

A NEW DEAL FOR SOCIAL HOUSING – RESPONSE TO GREEN PAPER

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 The purpose of this report is to seek approval to submit a consultation response to the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government as part of their current consultation on “A new deal for Social Housing”.

2. BACKGROUND AND PROPOSALS

2.1 On 14 August 2018 the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government published a Green Paper entitled, “A new deal for Social Housing”. The closing date for consultation responses is 6 November 2018. As part of the consultation 65 questions are posed.

2.2 The Green Paper seeks to rebalance the relationship between residents and landlords. It recognises the need for social homes to be safe and decent, that any issues are resolved and that residents’ voices are heard. Further, the Government want much needed good quality social homes to be built.

2.3 The Green Paper has five principles which will underpin a new and fairer deal for social housing residents. These are:

- A safe and decent home which is fundamental to a sense of security and our ability to get on in life;
- Improving and speeding up how complaints are resolved;
- Empowering residents and ensuring their voices are heard so that landlords are held to account
- Tackling stigma and celebrating thriving communities, challenging the stereotypes that exist about residents and their communities; and
- Building the social homes that we need and ensuring that those homes can act as a springboard to home ownership.

2.4 The vision of the Green Paper is welcomed by the Council. Anything which can help to improve the quality of homes in the New Forest District Council area and help to address the relationship between residents and landlords is considered to be positive. The Government also recognises the need for good quality social housing. This is at the heart of the Council’s emerging “Housing Strategy” which will be considered by the Cabinet in December 2018 setting out the Council’s approach to housing and how it plans to deliver much needed social housing.

2.5 The questions in the Green Paper are centred around the five principles identified in paragraph 2.3 above. The papers can be found on line at:
<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/a-new-deal-for-social-housing>

3. CONSULTATION RESPONSE

3.1 The Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government has requested a response to 65 questions.

3.2 A full response can be found in Appendix 1.

4. NEXT STEPS

- 4.1 The consultation period closes on 6 November 2018.
- 4.2 The Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government will review the consultation responses. Any policy changes will be considered and brought forward following appropriate assessment.

5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 There are no direct financial implications to this Council as part of the proposals.

6. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 None

7. CRIME & DISORDER IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 None.

8. EQUALITY & DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS

- 8.1 None

9. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 9.1 It is recommended that the response attached at Appendix 1 of this report is approved to be submitted to the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government.

10. PORTFOLIO HOLDER DECISION

I agree the recommendations contained within paragraph 9.1 of this report.

Signed: *J L Cleary*

Date: 29 October 2018

Date notice of decision given: 29 October 2018

Last Date for Call-in: 5 November 2018

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