

## **CABINET**

**18 DECEMBER 2012**

### **TENANCY STRATEGY 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

#### **Summary**

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

#### **1. Background**

- 1.1 The Head of Strategic Housing introduced the report advising that the Localism Act 2011 had set out a duty for council's to publish a Tenancy Strategy by 15 January 2013. The draft strategy reflected legislative requirements and set out the objectives to be taken into consideration by individual Registered Providers of social housing as they made decisions about their own tenancy policies.
- 1.2 The draft policy also set out a Tenancy Framework, which would establish a fixed term for all future tenancies and thereby allow the council to make the best use of its limited housing stock. This was proposed to be a minimum five-year fixed term for most households whereas previously, a tenant could remain in a property indefinitely, no matter how their circumstances changed. There would also be a review of the council's Housing Allocations Policy, which was currently being consulted upon.
- 1.3 Members commented that the report established that consultation had taken place and that feedback had been taken into account but there were no details of who had been consulted, how many responses were received, what feedback had been given and how had this had influenced the draft strategy. Officers acknowledged that this had not been detailed in the report and assured the committee that there had

been full consultation with a variety of interested stakeholders on the limited areas it could consult on and had adopted a process similar to the rest of Kent. Further information would be provided for the committee about the consultation and its results via a Briefing Note.

- 1.4 A Member raised concern with paragraph 6.7 of the draft strategy and advised that he would strongly oppose any proposal to restrict eligibility for people to join the register. The committee discussed matters that fell under the review of the Allocations Policy, rather than the draft Tenancy Strategy and were advised that the review of the Allocations Policy would be reported for consideration to the next meeting of the committee.
- 1.5 The committee agreed to note the draft Tenancy Strategy and refer it to Cabinet for consideration.

### **Lead officer contact**

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