

# DELIVERING AFFORDABLE HOUSING IN THE SEVENOAKS DISTRICT: PROGRESS REPORT (2020)

Housing and Health Advisory Committee - 24 November 2020

**Report of:** Deputy Chief Executive and Chief Officer People & Places

**Status:** For information

**Key Decision:** No

**This report supports the Key Aim of the District Council's Housing Strategy (2017) and wider aspects of the Community Plan (2019-22).**

**Portfolio Holder:** Cllr. Kevin Maskell

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

**Recommendation to Housing & Health Advisory Committee:** That Members note progress made in relation to the District Council's affordable housing work programme.

**Reason for recommendation:** To demonstrate progress made against the District Council's Housing Strategy (2017).

## Introduction and Background

- 1 In the period from 1989 and up until 2018/19, the District Council acted solely as an enabler of affordable housing - though, with the creation of *Quercus Housing*, the District Council is now once again directly involved in the actual delivery of affordable housing.
- 2 In 2017/18, the District Council adopted a new Housing Strategy and this sets out its aims to meet current and future housing needs in the District and with relevant priorities, being:
  - I. Strategic Housing Priority 1: 'Providing a good mix of decent and affordable housing across sectors; and
  - II. Strategic Housing Priority 3: 'Meeting the needs of vulnerable and low-income households'.
- 3 The District Council's affordable housing work programme directly supports these priorities and the associated presentation will update Members on recent progress along with developing plans over the short and medium-terms.

## **Key Implications**

### Financial

The District's affordable housing work programme is funded from a number of different sources, including private finance (sourced by housing associations/providers); Government's social housing grant; housing associations' own budgets, including recycled capital funding; and in respect of *Quercus Housing*, via Section 106 (S106) affordable housing planning gains. As such, there is no direct impact on District Council budgets.

### Legal Implications and Risk Assessment Statement

The District Council has a duty to work to meet housing needs and this work programme directly supports that requirement.

### Equality Assessment

The District Council's Housing Strategy aims to equalise housing opportunities and this work programme directly supports that aim.

### **Appendices**

Appendix A - PowerPoint presentation (to be shown during the agenda item)

### **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)

**Sarah Robson**

**Deputy Chief Executive and Chief Officer People & Places**