

# Homes England Audit - New Build

**Governance and Audit Committee** 8th March 2023

<b>Report Author</b>	Bob Porter (Acting Corporate Director of Place)
<b>Portfolio Holder</b>	Cllr Jill Bayford, Portfolio Holder for Housing
<b>Status</b>	For Recommendation
<b>Classification:</b>	Unrestricted
<b>Key Decision</b>	No
<b>Ward:</b>	All wards

## 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

### Financial and Value for Money

There are no financial implications arising from this report.

### Legal

There are no legal implications arising from this report.

### Risk Management

There are no risk issues arising from this report and the audit report confirmed that the Homes England funded schemes met all of the requirements of the funding.

### Corporate

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.

## **Equality Act 2010 & Public Sector Equality Duty**

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.

There are no equalities implications arising from this report.

## **Corporate Priorities**

This report relates to the following corporate priorities:

- Communities

### **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 Homes England Affordable Homes programme 2021 - 2026.

### **2.0 The Current Situation**

2.1 Thanet District Council is registered as a provider under the Homes England Affordable Homes Programme 2021-2026.

2.2 The Homes England Annual Compliance Audit programme provides assurance that organisations receiving grants 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 & Projects Manager*

Reporting to: *Bob Porter (Acting Corporate Director of Place)*

### **Annex List**

*Annex 1: Homes England Audit report 2022*

### **Corporate Consultation**

**Finance:** *(Insert name and job title)*

**Legal:** *(Insert name and job title)*