

FAREHAM

BOROUGH COUNCIL

Report to Housing Scrutiny Panel

Date 11 July 2019

Report of: Deputy Chief Executive Officer

Subject: Draft Affordable Housing Strategy Consultation

SUMMARY

This report provides the Panel with an overview of the Draft Affordable Housing Strategy and invites the Panel to put forward their comments on the document.

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Housing Scrutiny Panel consider the report and the Draft Affordable Housing Strategy included in Appendix A. The Panel can then put forward their comments which will subsequently form part of the referral of the document back to Executive once the consultation period on the document has closed.

INTRODUCTION

1. The current Housing Strategy (2010) and Affordable Housing Strategy (2005) have reached the end of their expected period of application. A new Draft Affordable Housing Strategy has now been prepared and was considered by the Executive on 3 June 2019. The Executive agreed that the Draft Affordable Housing Strategy should be published for a minimum six-week period of public consultation.
2. The consultation version of the Draft Affordable Housing Strategy is included as Appendix A to this report. When the consultation period has closed all comments received will be carefully considered and, where necessary and appropriate, amendments will be made to the Strategy. It is then expected that a final draft of the Affordable Housing Strategy will be taken back to Executive in the autumn with the intention of progressing it to adoption.

CONSULTATION

3. Consultation on the Draft Affordable Housing Strategy will take place between 24 June 2019 and 5 August 2019.
4. The draft strategy will be available online during this time and paper copies will also be available in borough libraries and at the Council's reception. The consultation on the draft strategy will be notified/advised through the following: -
 - Press Release
 - Notification through the Council's E-Panel
 - Letter or email to Registered Providers that the Council deal/work with
 - Letter or email to developers/planning consultants that have recently been involved in affordable housing discussions
 - Letter or email to other partners in Aspect Building Communities Ltd.
 - An article in 'Tenants' Voice' (the tenants newsletter)
 - A Tenants' Focus Group
 - An item for introduction/discussion at the Tenants' and Leaseholders' Forum
5. The comments of the Housing Scrutiny Panel are also sought as part of the consultation process.

THE DRAFT AFFORDABLE HOUSING STRATEGY

6. The Draft Affordable Housing Strategy provides relevant context and background together with an understanding of Fareham Borough's affordable housing need. It identifies Key Challenges, as well as Key Objectives and Actions, to help address the need. The strategy also touches on the role of the Local Plan in new affordable home delivery, who/how the actions will be delivered and a timetable for short/medium term achievements as well as an overview of funding.
7. In a slight difference from previous strategies the focus is no longer purely on a quantitative delivery of affordable homes. This new draft strategy not only looks to provide more affordable homes but to also ensure they are the right homes in the right places for those in need of affordable housing.

8. The Draft Affordable Housing Strategy covers the following: -

- Purpose
- A great place to live
- What is Affordable Housing?
- Who can provide Affordable Housing?
- Affordable Housing in Fareham
- Fareham's affordable need
- The Waiting List
- Shared Ownership
- Local Plan
- Key Challenges
- Key Objectives
- Actions
- Who/How and Timetable

HOUSING SCRUTINY PANEL

9. Following Executive approval for the draft strategy to be published for a period of public consultation it is now an ideal juncture for the Housing Scrutiny Panel to raise questions or comments in relation to the draft strategy.

RISK ASSESSMENT

10. There are no significant risk considerations in relation to this report

CONCLUSION

11. This report provides panel members with an overview of the Draft Affordable Housing Strategy and invites the Housing Scrutiny Panel to put forward their comments which can subsequently form part of the referral of the document back to Executive once the consultation period on the document has closed.

Appendices: Appendix A – Draft Affordable Housing Strategy

Enquiries:

For further information on this report please contact Robyn Lyons. (Ext 4305)