

| <b>Council Meeting</b> |  | <b>Agenda Item:</b> |
|------------------------|--|---------------------|
| <b>Meeting Date</b>    | 22 November 2017   |                     |
| <b>Report Title</b>    | Scrutiny Review of Housing Services  |                     |
| <b>Cabinet Member</b>  | Cllr Andrew Bowles, Leader of the Council  |                     |
| <b>SMT Lead</b>        | Mark Radford, Chief Executive  |                     |
| <b>Head of Service</b> | N/A  |                     |
| <b>Lead Officer</b>    | N/A  |                     |
| <b>Key Decision</b>    | No   |                     |
| <b>Classification</b>  | Open   |                     |
| <b>Forward Plan</b>    | <b>Reference number:</b>   |                     |
| <b>Recommendations</b> | 1. Council is asked to note the recommendations made by Scrutiny Committee on their review of Housing Services and Cabinet's response to them. |                     |

## **1 Purpose of Report and Executive Summary**

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is for Council to note the recommendations made by the Scrutiny Committee in their report on Housing Services, and Cabinet's response to those recommendations.

## **2 Background**

- 2.1 The Scrutiny Committee established a Task and Finish Group (TFG) to review a number of aspects of the Council's Housing Options function including temporary accommodation, pressures on housing services, and the role of housing associations.
- 2.2 The review was conducted principally through a number of meetings between the TFG and people from the local housing sector, including officers at Swale Borough Council and the Cabinet Member for Housing and Wellbeing. Members of the TFG also took the opportunity of visiting several other local authorities in Kent and speaking to officers and members there.
- 2.3 The final report of the review was agreed by the Scrutiny Committee on 5 July 2017 and it was submitted to Cabinet on 6 September 2017. Cabinet agreed its response to the report's recommendations at its meeting on 4 October 2017.

## **3 Proposals**

- 3.1 The Scrutiny Committee's recommendations and Cabinet's response to them are set out in Appendix I.

## **4 Alternative Options**

- 4.1 None.

## **5 Consultation Undertaken or Proposed**

- 5.1 The Scrutiny Committee's Task and Finish Group consulted widely with people and organisations from the local housing sector in Swale, and further afield, before reaching their findings. The responses were considered through Cabinet and officer discussions.

## **6 Implications**

| <b>Issue</b>                          | <b>Implications</b>   |
|---------------------------------------|---|
| Corporate Plan                        | The subject matter supports Priority Theme One: A Borough to be proud of, and Priority Theme Two: A Community to be proud of. |
| Financial, Resource and Property      | The report makes a number of recommendations which had ramifications for Council resources.                                   |
| Legal and Statutory                   | The Council is under a duty to provide housing support to families and vulnerable people.                                     |
| Crime and Disorder                    | None.   |
| Sustainability                        | None.   |
| Health and Wellbeing                  | None.   |
| Risk Management and Health and Safety | None.   |
| Equality and Diversity                | None.   |

## **7 Appendices**

- 7.1 The following documents are to be published with this report and form part of the report:
- Appendix I: Scrutiny Committee's recommendations on Housing Services, together with Cabinet's response.

## **8 Background Papers**

The Scrutiny Committee's report was submitted to Cabinet on 6 September 2017:

<http://services.swale.gov.uk/meetings/documents/s8196/Cabinet%20-%20SC%20Housing%20Services%20cover%20report.pdf>