

BABERGH DISTRICT COUNCIL and MID SUFFOLK DISTRICT COUNCIL

From: Head of Corporate Organisation	Report Number: JSC/18/15
To: Joint Scrutiny Committee	Date of meeting: 16 December 2015

SCOPING OF A JOINT SCRUTINY REVIEW OF AFFORDABLE HOUSING DELIVERY CAPABILITIES

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 To enable Members to establish the scope of a Joint Scrutiny Review on affordable housing delivery in Babergh and Mid Suffolk.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 That the Joint Committee agrees the proposed scope of the review and undertakes the review.

The Committee is able to resolve this matter.

3. Financial Implications

- 3.1 There are no specific financial implications identified from this report.

4. Risk Management

- 4.1 The nature of this report is such, that a risk management assessment is not needed

5. Consultations

Not applicable.

6. Equality Analysis

- 6.1 This scoping document has no direct equality and diversity issues but the review should include consideration of whether there are any equality issues in relation to affordable housing delivery.

7. Shared Service / Partnership Implications

The scoping document has no specific partnership implications although consideration of partnership working should form part of the review.

8. Key Information

- 8.1 It is proposed that the Joint Scrutiny Committee investigate whether the councils are delivering against their strategic priorities with regard to affordable housing delivery and to ensure that there are the capabilities and organisational capacity to carry out a sustainable medium to long term housing delivery plan. A proposed scoping document is attached as Appendix A to form the basis for discussion at the meeting.

9. Appendices

	Title	Location
A	Joint Scrutiny Committee – Affordable Housing Delivery Capabilities Review Scoping Document	Attached

10. Background Documents

None.

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Joint Scrutiny Committee – Review Scoping Document

<p>Review Topic (name of review)</p>	<p>Review of Affordable Housing Delivery Capabilities</p>
<p>Lead members</p>	<p>Rachel Eburne and Peter Burgoyne</p>
<p>Officer Support</p>	<p>Ozay Ali, Anne Bennett, Christine Roofe</p>
<p>Rationale Key issues and reason for the review</p>	<p>Much research points to a significant housing shortage in our region, in common with many other areas in England. There is also an increase in population and more people are living longer meaning housing needs are changing and supply no longer meets demand.</p> <p>There is specific concern regarding the need for affordable housing and how this can be delivered.</p> <p>Against this background the Councils have been able to build their first new council homes in over 30 years and they have new forms of finance available to them.</p> <p>However the pace of change needs to be challenged and checks and balances need to be made to ensure the Councils are delivering.</p>
<p>Purpose of the review/Objective (quantify the outcomes the review will seek to achieve)</p>	<p>To investigate whether the councils are delivering against their strategic priorities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ensure there are enough good quality, environmentally efficient and cost effective homes with the appropriate tenures and in the right locations. (MSDC) - Shape, influence and provide the leadership to achieve the right mix and supply of housing (BDC) <p>And whether this, in turn, means we achieve:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - More homes to meet local housing need - Support the needs of our aging population - Improve the quality and use of existing private sector housing - Maximise the use of our housing resources. <p>To be able to meet the strategic priorities against the background of changing government policy and financial restrictions.</p> <p>To ensure there are the capabilities and organisational capacity to carry out a sustainable medium to long term housing delivery plan.</p>
<p>Success measures</p>	<p>Outcomes of the review meet the objectives.</p>

Background information	Current status of housing delivery projects. Latest government policy. Detail of funding initiatives. Staffing structures.
Methodology/ Approach (what types of enquiry will be used to gather evidence and why)	Evidence gathering. Review of evidence. Questions to be answered: How is the current plan meeting objectives? Is it delivering against the strategic priorities? What are the changes in capabilities needed to deliver the plan? How is capacity being built into staff structures to deliver the plan? Is there a sustainable medium to long term plan beyond the current initiatives? How are the changing government policies and finance requirements being mitigated against (e.g. Right to Buy)? Are the strategic objectives deliverable with current resources?
Resource requirements	Officer time.
Project parameters	Within scope of MSDC/BDC powers.
Specify Witnesses/ Experts/ Stakeholders (who to see and when) - subject to review as evidence becomes available.	Housing officers Housing association representative Representative from other neighbouring council Local Development Builders/or their representative body
Specify Evidence Sources for the review	Councils' housing delivery plans
Specify Site Visits (where and when)	N/A