

Cheshire & Warrington Rural Housing Task Group (RHTG)

Terms of Reference

Aims of the Group

1. To increase the supply of new rural affordable and community-led housing in Cheshire and Warrington
2. To provide advice and support to the work of the Cheshire & Warrington Rural Housing Enabler (RHE)
3. To monitor and review the delivery of rural affordable and community-led housing in Cheshire & Warrington
4. To work collaboratively and strategically to unblock barriers to delivery of rural affordable and community-led housing
5. To raise the profile of rural affordable and community-led housing with communities, local authorities (including elected Members), landowners, housing associations and developers
6. To promote the benefits of rural affordable and community-led housing as a catalyst for developing a sustainable and inclusive economy in rural areas
7. To influence local authority policies and strategies to support delivery of rural affordable housing and community-led housing
8. To identify common themes and issues relevant to the Programme, explore solutions and agree individual and / or actions where appropriate
9. To promote the Rural Housing Task Group

The role of the Group Members is to:

1. Provide strategic direction and set priority areas of work for the Cheshire & Warrington RHE Programme.
2. Contribute to the identification of land in Cheshire & Warrington for the potential development of rural affordable and community-led housing.
3. Positively lobby on issues related to rural affordable and community-led housing.
4. Work with the RHE on rural affordable and community-led housing schemes at appropriate stages of the development process.
5. Help secure funding for continuation of the RHE programme from April 2025.
6. Inform the RHE of housing and planning policy matters that are relevant to rural affordable and community-led housing.
7. Identify membership of the Rural Housing Task Group and send an appropriate representative of the organisation to Group meetings.
8. Meet a minimum of 3 times per year.
9. Operate with a quorum of 4 members not including representatives of Cheshire Community Action. The 4 members should include at least 1 RP representative and 1 local authority representative.

The role of Cheshire Community Action and the RHE in relation to the Rural Housing Task Group is:

1. To provide timely and relevant information to inform discussion and decisions required by the Group.
2. To chair meetings, and record decisions and actions agreed by the Group.
3. RHE to work with and support parish councils embarking on affordable housing schemes to select an RP from the Group. This support to continue through to the end of the development process.
4. RHE to present regular progress reports to members of the Group and to liaise with individual members of the Group over local schemes, as appropriate.

Links with other partnerships, structures and organisations:

The RHTG will feed into the agendas of other structures, partnerships and organisations with information, advice and guidance on how rural affordable and community-led housing contributes to developing a sustainable and inclusive economy in rural areas. These include:

1. Cheshire and Warrington Rural Strategy Group
2. Cheshire and Warrington Housing Alliance
3. Local Authority Housing Boards

This is not an exhaustive list, therefore the RHTG may feed into other structures as appropriate.