

Surrey County Council – Housing, Homes and Accommodation Strategy for Surrey

Housing Committee Thursday, 16 March 2023

Report of: Deputy Chief Executive

Purpose: For information

Publication status: Open

Wards affected: All

Executive summary:

Surrey County Council has recently released a final draft Housing, Homes and Accommodation Strategy for Surrey.

This report sets out the strategy at **Appendix A** and is to make the Committee aware that all Surrey authorities have been asked to provide a response to the draft strategy before the deadline of 10 March 2023. This response is set out in **Appendix B**.

This report supports the Council's priority of:

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Recommendation to Committee:

That the Committee note the updates provided within this report.

Reason for recommendation:

The Council has been asked to provide feedback and a response to Surrey County Councils Housing, Homes and Accommodation Strategy for Surrey. It is important that Members of both the Housing and Planning Policy Committees understand the strategy and the response provided to Surrey County Council.

Introduction and background

- 1 Surrey County Council commissioned the services of Inner Circle Consultancy to undertake a fact-finding exercise seeking the views and opinions of stakeholders across the County in relation to housing and other social aspects. This strategy is intended to act as a "Call to Action" to address the housing crisis currently affecting the County as a whole.
- 2 Local stakeholders, including all 11 District and Borough authorities were invited to attend the Surrey Housing Summit in December 2022. It was at this forum that findings from the stakeholder engagement process were presented.
- 3 As a result of this work a strategy has been compiled, a copy of which is provided at **Appendix A**. The Strategy is written in a way which Surrey County Council believe will support increased partnership working and increased control over public land in the County to ensure adequate accommodation is provided across relevant tenures. The strategy also outlines several actions which are to be achieved through partnership working in relation to housing, planning development management and health.
- 4 In February 2023, all Surrey Districts and Boroughs were asked to provide a response to the final strategy document by 10 March 2023, prior to it being presented to Cabinet by Surrey. The Council's response, is attached at **Appendix B**, was compiled by senior Councillors and Officers from both the Planning and Housing departments.
- 5 In addition to the response attached at **Appendix B**, discussions with Surrey County Council have taken place regarding the potential purchase of a Surrey owned site in Caterham. Offers were made by the Council to obtain a joint valuation for the site and agree a price without open market advertisement, this offer was refused, and the site placed on the open market. Purchase of the site would allow the development and provision of much needed affordable accommodation to assist with the reduction of Housing Register wait times. Work is now underway to submit a formal offer via the open market process with high weighting on social value. In accordance with financial regulation 17 the potential purchase of this site would be considered under delegated powers. A briefing paper would be circulated to Committee Members should the purchase of the site progress.

Key implications

Comments of the Chief Finance Officer

There are no direct financial costs, revenue or capital, from this committee paper's recommendations.

Comments of the Head of Legal Services

There are no specific legal implications emerging from this report.

Equality

Recommendations and the contents of this report result in no impact on those with protected characteristics.

Climate change

There are no significant environmental / sustainability implications associated with this report.

Appendices

Appendix A – Housing, Homes and Accommodation Strategy for Surrey

Appendix B – TDC response to the Housing, Homes and Accommodation Strategy for Surrey

Background papers

None

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