

Cabinet		Agenda Item: 8
Meeting Date	6 September 2017	
Report Title	Scrutiny Committee Review of Housing Services	
Cabinet Member	Cllr Ken Pugh, Cabinet Member for Housing and Wellbeing	
SMT Lead	Emma Wiggins, Interim Director of Regeneration	
Head of Service	Amber Christou, Head of Resident Services	
Lead Officer	Bob Pullen, Policy and Performance Officer	
Key Decision	No	
Classification	Open	
Forward Plan	Reference number:	
Recommendations	1. That Cabinet notes the report of the Scrutiny Committee on housing services and considers and responds to the recommendations at a subsequent Cabinet meeting.	

1 Purpose of Report and Executive Summary

- 1.1 The report at Appendix I contains the findings and recommendations of a Scrutiny Committee review of housing services. In accordance with the requirements of the Constitution, the report is submitted to Cabinet for its consideration with a request that it responds to each of the recommendations contained within the report at a subsequent Cabinet meeting.

2 Background

- 2.1 The Scrutiny Committee established a Task and Finish Group to undertake a review with the following terms of reference:
- to understand the reasons why the provision of temporary accommodation in Swale has been consistently problematic and how this can be overcome;
 - explore the causes of pressures on housing services (lack of availability of affordable private rented sector housing, low numbers of affordable houses being built in the Borough, lack of available properties for tenants to 'down-size' to) and possible measures for alleviating them;
 - review what effect the purchase of a property to house homeless families has had and whether this initiative should be extended; and

- as necessary, to make recommendations to Cabinet.

2.2 The Scrutiny Committee adopted the report of the Task and Finish Group at its meeting of 5 July for submission to Cabinet.

3 Proposals

3.1 The report is presented to Cabinet by the Scrutiny Committee. Cabinet are requested to consider the report and recommendations and respond to them at a future meeting.

4 Alternative Options

4.1 No alternative options are proposed.

5 Consultation Undertaken or Proposed

5.1 The Task and Finish Group consulted a wide range of individuals and organisations in the formulation of its recommendations as detailed in Appendix II of the report.

6 Implications

Issue	Implications
Corporate Plan	The recommendations in the report most closely align to the Corporate Plan priority: A Community to be proud of.
Financial, Resource and Property	Several recommendations in the report have financial implications.
Legal and Statutory	None identified.
Crime and Disorder	None identified.
Environmental Sustainability	None identified.
Health and Wellbeing	Housing is an integral feature of the health and wellbeing of residents, particularly those who are vulnerable and at risk of becoming homeless.
Risk Management and Health and Safety	None identified.
Equality and Diversity	None identified.

Privacy and Data Protection	None identified.
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7 Appendices

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

- Appendix I: Scrutiny Committee – Housing Services review

8 Background Papers

Draft report of the Task and Finish Group on Housing Services –
<http://services.swale.gov.uk/meetings/documents/s7830/Housing%20Services%20-%20Draft%20report%20-%2019-06-17.pdf>