

HARTLEY HOUSING NEEDS SURVEY – MARCH 2024



The Rural and Community
Housing Enabling Service

In partnership with the Hartley Parish Council
Neighbourhood Plan Group

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INTRODUCTION

Kent's Rural and Community Housing Enabling service (RACE) undertook a local Housing Needs Survey in the parish of Hartley. The survey was commissioned by the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group of Hartley Parish Council.

Housing Needs Surveys investigate the affordable housing needs of people who live in or have close ties to a parish, town or rural area and provide an independent report of that need, using a transparent and robust methodology. In addition, they investigate the needs of older households of any tenure needing to downsize or move to more suitable housing for their needs.

The Hartley Housing Needs Surveys is valid for 5 years, to March 2029.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The 2021 ['Parish Councillors' Guide to Rural Affordable Housing'](#) states that 'Across the country there is a lack of affordable housing to rent or buy in many villages, in some there is none at all. This causes hardship for people across the generations, young people just starting out on an independent life, families trying to provide for their children and older people who have lived in the village for most of their lives but whose growing frailty means they can no longer manage in their current home.' Due to high property prices within the Sevenoaks District, the same challenges arise in more urban settlements and towns.

The Kent Rural Housing Protocol ['A Guide to Developing Affordable Homes in Rural Communities'](#) states that 'Within the County of Kent, most land (85%) is classed as "rural" and over 40% of businesses in Kent are based in rural areas. KHG recognise that provision of affordable housing is vital to ensure that communities continue to thrive and prosper.'

Small developments of local needs housing can provide affordable homes for local people, thereby enabling them to stay in their community, benefit from family and friends' networks and contribute to local life. This can make a real difference to the sustainability of communities and the vitality of local services and amenities.

The housing needs of older people has been a subject of concern given the growing numbers in that age group whose needs are not being met by the market. A nine-month enquiry starting in 2017 on Housing and Care for Older People concluded in their report¹ that 'policy makers must recognise the growing housing needs of older people living in the countryside. It recommends that Local Planning Authorities ensure provision of new homes for older people, noting the value of both the building of small village developments "perhaps six bungalows on an unused scrap of land" or larger scale retirement schemes in towns close by.'

RACE is an independent service for Kent, delivered through the [Kent Housing Group](#) and is supported by Local Authorities across Kent and Medway, including Sevenoaks District Council. RACE's Rural Housing Enablers (RHE) will undertake a housing needs survey, analyse the results, and where appropriate, help identify potential suitable sites for the development of new local needs housing, i.e. Rural Exceptions Sites, or to secure a proportion of the affordable housing to be provided on larger sites to meet the needs of local people, i.e. Local Lettings Plans.

If new local needs housing is to be developed on a Rural Exceptions Site, a partnership will be established between the Parish and or Town Council, the preferred housing provider, e.g. Housing Association, and the Local Authority. Proposals for new local needs housing will be developed and

¹ [Rural Housing for an Ageing Population](#): Preserving Independence. Happi 4- The Rural HAPPI Inquiry. April 2018. Jeremy Porteus

the community consulted. The independent role of the RHE helps to ensure any eventual local needs housing scheme proceeds smoothly and for the benefit of the community.

HOUSING IN HARTLEY

The Census 2021 tells us 89% of households in Hartley are owner occupiers, 9.7% live in social housing and 7.5% live in private rented housing or are living rent free. The housing stock comprises 11.3% flats and 88.3% houses or bungalows.

There are a total of 215 social housing properties in Hartley, with the majority owned by West Kent Housing Association. This follows the transfer of the Sevenoaks Council housing stock in 1989. Social housing is let in accordance with the Sevenoaks District Allocation Policy or direct by the landlord Housing Association. There are currently no local needs housing schemes in the area where priority would be given to those with a strong local connection to Hartley. This means social housing vacancies are allocated to those with a connection to the Sevenoaks District, i.e. the new tenant is unlikely to necessarily have a local connection to Hartley.

High property prices mean that some local people are unable to afford a home in Hartley. At the time of writing the report the cheapest property for sale was a 2-bed house for £300,000; for a first-time buyer to afford this property an estimated 10% deposit of £30,000 would be required along with an income of approximately £60,000 based on a mortgage of 4.5 x income. There was a 1-bedroom cottage/bungalow available for £350,000; a deposit of £35,000 and an income £70,000 would be required. Only one property was found available in the private rented sector, it was a 1-bedroom apartment for £1,200 per calendar month; an income of approximately £48,000 would be required to afford this property (affordability is based on rent being no more than 30% gross income).

SURVEY METHODOLOGY

An A5 postcard providing information and online links for completion of the survey was posted to every household in Hartley in January 2024. Only residents with a housing need were asked to respond; options were provided for those unable to use the online method. 2,334 surveys were distributed with 24 completed surveys returned.

SUMMARY

Of the 24 returns, a need for up to 9 affordable homes, for the following local households was identified:

- 2 single people
- 6 families with children
- 1 other type of household
- 1 of the 9 households include an older person
- 4 of the households live in Hartley and 5 live outside and have indicated they have a local connection to Hartley.

In addition to the above, there was a requirement for 11 open market properties for older homeowners needing to downsize/move to more suitable housing for their needs.

ANALYSIS AND RESULTS

24 surveys were completed. 4 surveys were disallowed for the following reasons:

1 x respondent did not live in Hartley or indicate that they had a connection with the parish.

2 x respondent did not want affordable housing and were not older people.

1 x insufficient information given to assess housing need.

Identified need for Affordable Housing

Total Number of Affordable Homes Required	9
Respondent Current Location	4 x live in Hartley 5 x live outside Hartley
Respondent Current Housing	2 x private rented sector 1 x local authority 2 x renting from Housing Association 3 x living with relatives 1 x other (Sofa surfing)
Household Composition	2 x single people 6 x families 1 x other
Tenure Preference (more than one choice allowed)	8 x Affordable Rent 4 x Shared Ownership 3 x First Homes 1 x Open market 1 x Self-Build
Level Access Housing Required	2
Interest in cohousing for older people indicated	1
Number of older households requiring affordable housing	1
Analysis shows that only 2 respondents indicated having a deposit towards a low-cost home ownership option. This indicates that the majority need is for rented affordable housing, i.e. social housing.	

Identified need for alternative housing for older homeowners.

Total Number of Homes Required	11
Respondent Current Location	11 x live in Hartley
Respondent Current Housing	11 x owner occupier
Household Composition	1 x single person 1 x family 1 x other 8 x couples
Tenure Preference (more than one choice allowed)	11 x Open Market 2 x Self-Build
Level Access Housing Required	5
Type of housing required (more than one choice allowed)	2 x house 8 x bungalow 1 x cohousing for older people 1 x other (house and annex for elderly)
Number of Bedrooms Required	8 x 2 beds 2 x 3 beds 1 x 4 beds

ADDITIONAL INDICATION OF LOCAL HOUSING NEEDS

Information obtained from the Sevenoaks District Housing Register shows that of the 891 active applicants currently registered, 32 have indicated they have a local connection to Hartley, requiring the following social housing: 12 x 1 bedroom, 15 x 2 bedrooms, 4 x 3 bedroom and 1 x 4 bedrooms.

CONCLUSION

The Hartley Housing Needs Survey demonstrates that at least **9 new affordable homes** are required to meet the needs of local people. From the responses received it demonstrates at least **11 open market properties for older homeowners** wanting to downsize or move to more suitable housing, are required.

The housing needs survey is an important source of evidence in measuring the housing needs of local people. Complementary indicators of housing need, including data from the Sevenoaks District Housing Register, verified local registrations of interest held by partner Housing Associations and data captured through ongoing engagement within the local community, can also provide suitable robust evidence. The Housing Needs Survey together with complementary indicators, ensure local housing needs data remains valid over a five-year period. All such evidence may be used to support the delivery of new affordable homes to meet the needs of local people.



HARTLEY PARISH HOUSING NEEDS SURVEY

The Rural and Community Housing Enabling service (RACE) is working with the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group of Hartley Parish Council to establish whether there is a need for affordable housing and/or housing for older residents including current homeowners, in the parish of Hartley.

It is widely recognised that people living on low or even average incomes in rural areas can face real difficulties trying to find a secure and affordable home within the village they live and/or work in. That's why RACE are working with Hartley Parish Council to understand what the local housing need is and how local people can be supported to stay close to their support networks, work or education. We also know that some older people in rural areas, including homeowners, can struggle to find alternative housing that better suits their needs whilst enabling them to remain in their community.

This survey is designed to see if such housing is needed in Hartley for people with strong local connections (the local connection criteria can be seen at Q6).

Details on how to return the survey are at the end of this form.

If you or anyone in your household has a housing need, even if they've had to move away to find housing elsewhere, please complete this survey by 14th February 2024. Households might be single people, couples or families. It is only necessary to complete this survey if you feel you are in housing need. Please complete one survey per household in housing need. The survey should take no more than 15 mins to complete.

The findings of this survey will be produced in a report and published on the Hartley Neighbourhood Plan website in March 2024 at www.hartleynp.org.uk To find out more about RACE go to www.kenthousinggroup.org.uk/race If you are unable to access these websites but would like to know more, please use the contact details at the end of this form.

Rural and Community Enabling (RACE) is the data controller for any personal information collected in this survey. Your information will be used to understand the housing need in the surveyed area. Collection and processing is being conducted under the public task lawful basis. We will always anonymise your data before using it in any publically available reports. We won't share your personal information with any third parties unless we are required or permitted to do so by law. For more information about your data protection rights please see our data protection pages Privacy Policy Kent Housing Group or contact the Data Protection lead at RACE@ashford.gov.uk

1. Are you in need of affordable housing? (Housing Association rented housing at 50%-80% of open market costs. Shared ownership (part rent/part buy). First Homes - purchase with a minimum 30% discount)

- ☐ Yes
☐ No

2. Are you an older person/household wanting to downsize/move to more suitable housing for your needs?

☐ Yes
☐ No

3. When do you need new housing?

☐ Now
☐ Within the next 3 years

4. If you currently live in Hartley, do you wish to stay there?

☐ Yes
☐ No
☐ N/A

5. If you live outside of Hartley, do you wish to return?

☐ Yes
☐ No
☐ N/A

6. What is your connection with Hartley? Please tick any that apply

*immediate family = mother/father, children, brother/sister. Extended family will only be considered if they have played an important role in the applicant's upbringing.

**The applicant's place of work must be located in the parish

- ☐ I currently live in the parish and have done so continuously for the last 3 years
☐ I have previously lived in the parish and have immediate* family who currently live there and have done so continuously for the last 10 years
☐ I have lived in the parish for a total of 5 out of the last 10 years
☐ I am in permanent full time** employment in the parish
☐ I need to move to the parish to take up permanent full time** employment
☐ I am full time self-employed and the majority of my work is in the parish
☐ I provide an important service in the parish that requires me to live locally e.g. unpaid carer, school crossing patrol etc.

7. What is your current housing situation?

- ☐ Private rented
☐ Renting from Local Authority
☐ Renting from housing association
☐ Shared ownership
☐ Owner occupier
☐ Living with relatives
☐ Other

Please specify

8. How many bedrooms does your current home have?

- ☐ 1
☐ 2
☐ 3
☐ 4
☐ 5+

9. What type of household will be living in the new accommodation?

- ☐ Single person
☐ Couple
☐ Family
☐ Other

Please specify

10. What size will your household be in the new accommodation (total number of people)?

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1 person | <input type="checkbox"/> 5 people |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 2 people | <input type="checkbox"/> 6 people |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 3 people | <input type="checkbox"/> 7 people |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 4 people | <input type="checkbox"/> 8 people |

Please use the boxes below to state the age and gender of each person who will be living in the new accommodation (include yourself).

11.

Age

Person 1	<input type="text"/>
Person 2	<input type="text"/>
Person 3	<input type="text"/>
Person 4	<input type="text"/>
Person 5	<input type="text"/>
Person 6	<input type="text"/>
Person 7	<input type="text"/>
Person 8	<input type="text"/>

12.

Gender

Person 1	<input type="text"/>
Person 2	<input type="text"/>
Person 3	<input type="text"/>
Person 4	<input type="text"/>
Person 5	<input type="text"/>
Person 6	<input type="text"/>
Person 7	<input type="text"/>
Person 8	<input type="text"/>

13. Which tenure would best suit your housing need?

Indicate any options that apply

- ☐ Affordable Rent - rent levels are between 50%-80% of open market rent
- ☐ Shared ownership - part rent/part buy
- ☐ First Homes - purchase with a minimum 30% discount. Maximum price after discount is £250,000
- ☐ Open Market
- ☐ Self-Build - see your local authority self and custom build register. Call Sevenoaks District Council on 01732 227000

14. What type of housing would you prefer?

Indicate any options that apply

- ☐ Flat
- ☐ House
- ☐ Bungalow
- ☐ Level access accommodation suitable for older persons/persons with disabilities without support
- ☐ Level access accommodation suitable for older persons/persons with disabilities with support e.g. extra care
- ☐ Cohousing for older people - a small development of self-contained homes for older people that includes shared spaces e.g. communal vegetable garden. The group will influence the design of the development and control its on-going management
- ☐ Other

Please specify

15. How many bedrooms would you need in new accommodation?

Please note - If you need affordable rented housing, your local authority housing register allocation policy will determine how many bedrooms you would be eligible for.

- ☐ 1
- ☐ 2
- ☐ 3
- ☐ 4

16. Do you or a member of your household have any particular or specialised housing requirements e.g. due to a disability or special need?

- ☐ No
- ☐ Yes

If you answered Yes, please state what they are

17. Please state the total gross annual income of the household in housing need (joint if a couple). Do not include housing benefit or council tax benefit.

- ☐ Under £10,000
- ☐ £10,000 - £15,000
- ☐ £15,000 - £20,000
- ☐ £20,000 - £25,000
- ☐ £25,000 - £30,000
- ☐ £30,000 - £35,000
- ☐ £35,000 - £40,000
- ☐ £40,000 - £50,000
- ☐ £50,000 - £60,000
- ☐ £60,000 - £80,000
- ☐ £80,000 +

18. If you are interested in Shared Ownership or First Homes, please tell us how much money you can raise towards a deposit on a new home

19. Why are you seeking a new home? Tick any that apply

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Current home in need of major repair | <input type="checkbox"/> Current home too expensive |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Current home affecting health | <input type="checkbox"/> Setting up home with partner |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Alternative accommodation due to age/infirmity | <input type="checkbox"/> To move to a better/safer environment |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Homeless/threatened with homelessness | <input type="checkbox"/> To be nearer family |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Need smaller home | <input type="checkbox"/> Other |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Disability/disabled | <input type="checkbox"/> Access problems |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Employment | <input type="checkbox"/> Private tenancy ending |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Retirement | <input type="checkbox"/> Increased security |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Divorce/separation | <input type="checkbox"/> First independent home |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Difficulty maintaining current home | <input type="checkbox"/> Need larger home |

Please specify

20. Are you registered on your local authority housing register?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

21. We may wish to contact you again to update you on any local housing opportunities. If you are happy to do so, please provide your name and email or phone number. These will not be passed to any third parties.

Name:

Email, home address or phone number:

Thank you for completing this survey.

You can return this form in the following ways: Contact Helen Boden, the Parish Council Clerk on 01474 709441 or drop it in an envelope to The Parish Council Office, Hartley Library, Ash Road, Hartley Longfield Kent DA3 8EL. **Call RACE** on 07880 151872 or **post back to:** RACE, Kent Housing Group, Civic Centre, Tannery Lane, Ashford, TN23 1PL

To apply for affordable rented housing you must register on Sevenoaks District Council's Housing Register. If you would like to register go to www.kenthomechoice.org.uk or contact Sevenoaks District Council on 01732 227000

If you are interested in Shared Ownership and/or First Homes, please call Sevenoaks District Council on 01732 227000 for more information.

Appendix 2 – survey data, included respondents (all questions answered by respondents who were not excluded from the findings see page 5).

HARTLEY HNS DATA OF INCLUDED RESPONDENTS

This report was generated on 02/04/24. Overall 20 respondents completed this questionnaire. The report has been filtered to show the responses for 'All Respondents'. A total of 20 cases fall into this category.

The following charts are restricted to the top 12 codes. Lists are restricted to the most recent 100 rows.

Are you in need of affordable housing? (Housing Association rented housing at 50%-80% of open market costs. Shared ownership (part rent/part buy). First Homes - purchase with a minimum 30% discount)



Are you an older person/household wanting to downsize/move to more suitable housing for your needs?



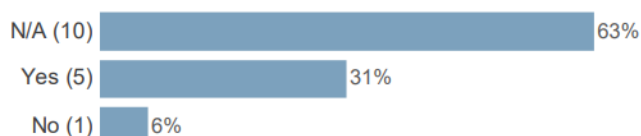
When do you need new housing?



If you currently live in Hartley, do you wish to stay there?



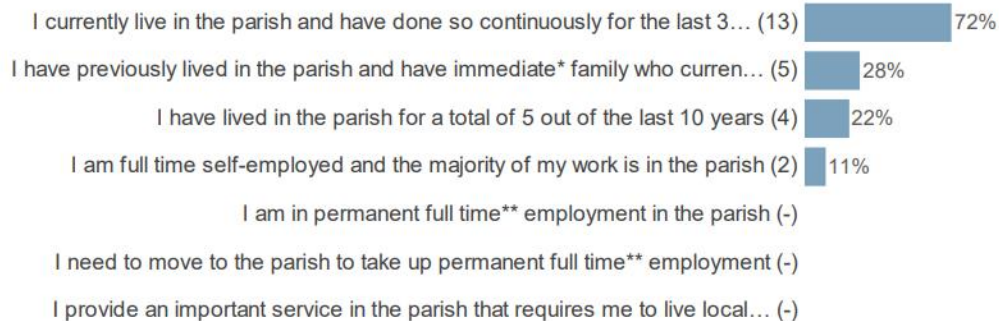
If you live outside of Hartley, do you wish to return?



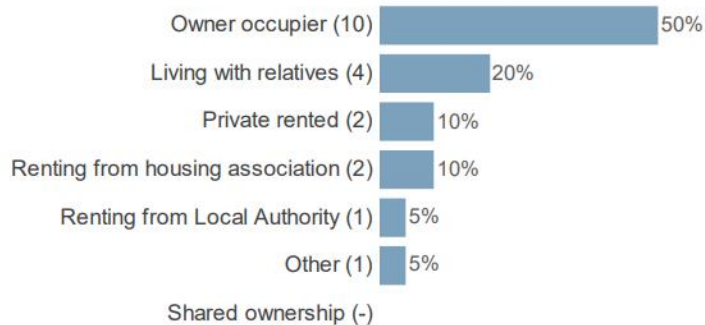
What is your connection with Hartley? Please tick any that apply

*immediate family = mother/father, children, brother/sister. Extended family will only be considered if they have played an important role in the applicant's upbringing.

**The applicant's place of work must be located in the parish



What is your current housing situation?



Please specify

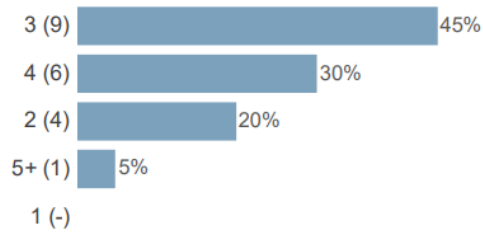
Cchs

Sofa Surfing, waiting for housing

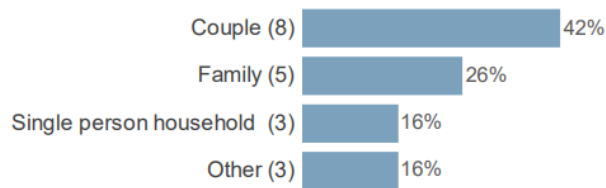
I live with my mother. I am almost 40 years old and need to move out.

living in housing with 1 year old baby

How many bedrooms does your current home have?



What type of household will you be in new accommodation?



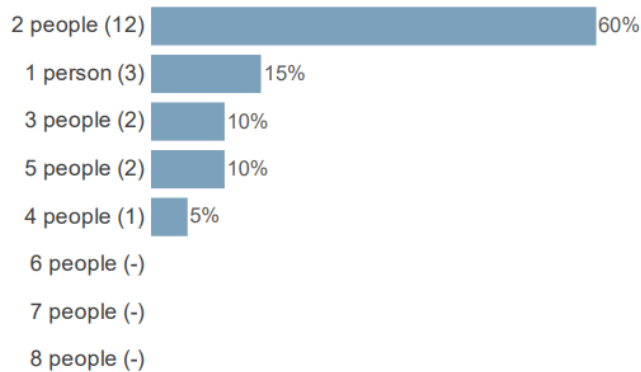
Please specify

1 adult 1 toddler

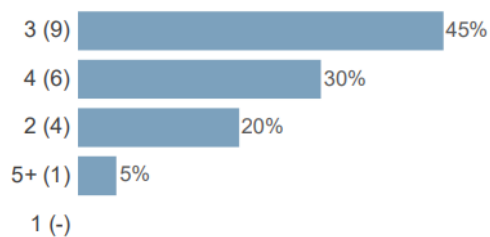
Mother and autistic daughter

Looking after elderly relatives

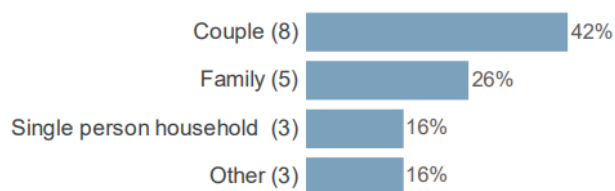
What size of household will you be in new accommodation (total number of people)?



How many bedrooms does your current home have?



What type of household will you be in new accommodation?



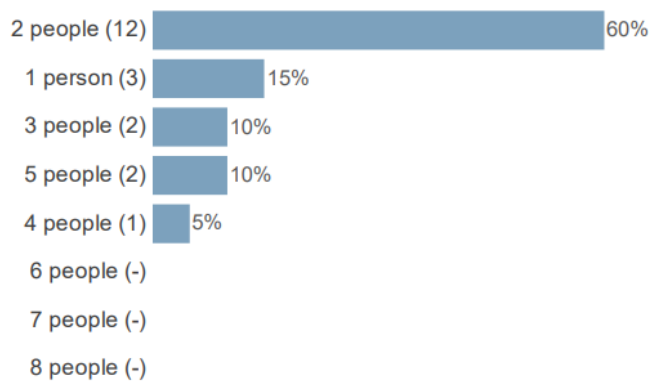
Please specify

1 adult 1 toddler

Mother and autistic daughter

Looking after elderly relatives

What size of household will you be in new accommodation (total number of people)?



Gender

Male	Female	Female	Non-Binary	Female	Female
Male	Male	F	Female	Female	Male
Female	Male	Male	female	Female	Male
Male	Male				

Gender

Female	Male	F	female	Male
Feel	Female	Female	Female	Female
Male	Female	Male	Female	Female
Female	Male			

Gender

F
Male
Male
Male

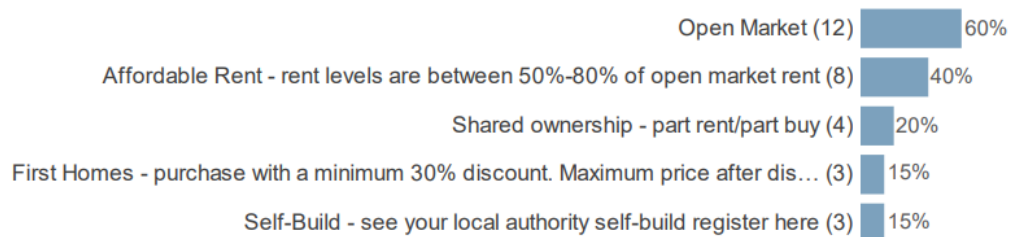
Gender

F
Male
Female

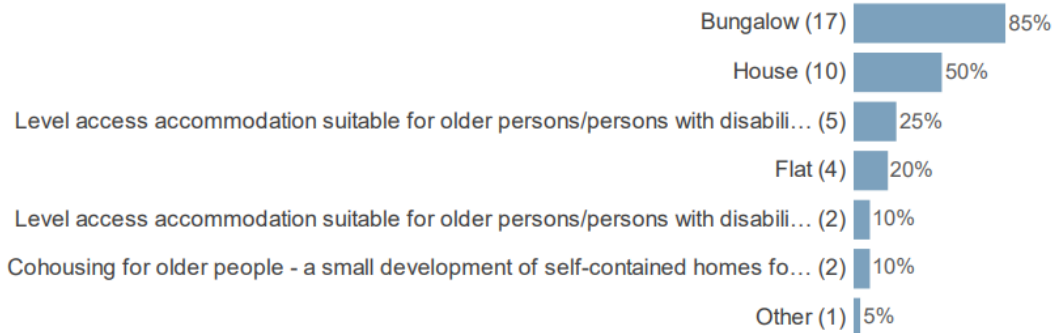
Gender

Male

Which tenure would best suit your housing need?
Indicate any options that apply



What type of housing would you prefer?
Indicate any options that apply



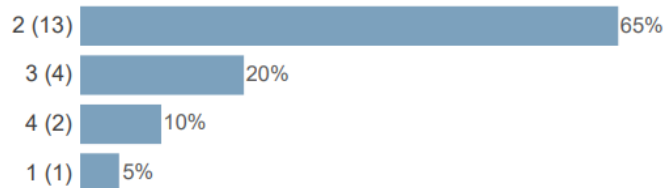
Please specify

Social housing

House and annex for the elderly

How many bedrooms would you need in new accommodation?

Please note - If you need affordable rented housing, your local authority housing register allocation policy will determine how many bedrooms you would be eligible for.



Do you or a member of your household have any particular or specialised housing requirements e.g. due to a disability or special need

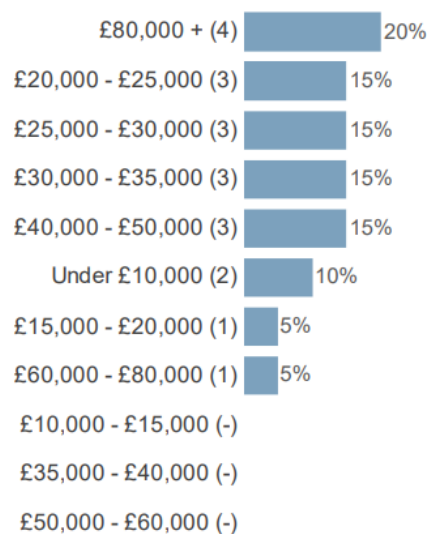


If you answered Yes, please state what they are

Asd, mental health and physical disabilities

Not at present but they are old

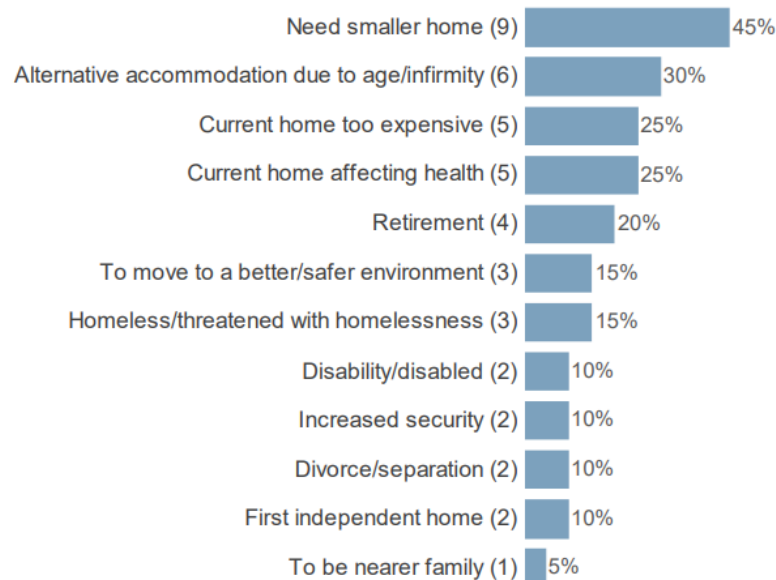
Please state the total gross annual income of the household in housing need (joint if a couple). Do not include housing benefit or council tax benefit.



If you are interested in Shared Ownership or First Homes, please tell us how much money you can raise towards a deposit on a new home

3000
10,000

Why are you seeking a new home? Tick any that apply



Are you registered on your local authority housing register?

