

## **CABINET**

**18 DECEMBER 2012**

# **HOUSING STRATEGY ANNUAL REVIEW ADDENDUM REPORT**

Portfolio Holder: Councillor Howard Doe, Housing and Community Services

Report from: Robin Cooper, Director of Regeneration Community and Culture

Author: Matthew Gough, Head of Strategic Housing  
Caroline Salisbury, Democratic Services

### **Summary**

This report sets out the views of the Regeneration, Community and Culture Overview and Scrutiny Committee following its consideration of the Housing Strategy Annual review on 13 December 2012.

## **1 Background**

- 1.1 The Head of Strategic Housing introduced the report, which detailed the progress made since October 2011 on delivering strategic housing priorities and set the direction for housing in Medway until 2014.
- 1.2 A Member stated that he thought the strategy should also set out the council's position on how it would meet the future housing need of everyone in Medway, including residents currently living in the private sector and paying rents they could not afford. The policy only recognised the current position in the housing market and, although it needed to be realistic, the policy could also set out a vision for the future should the housing economy change. He also advised that the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government had recently stated that pension funds could invest heavily in social housing provision and that this had not been included in the policy. The council had 16,000 families and individuals who aspired to live in council-owned property, probably due to its affordability, and it was wrong to ignore their wishes.
- 1.3 The committee discussed the increased cost of housing over a number of years and the effect this had on young people no longer being able to afford to buy, and rent, their own home. Members also discussed the mixed provision of good and bad landlords, whether they were private or social housing landlords and the council's duty to provide decent accommodation for its residents.

- 1.4 The committee noted the progress against the aims of the Housing Strategy and referred it to Cabinet for consideration.

**Lead officer contact**

Matthew Gough, Head of Strategic Housing

Telephone No: 01634 333177

E-mail: [matthew.gough@medway.gov.uk](mailto:matthew.gough@medway.gov.uk)