

## DRAFT TENANCY STATEMENT (2020)

### Housing & Health Advisory Committee - 9 June 2020

Report of Chief Officer People and Places

Status For Decision

Also considered by Cabinet - 9 July 2020

Key Decision No

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**This report supports the Key Aim of the District Council's Housing Strategy and related elements of the Community Plan.**

**Portfolio Holder** Cllr. Robert Piper

**Contact Officer** Gavin Missons, Ext. 7332

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**Recommendation to Housing and Health Advisory Committee:** That Members support the recommendations contained within the Draft Tenancy Statement 2020 (Appendix A) and recommend that Cabinet adopts the document as District Council policy.

**Recommendation to Cabinet:** That, subject to comments from the Housing and Health Advisory Committee, Members adopt the Draft Tenancy Statement 2020 as District Council policy.

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**Reason for recommendation:** To support the District Council's Housing Strategy and Community Plan with particular relevance to making best use of the District's limited social housing stock.

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### Introduction and Background

- 1 Back in 2011, the Localism Act introduced new provisions in relation to the way in which local housing register lists could be managed and priority awarded. As a result, local authorities and Registered Providers (RPs) of social housing have the discretion to consider a greater range of factors when letting properties and considering the type of tenancy to be awarded.
- 2 In 2013, the District Council adopted its first Tenancy Strategy and this set out a framework which its partner social housing providers should have regard to when letting social housing properties.

## Updated version

- 3 As is routine, a review of the original document has taken place and with a new version subsequently produced (Appendix A) in line with the District Council's Housing Strategy. Recommendations broadly follow those of the previous document and with additions to cover pet-friendly policies, Community Land Trusts (CLT) and Quercus Housing.
- 4 Again, it should be noted that these are recommendations only and there is no legal requirement that social housing providers adhere to them. That said, evidence shows that recommendations have been broadly followed and are used to enhance the District Council's partnership working with local RPs.
- 5 The District Council's key social housing providers have been consulted and with no objections raised.

## Key Implications

### Financial

There are no financial implications to consider.

### Legal Implications and Risk Assessment Statement.

Although the District Council is not a stockholding authority, it is recognised as good practice for each local housing authority to have a tenancy statement in place and as outlined in the Government's social housing code of guidance.

### Equality Assessment

The decisions recommended through this paper have a remote or low relevance to the substance of the Equality Act. There is no perceived impact on end-users.

### Conclusions

Members are asked to recommend the adoption of the updated Tenancy Statement, which sets out the principles for social housing tenancies in partnership with local RPs.

**Appendices**     Appendix A - Draft Tenancy Statement

**Background Papers**     Housing Strategy (2017)  
[https://www.sevenoaks.gov.uk/downloads/download/308/housing\\_strategy\\_2017](https://www.sevenoaks.gov.uk/downloads/download/308/housing_strategy_2017)  
Tenancy Strategy 2013  
[file:///wkip-sost-02/personal\\_areas\\$/gmissons/SDC\\_Tenancy\\_Strategy\\_2013.pdf](file:///wkip-sost-02/personal_areas$/gmissons/SDC_Tenancy_Strategy_2013.pdf)

**Sarah Robson**

**Chief Officer People and Places**