



Title of Report:	Northern Ireland Housing Executive (NIHE) Commissioning Prospectus
Committee Report Submitted To:	PLANNING COMMITTEE
Date of Meeting:	26th June 2024
For Decision or For Information	To Note

Linkage to Council Strategy (2021-25)	
Strategic Theme	Cohesive Leadership
Outcome	Our elected members work collaboratively and make decisions on an evidence led basis and in line with its policies.
Lead Officer	Principal Planning Officer

Budgetary Considerations: Not applicable in this case	
Cost of Proposal	
Included in Current Year Estimates	
Capital/Revenue	
Code	
Staffing Costs	

Screening Requirements	Required for new or revised Policies, Plans, Strategies or Service Delivery Proposals. Not applicable in this case.		
Section 75 Screening	Screening Completed:	Yes/No	Date:
	EQIA Required and Completed:	Yes/No	Date:
Rural Needs Assessment (RNA)	Screening Completed	Yes/No	Date:
	RNA Required and Completed:	Yes/No	Date:
Data Protection Impact Assessment (DPIA)	Screening Completed:	Yes/No	Date:
	DPIA Required and Completed:	Yes/No	Date:

1.0 Purpose of Report

- 1.1** To present the Northern Ireland Housing Executive (NIHE) eighth Annual Commissioning Prospectus (2024/25 to 2026/27).

2.0 Background

- 2.1** NIHE wrote to the Council on 20th May 2024 (see Appendix 1) highlighting publication of its eighth annual Commissioning Prospectus. The Prospectus helps to meet the Housing Executive's statutory obligations, under the Housing (NI) Order 1981, which places responsibility on it for the assessment of social housing need.
- 2.2** NIHE produces the Prospectus to provide housing associations, developers, and other interested stakeholders with detailed information about the requirements for the provision of new social and affordable housing throughout Northern Ireland.
- 2.3** In particular, the prospectus presents data which will enable housing associations to make informed decisions about where to search for land and property to deliver new social and affordable housing within assessed housing need and strategic targets.
- 2.4** The Prospectus forms an integral part of the Social Housing Development Programme (SHDP) approved by the Minister (Department for Communities), identifying areas where there is a shortage of acquired development sites and where NIHE would welcome suitable scheme proposals.
- 2.5** The prospectus is updated and published annually to reflect the most recent assessment of local market issues and unmet housing needs. It is available to view at: [The Housing Executive - Commissioning prospectus \(nihe.gov.uk\)](https://www.nihe.gov.uk).

3.0 Recommendation

- 3.1** **It is recommended** that the Planning Committee note the content of the report.

Chief Executive Officer

20th May 2024

Dear CEO

I am pleased to inform you that the Housing Executive's eighth annual Commissioning Prospectus, for the period 2024/25 to 2026/27, has now been published on the Housing Executive's website and can be accessed through the link [The Housing Executive - Commissioning prospectus \(nihe.gov.uk\)](https://www.nihe.gov.uk/the-housing-executive-commissioning-prospectus).

The Commissioning Prospectus helps to meet the Housing Executive's statutory obligations, under the Housing (NI) Order 1981, which places responsibility on it for the assessment of social housing need and is aligned to the Three-Year Corporate Strategy high level priority "We will work with our partners to increase social housing supply to help meet identified need and we will build our capacity to borrow, invest in our stock and add to new supply."

The Commissioning Prospectus forms an integral part of the Social Housing Development Programme (SHDP) and provides both a strategic overview and local assessment of housing need and demand, enabling Housing Associations and other stakeholders to make informed decisions about where to search for land and property to deliver new social and intermediate housing within assessed housing need and strategic targets.

As a Statutory Partner in Community Planning, the Housing Executive strongly values the existing collaborative working with local Councils and is grateful for your support and the priority given to affordable housing through community planning outcomes. We also greatly appreciate the practical support provided by Council Planning Departments, and in particular, for prioritising social housing to ensure delivery in year of SHDP starts.

The Housing Executive looks forward to its continued engagement with your Council on those areas identified in the Commissioning Prospectus as being in acute housing need and to seek your assistance in bringing forward surplus lands that could facilitate meeting housing need and on future land use zonings as part of the Housing Executive's statutory role as a consultee in the Local Development Plan process.

Further information on the Commissioning Prospectus or on any site-specific queries is available by emailing the relevant Head of Regional Place Shaping as follows:

- [REDACTED] - Head of Regional Place Shaping (Belfast)
- [REDACTED] - Head of Regional Place Shaping (South)
- [REDACTED] - Head of Regional Place Shaping (North)

Yours sincerely,

[REDACTED]

Grainia Long
Chief Executive