

**Consultation Response from KC,  
Strategic Housing**

**2025/91531 land off, Leeds Road, Heckmondwike, WF16 9DB**

**Demolition of existing semi-detached houses and associated buildings, and construction of 51 dwellings, including associated access and other associated works**

**Date Responded: 20/08/2025**

**Responding Officer: OG**

**Responding Ref: SH/25/91531**

Local planning policy for affordable housing is set out in the Kirklees Local Plan (adopted February 2019) under policy LP11 (Housing Mix and Affordable Housing). The Affordable Housing and Housing Mix SPD (adopted March 2023) provides detailed guidance and additional information to help implement Local Plan policy LP11 (Housing Mix and Affordable Housing).

**Affordable Housing Contribution**

**Affordable housing policy:** The council seeks to secure 20% of dwellings on sites with 11 or more dwellings, for affordable housing. On-site provision (housing) is preferred, however where the council considers it appropriate, a financial contribution to be paid in lieu of on-site provision will be acceptable.

**Affordable allocation for this development:** Based on a total of 51 units, a minimum of **10 units** would be sought as affordable housing.

For this development, the applicant proposes 9 affordable units, which the Council doesn't support because it is under the minimum threshold.

**Tenure:** In terms of affordable tenure split, across the district Kirklees works on a split of 55% Social or Affordable Rent to 45% Intermediate housing. A minimum of 25% of the affordable homes must be First Homes – forming part of the intermediate allocation.

*Example – For a development of 100 units, a minimum of 20 of the unit should be affordable homes. Of those 20 unit, 11 homes (55%) should be social or affordable rent. 9 homes (45%) should be intermediate homes – 5 of which must be First Homes and the remaining 4 can be any form of intermediate tenure that the applicant wishes.*

For this development, **6 homes should be affordable or social rent and 4 should be intermediate dwellings.** Of the 4 intermediate dwellings, **3 homes must be First Homes, and the other 1 home can be any form of intermediate tenure** that the applicant wishes.

Due to the shortage of social rented properties across the district, Strategic Housing's preference is for social rented units over affordable rented units.

*See definitions of social rent, affordable rent and intermediate at the end of this consultation response.*

**Housing Mix**

**Ward:** Liversedge and Gomersal

**SHMA Market Area:** Batley and Spen

**Kirklees Strategic Housing Market Assessment (SHMA) sub area context:** The Affordable Housing and Housing Supplementary Planning Document (SPD), adopted March 2023, sets out housing mix tables for each sub-area. The proposal falls within the Batley and Spen sub-area, so the following table applies based on local need.

<i>Batley and Spen</i>	<b>Market Housing</b>	<b>Affordable Rent</b>	<b>Affordable Intermediate</b>
<b>1 and 2-bed</b>	30-60%	40-79%	60+%
<b>3-bed</b>	20-40%	0-19%	20-39%
<b>4+ bed</b>	15-35%	0-19%	0-19%



**The table above should be used as a starting point for both market housing and affordable housing mix. It is acknowledged that there will be local circumstances, within the sub-areas, which could justify a different mix of housing to those set out in this SPD. Proposals which depart from the guidance set out in this SPD will need to provide evidence-based justification through the planning application process.**

**Type:** The applicant proposes a mix of 11 x 2-bedroom homes, 28 x 3-bedroom homes, 12 x 4-bedroom homes. Further detail on the housing mix for each tenure is required from the applicant.

### **Nomination Agreements**

In accordance with the Council's Housing Allocations Policy, the Council seeks nomination agreements with Registered Providers in Kirklees for both social and affordable rented new build properties. There may be exceptions to this if they are negotiated at the development stage.

Discount Market Sale and First Homes are administered by the developer at the point of sale, with oversight and required approval by the council.

### **NDSS**

The council desires that all developments meet the Government's Nationally Described Space Standards, which set out minimum requirements for internal gross floor area of new dwellings at a certain level of occupancy. The council recognises the nationally described space standards as best practice and will seek to ensure high quality living environments.

This proposal does meet Nationally Described Space Standard for the majority of house types, with the exception of the Linton house type, which is a 2-bedroom, 3-storey house. This is because there is no NDSS guidance for a 2-bedroom, 3-storey home.

However, there is also a discrepancy regarding the stated area of the Linton house type between two plans that have been appended to the application. In the schedule of accommodation found on the Site Layout plan, the area of each Linton unit is listed as 700 sq. ft, and therefore 65 sqm. However, on the plans showing the interior of the Linton house type, the area is listed as 744 sq. ft, or 72 sqm. As a 2b3p 2-storey home must be at least 70 sqm, and an additional storey would increase the required space, the latter figure would be more likely to meet space standards.

### **Design**

The architecture of the affordable homes should be indistinguishable from the market housing in terms of the quality of materials and finishing, the architectural details, style, and space standards. The approach to external landscaping and on-plot car parking should be indistinguishable from the market dwellings.

The layout of affordable dwellings should be dispersed throughout the site in smaller clusters, avoiding large groupings of affordable dwellings together that may reinforce social exclusion. Affordable dwellings should be well integrated within the site layout and not located at specific areas at the edges of sites.

The proposed layout shows that the affordable homes are not distributed evenly throughout the development. All proposed nine affordable units are clustered together on one side of the site, and therefore, Strategic Housing does not support the current proposal.

### **Definitions of Affordable Housing**

**Social Rent** – must comply with the following (i) rent set in line with the Government’s rent policy for social rented affordable housing and (ii) the landlord is Registered Provider.

**Affordable Rent** - must comply with the following (i) rent which is no more than 80% of local market rent (inclusive of service charges where applicable), calculated using RICS approved valuation methods (ii) the landlord is a Registered Provider and (iii) includes provision to remain an affordable price for future eligible households as defined in Annex 2 of the National Planning Policy Framework (or any future guidance or initiative that replaces or supplements it).

**Intermediate Housing** – includes Shared Ownership, Rent to Buy, Discount Market Sale and First Homes. Previously included Starter Homes but this tenure has now been withdrawn by the Government and replaced by First Homes.

### **Build to Rent**

Build to Rent is purpose-built housing that is typically 100% rented out. It can form part of a wider multi-tenure development comprising either flats or houses, but should be on the same site and/or contiguous with the main development. Schemes will usually offer longer tenancy agreements of three years or more, and will typically be professionally managed stock in single ownership and management control.

It is expected that most types of affordable homes, those being social rent, affordable rent, and shared ownership, will be delivered in partnership with a Registered Provider (RP), who will own and manage these types of affordable homes. This is because RPs are regulated by Homes England and have satisfied the government’s regulatory requirements for the provision and management of affordable housing. Affordable housing in Build to Rent developments will be provided as Affordable Private Rent and will be managed by the same build to rent landlord as the market rented units.

Further details regarding Build to Rent can be found in the NPPF. If the applicant is proposing to deliver a Build to Rent scheme, please contact [housing.regeneration@kirklees.gov.uk](mailto:housing.regeneration@kirklees.gov.uk) for further guidance.

### **Vacant Building Credit**

Vacant building credit is national policy set out in the NPPG and provides an incentive for brownfield development on sites containing vacant buildings. Where a vacant building is brought back into any lawful use, or is demolished to be replaced by a new building, the developer should be offered a financial credit equivalent to the existing gross floorspace of the vacant buildings when the local planning authority calculates any affordable housing contribution. This will apply in calculating either the number of affordable housing units to be provided within the development or where an equivalent financial contribution is being provided.

Affordable housing contributions may be required for any increase in floorspace.

The Local Planning Authority (LPA) will determine on a case by case basis whether a building is vacant or abandoned. As a general principal to qualify for the vacant building credit a building should be vacant at the time a planning application is registered. The LPA will consider case law where a dispute arises about whether a building is abandoned rather than vacant. The credit is only applicable to relevant vacant buildings. The LPA will not accept, for example, sheds and non-permanent buildings as being relevant for the purposes of calculating a vacant building credit.

Further information on vacant building credit is set out in the NPPG.

Please note that where existing floorspace totals are deducted from the floorspace of the proposed residential development, floorspace that will be used for anything other than residential accommodation is not included.

If the applicant wishes to apply for Vacant Building Credit, please contact [housing.regeneration@kirklees.gov.uk](mailto:housing.regeneration@kirklees.gov.uk) to find out what further evidence is required.