

**TONBRIDGE & MALLING BOROUGH COUNCIL**

**STRATEGIC HOUSING ADVISORY BOARD**

**28 May 2012**

**Joint Report of the Director of Health and Housing, the Director of Planning, Transportation & Leisure and Cabinet Members for Housing and Planning and Transportation**

**Part 1- Public**

**Matters for Recommendation to Cabinet - Non-Key Decision (Decision may be taken by the Cabinet Member)**

**1 KENT FORUM HOUSING STRATEGY REFRESH:CONSULTATION REPONSE**

**Summary**

**The Council's response to the consultation on the refresh of the Kent Forum Housing Strategy has been prepared in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Housing and the Cabinet Member for Planning and Transportation. It was submitted in time for the consultation deadline on 23 May 2012, having been considered by Management Team on 15 May. Members are invited to retrospectively endorse the response.**

**1.1 Introduction**

1.1.1 The Kent Forum Housing Strategy was launched in May 2011. The Government has since introduced significant policy and legislative changes, and the strategy has been updated accordingly. It will be published in October 2012.

1.1.2 A copy of the consultation document will be found at **[Annexe 1]**, and the Council's response at **[Annexe 2]**. A full copy of the draft strategy can be downloaded from the Kent Housing Group web site via the following link:  
[http://www.kenthousinggroup.org.uk/Kent\\_Forum\\_Housing\\_Strategy\\_Consultation.aspx](http://www.kenthousinggroup.org.uk/Kent_Forum_Housing_Strategy_Consultation.aspx)

1.1.3 We are satisfied that the strategy presents a more cogent case of the key housing issues facing all authorities on behalf of communities across Kent. In particular, it makes the case for local housing authorities to be able to develop new funding models for the future delivery of both social and affordable rent housing, assist first time buyers, tackle issues in the private housing sector, meeting rural housing needs and the needs of more vulnerable households. Where, in our view, the strategy strays into difficulties, is how it purports to promote a number of wider planning issues such as Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) and especially Neighbourhood Planning. It is simply over-optimistic on the prospects of using these mechanisms to generate future funding or affordable housing development

opportunities. These points are picked up within the more detailed comments we suggest in our response

## 1.2 Legal Implications

1.2.1 None arising from the decision sought in this paper.

## 1.3 Financial and Value for Money Considerations

1.3.1 None arising from the decision sought in this paper.

## 1.4 Risk Assessment

1.4.1 None arising from the decision sought in this paper.

## 1.5 Equality Impact Assessment

1.5.1 See 'Screening for equality impacts' table at end of report.

## 1.6 Recommendations

1.6.1 **CABINET** is **RECOMMENDED** to retrospectively **ENDORSE** the consultation response attached at **[Annexe 2]**.

The Director of Health and Housing confirms that the proposals contained in the recommendation(s), if approved, will fall within the Council's Budget and Policy Framework.

Background papers:

contact: Janet Walton  
Ian Bailey

Nil

John Batty  
Director of Health and Housing

Councillor Jean Atkinson  
Cabinet Member for Housing

Steve Humphrey  
Director of Planning, Transportation and Leisure

Councillor Nicolas Heslop  
Cabinet Member for Planning and Transport

| Screening for equality impacts:   |        |                            |
|---|--------|----------------------------|
| Question  | Answer | Explanation of impacts     |
| a. Does the decision being made or recommended through this paper have potential to cause adverse | No     | Consultation response only |

| <b>Screening for equality impacts:</b>  |               |                               |
|---|---------------|-------------------------------|
| <b>Question</b>   | <b>Answer</b> | <b>Explanation of impacts</b> |
| impact or discriminate against different groups in the community?   |               |                               |
| b. Does the decision being made or recommended through this paper make a positive contribution to promoting equality? | No            | Consultation response only    |
| c. What steps are you taking to mitigate, reduce, avoid or minimise the impacts identified above?                     |               |                               |

*In submitting this report, the Chief Officer doing so is confirming that they have given due regard to the equality impacts of the decision being considered, as noted in the table above.*