

Adult & Community Services

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Dear John

Draft Extra Care Housing Commissioning Strategy

As part of the modernisation programme of care services within Devon, in response to the national and local agenda, the County Council has been working with Civis Consultancy to draft an Extra Care Housing Commissioning Strategy looking forward to 2020.

The draft Strategy identifies a current unmet need of 950 units of affordable mixed tenure extra care housing, rising to 1457 units by 2020. These units are required in 15 key market towns and the city where the demographics can sustain 50 bed schemes, which is considered the optimum scheme size from a financial viability perspective. Five of these areas are 'hot spots' which could potentially sustain more than one scheme. It is proposed that smaller, rural market town areas can meet their needs through the development of smaller clusters of 'close care' units where the 24/7 care and support is available from nearby residential / nursing care bases. I attach the draft Strategy for your attention.

The draft Strategy was discussed with the Devon Strategic Housing Group at their meeting on 24th April 2009 and met with a high level of agreement, subject to a few minor amendments/additions which have now been made. The aim is for all the Local Authorities in new Devon to formally agree the draft Strategy and for it to be reflected in local Housing Strategies.

As such, I am formally contacting you to seek your Authority's approval to this approach. I would be grateful if you could let me know if you will need to take the draft Strategy through your political processes and, if yes, the timescale for this.

Devon County Council anticipate going out to tender to create a preferred development partnership to deliver the Strategy in June/July this year. This timescale will enable the tender to run together with one to procure residential, nursing and intermediate care allowing synergies and links between the two commissioning plans to be fully exploited. We would very much like to run this tender in partnership with the housing authorities, given your vast experience in operating via preferred development partnerships. I would, therefore, be very grateful if you could indicate in your response to this letter your willingness, or otherwise, to be involved in the tender process.

I'd be grateful if you could let me have your initial response to this letter by Friday 15 May 2009.

Yours faithfully,

Alison Golby
Strategic Commissioning Manager (Housing)

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