

<b>Cabinet Meeting</b>	
<b>Meeting Date</b>	7 August 2019
<b>Report Title</b>	Housing Delivery Test Action Plan
<b>Cabinet Member</b>	Cllr Mike Baldock, Cabinet Member for Planning
<b>SMT Lead</b>	Emma Wiggins
<b>Head of Service</b>	James Freeman
<b>Lead Officer</b>	Gill Harris
<b>Key Decision</b>	No
<b>Classification</b>	<b>Open</b>
<b>Recommendations</b>	1. Cabinet agree the content of the Action Plan (appended to this report, incorporating amendments suggested by the Local Plan Panel) and agree to submit to the Secretary of State by the deadline of 19 August 2019.

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

- 1.1 The Housing Delivery Test Action Plan is a document the Council is required to prepare in light of scoring below 95% in the government's Housing Delivery Test. It is a non-statutory document that should set out the reasons why the Council has failed to deliver its annual housing target over the last three year monitoring period and identify actions that will increase housing delivery in the area.
- 1.2 A draft of the Action Plan was presented to members of the Local Plan Panel on 25 July 2019. The report recommended that the Local Plan Panel recommend to Cabinet that the Action Plan is agreed and submitted to the Secretary of State by the deadline of 19 August 2019, hence the need for this Cabinet meeting.

## **2 Background**

- 2.1 The government published its Housing White Paper "Fixing our broken housing market" in February 2017. It set out a number of measures that would be introduced to speed up and increase housing delivery, to help the government achieve its target of delivering an additional 300,000 new homes a year.
- 2.2 One of the measures introduced is the Housing Delivery Test (HDT), which was formalised through the National Planning Policy Framework. This measures net additional dwellings provided against the target homes required with results on performance for each local planning authority in England issued annually in November, (the publication of the 2018 results being published late on 19 February 2019).

- 2.3 Swale Borough Council scored 74% in the HDT meaning that an Action Plan is to be submitted and that the Council must apply a 20% buffer to its 5 year Housing Land Supply figures instead of 5%.

### 3 Proposals

- 3.1 The recommendation is that Cabinet agree the content of the Action Plan (appended to this report, incorporating amendments suggested by the Local Plan Panel) and agree to submit to the Secretary of State by the deadline of 19 August 2019.

### 4 Alternative Options

- 4.1 The Council could choose not to submit a HDT Action Plan. There are no sanctions if such an action plan is not submitted but it would be prudent to do so as it explains the reasons behind the Council's position in this regard.

### 5 Consultation Undertaken or Proposed

- 5.1 There is no formal requirement to consult on the Action Plan although engagement with relevant stakeholders is recommended. The Council sought views from developers in producing the Housing Land Supply Statement (February 2019) and this forms much of the evidence for the Action Plan.

### 6 Implications

Issue	Implications
Corporate Plan	Supports the Council's corporate priorities for delivering regeneration and delivering improved quality of life.
Financial, Resource and Property	The Assessment has been carried out within the existing Local Plan resources.
Legal, Statutory and Procurement	None anticipated at this time.
Crime and Disorder	None anticipated at this time
Environment and Sustainability	None anticipated at this time
Health and Wellbeing	None anticipated at this time
Risk Management and Health and Safety	None anticipated at this time
Equality and	None anticipated at this time

Diversity	
Privacy and Data Protection	None anticipated at this time

## **7 Appendices**

7.1 The following documents are to be published with this report and form part of the report:

- Appendix I: Swale Borough Council Housing Delivery Test Action Plan
- Appendix II: Minutes of the Local Plan Panel 25 July 2019

## **8 Background Papers**

Statement of Housing Land Supply 2017/18 February 2019  
<https://archive.swale.gov.uk/assets/Planning-General/Planning-Policy/HousingLandSupply/Statement-of-2017-18-housing-land-supplypostHDTV2.pdf>