

## Housing & Homelessness Strategy

- National Priorities:
  - Welfare Reform
  - Supporting People
  - Affordable Rents & the Housing and Communities Agency
  - HRA Self-financing



## Housing & Homelessness Strategy

- Local Priorities:
  - Cheltenham Needs Analysis: Partnerships' Priorities
  - CBC Corporate Outcomes and Objectives
- Emerging Trends:
  - An increase in private rented accommodation
  - An increase in homelessness and affordability issues



## Our Vision:

'To enable residents to access and maintain suitable, affordable accommodation within communities that are safer, stronger and healthier.'



## Our Outcomes:

- To enable people to live independently for longer and to lead more healthy lives
- To maximise housing opportunities for those in housing need, whilst maintaining balanced communities
- To reduce homelessness
- To reduce carbon emissions within housing stock
- To reduce fuel poverty
- To improve the quality and safety of our homes
- To strengthen neighbourhoods and make them safer



## Our Priorities:

- To increase the provision of affordable housing
- To make best use of existing housing stock
- To improve access into suitable, affordable accommodation and helping households to stay in their homes for longer
- To tackle the causes of homelessness
- To revitalise our neighbourhoods



## Priority 1 – Increasing the Provision of New Affordable Housing

- Joint Core Strategy
- Accessing future funding streams
- Maximising Delivery



## Priority 2: Making Best Use of Existing Housing

- Improving energy efficiencies
- Improving Health & Safety Standards
- Improving Decent Homes Standards
- Tackling Empty Homes
- Programme of External Works
- Review of some sheltered housing units
- Prioritising the most vulnerable in the private sector



## Priority 3 – Improving Access into and Maintaining Suitable Accommodation

- Reviewing Gloucestershire Homeseeker – choice based lettings allocation scheme
- Improving access into the private rented sector:
  - Reviewing role of the Housing Options Service: tenancy management services?
  - Expanding Gloucestershire Homeseeker to include private sector housing
  - Supporting the development a Gloucestershire-wide Private Leasing Scheme



## Priority 3 - Improving Access into and Maintaining Suitable Accommodation

- Adaptations and Lifeline Alarm Service
- Review of Sheltered Housing and Services to Older People
- Making best use of Supported Housing and Floating Support Services



## Priority 4 – Tackling Homelessness

- Responding to the welfare reform
  - Housing Options Service: Supporting Tenants
  - The Role of the Advice and Inclusion Service
  - Tackling Under-occupation within social housing
- Tackling Rough Sleeping and those with complex needs
- Tackling youth homelessness
- Supporting Existing Initiatives
- Working in Partnership



## Priority 5 – Revitalising our Neighbourhoods

- Ensuring Housing Services contribute towards the emerging Cheltenham Priorities
- Targeting investment in areas of deprivation
- Tackling child poverty
- Promoting cohesion and inclusion
- Building Safer Estates
- Safeguarding
- Increasing Opportunities for Community Participation and Engagement



## Tenancy Strategy

- Fixed term or homes for life?
  - Under-occupation
  - Antisocial Behaviour/Rent Arrears
  - Financial Circumstances
- Potential impact of fixed term tenancies:
  - More homes?
  - Increased homelessness?
  - Enforceable?
  - Resource intensive?
  - Destabilised communities?

