

## Homes England Audit 2018/19

Governance and Audit	<b>4th March 2020</b>
Report Author	<b>Bob Porter, Head of Housing &amp; Planning</b>
Portfolio Holder	<b>Cllr Helen Whitehead, Cabinet Member for Housing and Safer Neighbourhoods</b>
Status	<b>For Information</b>
Classification:	<b>Unrestricted</b>
Key Decision	<b>No</b>
Ward:	<b>All Wards</b>

### **Executive Summary:**

As part of our Homes England contract it is necessary to undertake a compliance audit to ensure compliance with Homes England's policies, procedures and funding conditions. Standardised checks are made by Independent Auditors on an agreed sample of Homes England schemes under the affordable housing programmes. The Homes England Lead Auditor reviews the findings and records those determined to be 'breaches' in the report. TDC received final grade green which confirms that the Council met all contractual and programme requirements.

### **Recommendation(s):**

The committee is asked to note the final grade award of Green, no breaches identified.

### **CORPORATE IMPLICATIONS**

<b>Financial and Value for Money</b>	<p>The external audit process undertaken by Homes England is an important part of ensuring that the Council has taken the necessary steps in accounting for expenditure in relation to the selected scheme properly and in accordance with grant requirements.</p> <p>Should the audit highlight issues, grant repayment is a likely outcome and so by ensuring processes are in place not only is the chance of repayment de-risked, but value for money can be demonstrated efficiently.</p>
<b>Legal</b>	There are no specific legal implications arising from this report, However compliance with this audit regime supports our governance arrangements.
<b>Corporate</b>	<p>Corporate Priority 2 Supporting Neighbourhoods.</p> <p>Partnership working with Homes England is pertinent to Thanet District Council. The HE contract is an important part of our New Build development programme and essential to deliver new homes within the district.</p>

<b>Equality Act 2010 &amp; Public Sector Equality Duty</b>	Members are reminded of the requirement, under the Public Sector Equality Duty (section 149 of the Equality Act 2010) to have due regard to the aims of the Duty at the time the decision is taken. The aims of the Duty are: (i) eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment, victimisation and other conduct prohibited by the Act, (ii) advance equality of opportunity between people who share a protected characteristic and people who do not share it, and (iii) foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and people who do not share it.	
	Protected characteristics: age, sex, disability, race, sexual orientation, gender reassignment, religion or belief and pregnancy & maternity. Only aim (i) of the Duty applies to Marriage & civil partnership.	
	Please indicate which aim is relevant to the report.	
	Eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment, victimisation and other conduct prohibited by the Act,	
	Advance equality of opportunity between people who share a protected characteristic and people who do not share it	
Foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and people who do not share it.		
There are no equalities implications arising from this report.		

<b>CORPORATE PRIORITIES (tick those relevant) ✓</b>	
A clean and welcoming Environment	
Promoting inward investment and job creation	
Supporting neighbourhoods	✓

<b>CORPORATE VALUES (tick those relevant) ✓</b>	
Delivering value for money	✓
Supporting the Workforce	
Promoting open communications	

## 1.0 Introduction and Background

1.1 The compliance audit programme provides assurance that organisations receiving grant have met with all Homes England's requirements and funding conditions, and that providers have properly exercised their responsibilities as set out in the capital funding guide.

This audit is part of the 2016-2021 Shared Ownership and Affordable Homes Programme.

## 2.0 The Current Situation

2.1 Thanet District Council are registered as a provider under the Homes England Shared Ownership and Affordable Homes 2016- 2021 programme.

2.2 The Homes England Annual Compliance Audit programme provides assurance that organisations receiving grant have met all the Homes England's requirements and funding conditions, and that providers have properly exercised their responsibilities as set out in the capital funding guide.

- 2.3 Standardised checks are made by provider appointed Independent Auditors on an agreed sample of schemes which have received Homes England funding under current affordable housing programmes.
- 2.4 During the audit, the Independent Auditor checks the scheme for compliance using questions from Homes England published checklists. The Independent Auditor reviews the information contained on file and reports any findings against Homes England policy and procedures.
- 2.5 The Homes England Lead Auditor reviews the Independent Auditor findings and records any breaches. Breaches are used as the basis for awarding grades to providers. The Compliance Audit Report awards providers a red, amber or green grade based on the number and severity of breaches recorded.
- 2.6 Green Grade - the provider meets requirements through identifying no high or medium breaches. Amber Grade - one or more high or medium breaches but not misapplied public money. Red Grade - one or more high level breaches and there has been a risk of misapplication of public funds.
- 2.7 Thanet District Council's compliance audit has recorded no breaches of contract conditions. A green grading has been issued that confirms that the provider has met all contractual and programme requirements.

### 3.0 Options

- 3.1 The contents of the report should be acknowledged by the Chair of the Governance and Audit committee.

Contact Officer:	Ashley Jackson, Housing Strategy Officer
Reporting to:	Bob Porter, Head of Housing and Planning

### Annex List

Annex 1	Compliance Audit Report 2019/2020
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### Corporate Consultation

Finance	Clive Bowen, Finance Manager
Legal	