

Ref:

Called in

Yes/No

**THE THANET DISTRICT COUNCIL**

**RECORD OF DECISION OF CABINET**

Cabinet Member

Councillor Lesley Ann Game

Relevant Portfolio:

Cabinet Member for Housing and Safer Neighbourhoods

Date of Decision:

25 July 2019

Subject:

Enabling the delivery of homes to meet the needs of local people

Key Decision

Yes

In Forward Plan

Yes

Brief summary of matter:

The report considered the principle of the Council establishing a housing company to enable the delivery of new homes, that would otherwise not be delivered, with the ability to directly acquire land and construct homes.

Decision made:

Cabinet agree to:

1. Support the purposes for setting up a housing company to:
  - a. Enable the delivery of new homes, that would otherwise not be delivered, with the ability to directly acquire land and construct homes;
  - b. Acquire homes with the aim of improving conditions, management standards and affordability for the benefit of residents;
  - c. Supplement existing housing programmes and funding within the council's HRA;
  - d. Offer a wider range of housing tenures and costs, in addition to existing provision;
  - e. Create a financially viable and sustainable vehicle for the acquisition, development and management of housing;
  - f. Such other purposes which are ancillary to the above purposes.
2. Allocate an initial set-up budget for the housing company of £50,000, to be funded from the Business Rates Equalisation Reserve, and delegate authority to the Deputy Chief Executive to approve expenditure against this budget.

Reasons for decision:

To unlock and accelerate delivery for much needed homes in the district.

Alternatives considered and why rejected:

The Council considered the current way of working and the benefits of direct engagement in the housing market. The opportunity presented by having a Housing company and the ability to increase the number of affordable homes, is considered as enhancing the current enabling offer.

Details of any conflict of interest declared by any executive Member who has been consulted and of any dispensation granted by the Standards Committee:

None

Author of Officer report:

Bob Porter

Background papers

Enabling the delivery of homes to meet the needs of local people  
Annex 1 - Housing Company Action Plan

Statement if decision is an urgent one and therefore not subject to call-in:

None

Last date for call in: 2 August 2019