

This Report will be made public on 11 February 2020

Report Number: **A/19/28**

To: Council
Date: 19 February 2020
Status: Key Decision
Corporate Director: Tim Madden, Director of Transformation and Transition

SUBJECT: Housing management options appraisal – outcome of formal consultation

SUMMARY:

An options appraisal was completed in October 2019, reviewing the delivery of housing management services provided by East Kent Housing (EKH) on behalf of Canterbury City Council, Dover District Council, Folkestone and Hythe District Council and Thanet District Council. The four councils agreed that the preferred option for future service provision to the four councils' tenants and leaseholders is that it should become an in-house service, subject to consultation. The attached Cabinet report sets out the outcomes from the formal consultation exercise undertaken with EKH tenants and leaseholders. It proposes that officers from across the four councils be instructed to negotiate ending the agreement with EKH and to make preparations for the housing management service to be brought in-house.

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION:

Council is asked to agree the recommendations set out below because:-

- EKH has experienced serious performance problems and health and safety non-compliance issues.
- Tenants and leaseholders have expressed their views clearly, that they would prefer their homes to be managed by the individual councils rather than retain the existing Arms-Length Management Organisation structure.
- It is in the best interests of tenants and leaseholders for the four councils to terminate the management agreement and transfer housing services back in-house.
- The integration of the housing management service with each council's remaining housing services would provide a more transparent and accountable structure for the housing service.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

Council is asked:

- 1. To receive and consider the Report A/19/28.**
- 2. To make comments and proposals to Cabinet prior to Cabinet making the final decision.**

1. Background

- 1.1 At its meeting of 19 February 2020 the Cabinet considered the report reference C/19/68 "Housing management options appraisal – outcome of formal consultation". This report is attached in full as Appendix A to this Council report.
- 1.2 The decision as to whether to take the proposed action is within the authority of Cabinet. However as this is a significant decision, the Cabinet has referred the report onto Council for its views. Its intention is then to have regard to these views prior to making a final decision.
- 1.3 The attached report sets out the background and the responses to the consultation. Council is asked to comment on this and to make any proposals should it so wish to Cabinet.

2. RISK MANAGEMENT ISSUES

- 2.1 These are incorporated within the Cabinet report.

3. LEGAL/FINANCIAL AND OTHER CONTROLS/POLICY MATTERS

3.1 Legal Officer's Comments (NE)

These are incorporated within the Cabinet report.

3.2 Finance Officer's Comments (TM)

These are incorporated within the Cabinet report.

3.3 Diversity and Equalities Implications (TM)

These are incorporated within the Cabinet report.

4. CONTACT OFFICERS AND BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

Councillors with any questions arising out of this report should contact the following officer prior to the meeting

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The following background documents have been relied upon in the preparation of this report:

No background documents have been used other than those identified within the Cabinet report.

Appendices:

Appendix A – Cabinet report: Housing management options appraisal – outcome of formal consultation