Item 12 – Sevenoaks District Housing Register Allocations Scheme

The attached report was considered by the Housing & Health Advisory Committee on 17 January 2022. The relevant Minute extract is below.

Housing & Health Advisory Committee (17 January 2022, Minute 47)

The Housing Strategy Manager presented the report which laid out that the scheme would require approval by Full Council so that it may be adopted as Council policy. Following adoption, it would apply to all applicants seeking social housing in the District and the allocation of vacant social housing stock.

The Housing Register Allocations Policy directed applications for, and the allocation of, vacant social housing in the District. It applied to approximately 6,500 homes. The Policy was used in conjunction with the local choice based lettings scheme – Kent Homechoice - and was followed by the District Council's Housing Accommodation Team and the Council's housing provider partners, including Quercus Housing.

The new Scheme had been drafted to ensure that access to social housing supported the needs of residents and the corporate aims of the Council, as well as reflecting legislation. There was an extremely limited supply of social housing within the Sevenoaks District and this scheme was designed to work with the Council's housing providers to make the best use of the stock available and promote Sevenoaks District as an attractive place to live.

It was noted that the proposed all-member consultation prior to consideration by Cabinet was due to be held on 19 January.

It was noted that the draft timetable would be amended as public consultation would be extended into April 2022.

Members discussed the report.

Public Sector Equality Duty
Members noted that consideration had been given to impacts under the Public Sector Equality Duty.

Resolved: That it be recommended to Cabinet that

a) the proposed main headline revisions to the new Sevenoaks District Housing Register Allocations Scheme be considered;

b) a full public consultation be approved