

WAVERLEY BOROUGH COUNCIL

HOUSING OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY

26 FEBRUARY 2019

Title:

COUNCIL HOUSING: PRIDE OR PREJUDICE

[Portfolio Holder: Cllr Carole King]

[Wards Affected: All]

Summary and purpose:

Following the publication in August 2018 of the Government's Green Paper 'A new deal for social housing', the Housing O&S Committee set up a Task and Finish group in September 2018 to identify if there was any existing prejudice against social housing within the borough and to understand how tenants view their homes in order to develop services to both promote pride, and tackle causes of any stigma.

This report details the findings of the study, relates them to the national social housing debate and lists the recommendations made by the Group.

How this report relates to the Council's Corporate Priorities:

This report relates to all of the Council's priorities (People, Place and Prosperity) because good quality accessible housing meets residents' needs, contributes positively to the local environment and provides a home for essential local workers who enable a thriving economy.

Equality and Diversity Implications:

The equality and diversity implications of the work carried out by the Task and Finish Group are contained within the report.

Financial Implications:

Any recommendations would be met by existing budget and therefore there are no financial implications.

Legal Implications:

There are no direct legal implications associated with this report.

1. Background

After being briefed on the Government's Green Paper 'A new deal for social housing' in September 2018, the Housing O&S Committee agreed to set up a task and finish group to look at whether or not there was any stigma surrounding social housing in the borough and to contribute to tenants' pride in their homes by developing services. Six members of the Committee volunteered to be part of the group, two of whom were Tenant Panel representatives.

In June 2018 the Chartered Institute for Housing published its 'Rethinking Social Housing' report which was informed by a national study into attitudes towards social housing. The research undertaken to inform this Scrutiny review was based on the study completed by the CIH and refers to the five principles within the Government's Green Paper. The review focused on survey respondents' perceptions and experience of social housing and concludes with 18 recommendations aimed at improving attitudes towards social housing, developing the services provided to council tenants and increasing awareness of the Allocation policy and eligibility criteria.

Recommendation

For the Housing Overview and Scrutiny Committee to note the review undertaken by the task and finish group, consider the report and endorse the recommendations contained within it.

Background Papers

There are no background papers (as defined by Section 100D(5) of the Local Government Act 1972) relating to this report.

CONTACT OFFICER:

Name: Yasmine Makin
Policy Officer for Scrutiny

Telephone: 01483 523078
E-mail: yasmine.makin@waverley.gov.uk