

Housing Delivery Portfolio Report

1. Affordable Homes

We have recently received the information for 2015/16 from the Homes and Communities Agency detailing the number of affordable homes that have been Grant funded/recycled Capital Grant funded within Babergh and Mid Suffolk Councils.

The numbers started in Babergh and Mid Suffolk being 35 and 85 respectively for affordable rent, plus 2 and 15 as shared ownership

The respective numbers completed being 21 in Babergh and 53 in Mid Suffolk, plus 2 and 3 as shared ownership.

The figures for Mid Suffolk show the amount of investment provided for the redevelopment of the Unity properties in Haughley, Stowmarket and Woolpit for tranches 1 and 2, with building work on-going at all three locations. The investment figures do not show the amount of funding from the HRA or private finance that have been accessed by the host RP but is a good indication of the commitment to funding new homes in both districts.

The total amount of HCA funding for 2015/16 was £826,698, and £4,079,386 in Babergh and Mid Suffolk respectively.

I'm sure you will agree that this is not an insignificant amount of money helping to provide much needed new homes and is a good news story.

2. Responsive Repairs

The creation of a new Babergh and Mid Suffolk Trades Team will go ahead following agreement by both Councils earlier this month. There is a great deal of work to be done to begin trading in April 2017 and the retention of Calvin Fisher, our Interim Repairs Manager, to see through the implementation and the recruitment of a new permanent Corporate Manager to run the Trades Team will be crucial to our success.

3. Housing Enforcers – Series Four

Colleagues from Tenant Services have agreed to participate in Series Four of Housing Enforcers. Filming is currently taking place with the production showcasing the work of housing professionals. This will be the third series Mid Suffolk has participated in and we will inform Members when the show is to be aired.

4. Tenant Scrutiny

The first tenant scrutiny report has now been published and discussed at this month's Joint Housing Board meeting. The review focused on the void process from a tenant's perspective. The outcome is an action plan to make improvements to processes and procedures. Housing Board representatives agreed to review the progress of the action plan after six months to ensure improvements are made that not only focus on time and money but provide an improved service to tenants.

5. Review of Older Persons Housing

The Joint Housing Board in July heard about proposals to consult tenants of sheltered housing about de-sheltering some schemes, changing the name of the service to Supported Living, developing a Community Visiting Service and making better use of our schemes as community hubs to tackle social isolation. Recommendations for the future of sheltered housing will be presented to Executive Committee in October.

John Levantis