

Public
Key Decision - No

HUNTINGDONSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

Title/Subject Matter: Cabinet Feedback: Final Report of the Accelerating the Delivery of Affordable Housing Task and Finish Group

Meeting/Date: Overview and Scrutiny Panel (Performance and Growth) – 5th November 2019

Executive Portfolio: Councillor R Fuller, Executive Councillor for Housing, Planning and Economic Development

Report by: Cabinet

Ward(s) affected: All

Executive Summary:

To provide feedback to the Overview and Scrutiny Panel (Performance and Growth) on the outcome of Cabinet's deliberations on the Final Report of the Accelerating the Delivery of Affordable Housing Task and Finish Group.

Recommendation:

The Overview and Scrutiny Panel (Performance and Growth) is

RECOMMENDED

to note the contents of this report.

1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 The Cabinet considered the Final Report of the Accelerating the Delivery of Affordable Housing Task and Finish Group at its meeting on 24th October 2019. This report provides feedback on the Cabinet's deliberations.

2. COMMENTS OF CABINET

- 2.1 Councillor S J Corney addressed the Cabinet on the findings of the Task and Finish Group and advised that the proposed recommendations intended to generate more awareness of the work already undertaken by the Council in the delivery of affordable housing rather than the acceleration of it.
- 2.2 The fourth recommendation was discussed. With the agreement of Councillor S J Corney, it was agreed that this should not be endorsed in light of the fact that statistics on homelessness and the number of affordable homes completed are already sent to Members.
- 2.3 The Executive Councillor for Housing, Planning and Economic Development made comment on the process, in particular, the omission of his involvement in the study. Different outcomes from the study might have been generated if he had been involved. Nevertheless, Councillor Fuller expressed his support for the three recommendations proposed.
- 2.4 A brief discussion took place on Housing Associations. The Cabinet concur with the view that Housing Associations need to be more proactive in their approach to the delivery of affordable housing.
- 2.5 The Cabinet thanked the Overview and Scrutiny Panel for their report and endorsed the following recommendations:
- (a) that, whilst recognising the importance of Rural Exception sites in providing affordable housing to areas that need them, the Council should not be reliant on them in order to accelerate and increase the delivery of affordable housing;
 - (b) that the Council should continue to support Rural Exception Sites and promote the opportunities they will bring in providing affordable housing to rural areas; and
 - (c) that the Council should continue to review and, if practicable, pursue the opportunities that partnership working with Housing Associations offer in accelerating the development of affordable housing. In particular, the Council should continue to encourage and support Housing Associations in securing sites in their own right resulting in less reliance on developers.

3. REASONS FOR THE RECOMMENDED DECISIONS

- 3.1 There is a constitutional requirement for the relevant Executive Councillor to provide a written response to the Overview and Scrutiny Panel's recommendations.

4. BACKGROUND PAPERS

[Final Report of the Accelerating the Delivery of Affordable Housing Task and Finish Group – Cabinet, 24th October 2019.](#)

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