects local needs and addresses inequalities in access to suitable housing and support.

The Strategy will also support more coordinated working across housing, adult social care, children's services, health, homelessness, domestic abuse, criminal justice, and the voluntary and community sector, providing a clearer framework for prevention, service pathways, future provision, and investment.

Equality Impact and Considerations:

The consultation will involve groups who may have protected characteristics under the Equality Act 2010 and people who may face additional barriers to participation. The engagement approach will therefore use accessible and inclusive formats, including easy-read or alternative materials, non-digital routes and support from trusted organisations, advocates, carers, or support workers where appropriate.

Engaging directly with people with lived experience will help identify whether supported housing needs, pathways or proposed priorities have different impacts on people because of age, disability, sex, race, and other protected characteristics, as well as on people experiencing socioeconomic disadvantage. Feedback will inform the Equality Impact Assessment for the final Strategy.

A full EQIA will be completed as the Strategy is finalised.

Environmental Impact and Considerations:

The environmental impact of the consultation itself is expected to be minimal. Digital engagement will be used where appropriate, alongside targeted face-to-face or supported engagement where this is necessary to make the process inclusive and accessible.

The final Local Supported Housing Strategy may include priorities relating to the quality, suitability, and future supply of accommodation. Any environmental implications arising from specific delivery actions or future development proposals will need to be considered through the relevant decision-making, planning, and commissioning processes.

Assessment and Mitigation of Risk:

Risk / opportunity	Mitigation
Low participation or limited responses from people with lived experience.	The consultation will be promoted through multiple channels including Council website, social media and targeted routes through supported housing providers, charities, voluntary

	and community organisations, and other relevant partners.
Exclusion - some people may find standard consultation methods inaccessible because of disability, communication needs, digital exclusion, trauma, or other barriers.	Use of accessible and alternative formats, non-digital routes, one-to-one and small group options, and support from advocates, carers, support workers, or trusted organisations where appropriate. Easy read, hard copies of consultation materials will be available. Offline engagement routes (freephone, post) will be provided to maximise participation.
Consultation fatigue or distress - people may be asked to repeat difficult experiences or may find engagement burdensome.	Engagement will be voluntary and proportionate, use of existing trusted relationships where possible, avoid duplication, make clear the purpose of engagement and how feedback will be used.
Data protection or confidentiality - personal information or sensitive experiences could be mishandled.	Secure data handling/anonymisation.

Procurement Implications

There are no procurement implications

Legal Implications:

The Council is required to have a Local Supported Housing Strategy and in development of it should have regard to the statutory guidance contained in Local Supported Housing Strategies, issued under section 2 of the Supported Housing (Regulatory Oversight) Act 2023. The guidance requires the Strategy to be informed by an assessment of local need, supported by appropriate governance arrangements and developed in collaboration with relevant partners. The proposals within this report support the Council in meeting those requirements.

The statutory guidance places significant emphasis on partnership working and stakeholder engagement in the development of Local Supported Housing Strategies. It expects local authorities to engage relevant partners, supported housing providers, health and social care bodies, residents, and people with lived experience. Consultation will assist the Council in ensuring that the Strategy is evidence-based, reflects local needs and priorities, and accords with the expectations of the statutory guidance.

Financial Implications:

There are no financial implications arising directly from this report.

Appendices:

None.

Background papers:

[Local Supported Housing Strategies – statutory guidance](#)

[Supported Housing \(Regulatory Oversight\) Act 2023](#)

Glossary of terms, abbreviations and acronyms used in this report.

Term	Meaning
arc4	A housing consultancy appointed by Bury Council to support development of the Local Supported Housing Strategy.
Local Supported Housing Strategy	A five-year strategy setting out local supported housing needs, priorities, and actions.
Supported housing	Accommodation provided alongside care, support or supervision to help people live independently, recover from, or prevent crisis, or move towards greater independence.