

## **Consultation Report – Tenancy Strategy**

### **Who was consulted?**

A wide variety of stakeholders were consulted, including Registered Providers, Statutory and Voluntary agencies, Council members and members of the public. A list is found at the end of this report.

### **How were they consulted?**

A variety of consultation methods were used, including email, letter, face to face and telephone, depending on the audience.

### **What was the feedback?**

There was a general acceptance of the principle of Affordable rents. Members of the public felt that this was a fair way of setting rents. Registered Providers appreciated the support offered by Cherwell in setting out its strategy at an early date and in enabling the provision of more affordable housing through the acceptance of Affordable Rents. Council Members have expressed some concerns about Affordable Rents, which were discussed at a Council Member consultation.

Generally, respondents supported the use of flexible tenancies. Again this was strongly supported by members of the public who felt that flexible tenancies offer a fair way of dealing with a scarce resource.

### **How was the Tenancy Strategy changed?**

As a result of consultation, several changes were made, including:-

- Strengthening the requirement that supported housing overall charges remain within Local Housing Allowance rates to enable vulnerable residents to continue to afford the support they need
- The section explaining how restricting the rate of conversion of void properties to Affordable rent will secure social rent lettings was extended and the explanation made clearer
- The section on disposals was extended to include the possibility of an RP disposing of a property to the existing tenant. This could happen during or at the end of a flexible tenancy, if the tenant's circumstances allow. Some RP partners plan to encourage this solution in areas of low home ownership
- The section on open market disposals was strengthened to improve Cherwell District Council's negotiating position on keeping investment within the District, when social housing properties are sold.

## **Consultation**

### **Statutory and Voluntary agencies including**

Beacon Centre  
Citizens' Advice Bureau  
Connexions  
Homes and Communities Agency  
Mind  
Oxfordshire Rural Community Council  
Shelter  
Thames Valley Police

### **Local Authorities, including**

Oxfordshire County Council  
South Northamptonshire District Council  
Oxford City Council  
South Oxfordshire District Council  
Vale of White Horse District Council

### **Registered Providers, including**

A2Dominion Housing  
Anchor  
Bromford Group  
Catalyst Group  
GreenSquare Group  
Housing 21  
Paradigm Housing  
Sanctuary Housing  
Sovereign Group

### **Equalities groups, including**

Age UK  
Banbury Asian forum  
Cherwell Equality and Access to Services panel  
Cherwell Strategic Housing Residents' panel  
Oxfordshire Learning Disability  
Shifa Trust

### **Within CDC, stakeholders including**

Council Members  
Customer Services  
Development Control and Major Developments  
Eco Bicester  
Equalities Officer  
Planning Policy  
Revenues and Benefits  
Safer communities

### **Developers, including**

Barratt Homes  
Bovis  
Taylor Wimpey