



**Good Practice**

**Objective**

<p><b>Joint working across local authority functions</b></p>	<p>For planning to be an integral positive force with enabling, jointly owning the problem of housing affordability, and the solution.</p>
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**Detail**

The Enabling and Implementation team plays host to Planners who use their expertise of the planning system to bring sites forward and track implementation of projects, as well as managing the resources of the [S106](#) monies for affordable housing. Similarly, the policy team hosts a housing strategy expert. This 'hosting' approach has helped forge positive links to the core strategy.

Internal collaboration is strengthened by reliance increasingly placed on the newly introduced Shropshire [choice based letting](#) system Home Point as a means of assessing local housing needs without the delays associated with traditional local needs surveys. Close working arrangements are also fostered through collaboration on the review of the Housing Strategy and embedding strategic housing issues, for instance the condition of existing stock and an aging population into spatial planning.

## Outcomes

In policy development terms the fact that the housing Strategy and Local Development Framework are emerging from the same team through a process of internal collaboration has meant a consistency of approach with less “tension” over interpretation of corporate ambition and community wishes as expressed through the Sustainable Community Strategy. The Housing policy post within the policy team has been critical to maintaining strong lines of communication and in identifying ongoing areas of mutual interest in commissioning an older persons study for instance.

A sense of mutual achievement is stressed through a focus on delivery and the production of a quarterly magazine “Developing Times” is much appreciated, not least by the Portfolio holder for Housing and the [Affordable Housing Champion](#) who act as advocates for affordable housing. The joint role is underpinned by joint presentations, for instance those to Parish Councils by the Housing Portfolio Holder and the Head of Strategy and Policy.

The emphasis of positive joint working has been around tackling delivery challenges once they have been identified. Thus much has relied on a good understanding of the local housing markets, constraints and viability issues and then having a clear approach to make the most of what had already worked well in Shropshire and elsewhere to provide short term fixes whilst beginning a longer process of aligning all the policy ducks.

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