

From

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Dear Clerk

Island Housing Needs

Earlier this year the council published its corporate plan and within it made a clear commitment to ensuring that “people have a place to call home and can live with independence”.

Following publication of the draft Island Planning Strategy for consultation earlier in 2019, there was, and indeed continues to be, significant concern expressed about the number of homes being planned for the Island. In October, the council confirmed that it would be challenging the housing targets for the Isle of Wight and started to prepare an evidence-based case that demonstrates the real housing needs of the Island and to consider some of the real challenges that the Island faces.

Many of you have already responded to the consultation draft planning strategy and I thank you for participating in this.

The Isle of Wight Council is continuing to work on the evidence-base for this work and on Monday 6 January 2020 will launch a local needs housing survey (running for six weeks). We will be encouraging households to complete this survey in order to ensure that we have the data and evidence that we need to understand the number and type of homes that are needed, as well as a better understanding of affordability issues of local people.

This survey is based on the survey that many of you have used in producing your own local housing needs surveys in the past. We would like to ask for your support in achieving this Island wide piece of work by encouraging local households in your area to complete the survey. We would like to reach a position where for each individual town and parish council we have a statistically relevant survey response which we can then work with you not only to inform the Island Planning Strategy, but also to help update your own local needs housing work. Indeed, for those areas which do not have a local survey in place already, this will help to put you in a positive position to support local needs. We would welcome your support to help raise awareness of this survey and we are targeting a response rate of at least 20 per cent for areas.

I would ask for your support in this work, encouraging your local residents to participate. We are developing promotional material to help advertise the survey which will be available around the

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launch date. I am also happy to discuss this in more detail with you if you would like to contact me, details available at the top of this letter. The survey will be live from Monday 6 January at the following link <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/IWHousingNeeds2020>.

As well as letting you know that we are working on capturing detailed evidence to present an alternative proposal to the housing numbers required by the standard methodology that the government has set out for all local authorities, we also want to ask if you have any additional information or further views on housing needs in your local area. Please email any comments you may have to oliver.boulter@iow.gov.uk.

I hope that you will support the approach that we are taking to reach a much better understanding of housing need and affordability on the Island and feel that you can support this by encouraging households to participate. I am aware that there may be some areas that have only recently undertaken surveys and I would welcome the opportunity to discuss with you how we can work together to understand local need in your area without duplicating information.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'C Ashman', written in a cursive style.

Chris Ashman
Director of Regeneration
Isle of Wight Council