

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

Sarah Robson

Deputy Chief Executive and Chief Officer People & Places