

REPORT TO: SHAREHOLDER SUB COMMITTEE

DATE: 15 JANUARY 2019

TITLE: REFERENCE FROM CABINET – CREATION OF
HTS (HOUSING AND REGENERATION)
COMPANY

LEAD OFFICER: BRIAN KEANE, MANAGING DIRECTOR
(01279 446000)

RECOMMENDED that:

- A** The Sub Committee notes the approved recommendations, as set out in paragraph 2 of the report, in line with Cabinet decision of December 2018.

BACKGROUND

1. Cabinet received a report on the creation of HTS (Housing and Regeneration) Ltd which set out the Articles of Association, the Company's draft business plan and a proposed five year pipeline for house building sites.
2. Cabinet agreed the following:
 - a) noted the draft Business Plan for HTS (Housing and Regeneration) Ltd.
 - b) approved the revised terms of reference for the Sub Committee.
 - c) agreed the proposed pipeline of house building sites for commencement utilising Right To Buy (RTB) receipts and other funding.
 - d) delegated authority to the Managing Director, in consultation with the Leader of the Council, to complete all necessary financial formalities.

IMPLICATIONS

Place (Includes Sustainability)

The company can contribute towards the Council's objectives of increasing housing supply, creating a wider choice of housing and delivering the Local Plan. Each site will be required to secure planning consent and there is also an opportunity for the company to utilise the Council's Building Control services in the delivery of its projects.

Author: Andrew Bramidge, Project Director – Enterprise Zone and Interim Head of Planning

Finance (Includes ICT)

As set out in the original Cabinet report.

Author: Simon Freeman, Head of Finance and Deputy to the Managing Director

Housing

The creation of HTS Group Ltd and its subsidiaries must enable the Council to utilise flexible arrangements to support the delivery of the Council's Corporate Plan objectives for more and better housing and the wider regeneration of the town. Proper governance, stewardship and control mechanisms must be in place to ensure the appropriate levels of commercialism whilst demonstrating accountability to its local community as a public body that applies public funds.

Author: Andrew Murray, Head of Housing

Community Wellbeing (Includes Equalities and Social Inclusion)

None specific.

Author: Jane Greer, Head of Community Wellbeing

Governance (Includes HR)

The report ensures that the Council complies with Regulation 2 of The Local Government (Best Value Authorities (Power to Trade) (England) Order 2009 through the approval of the business plan prior to trading. The Council has a public sector equality duty (Equality Act 2010 s149) to effectively minimise disadvantage to people who share protected characteristics. This proposal positively supports the duty by seeking to improve the provision of Council housing increasing the availability of decent accommodation for those qualifying for such assistance.

Author: Simon Hill, Head of Governance

Appendices

Appendix A – Cabinet Paper 6 December 2018 – Creation of HTS (Housing and Regeneration) Company

Background Papers

None.

Glossary of terms/abbreviations used

RTB – Right to Buy