

RECOMMENDATION TO CABINET 5 FEBRUARY 2019 FROM THE REGENERATION AND DEVELOPMENT PANEL MEETING ON 29 JANUARY 2019

RD82: CUSTOM BUILD ACTION PLAN

The Housing Strategy Officer presented the report and reminded the Panel that in October 2018 the Panel had considered the draft summary of the action plan, supported creation of the action plan and agreed for it to be presented to Cabinet.

The Housing Strategy Officer reminded the Panel that in 2015 the Panel had established the Custom and Self Build Policy Development Task Group to take forward the duties placed on the Local Authority through the introduction of the Custom and Self Build Act, which included the requirement to create a register of individuals who were interested in custom and self-build opportunities and meet the demand through the availability of serviceable plots.

The Panel was provided with an overview of the work carried out by the Task Group and it was explained that the council had had the opportunity to work with Mario Wolf who was the lead on the National Custom Build Task Force. The challenge session with Mario Wolf had resulted in the creation of the action plan which set out what the council planned to do to fulfil their statutory obligations and wider opportunities.

The Panel was informed that the Task Group would monitor progress against the action plan and updates could be presented to the Regeneration and Development Panel as required.

The Chairman thanked officers for their report and invited questions and comments from the Panel, as summarised below.

The Portfolio Holder for Corporate Projects and Assets, Councillor Beales, congratulated officers on a very detailed and easy to read report. He explained that he had personal experience with developing a site and there were a lot of things that needed to be considered, for instance affordable housing and CIL requirements. He referred to action 12 which set out how the council would provide guidance and assistance to those interested in custom and self-build opportunities. He stated that this was key to encouraging land owners and individuals to take opportunities forward. Councillor Smith asked that any guidance produced be made easy to understand.

The Portfolio Holder for Development, Councillor Blunt explained that officers and the Task Group had a lot of work to do and he hoped that the result of this would be to provide opportunities for housing to be delivered. It was noted that custom and self-build planning applications were now coming forward as the potential was realised.

RESOLVED: The Panel supported the recommendations to Cabinet as set out below.

It is recommended that the Action Plan be approved.