
REPORT TO THE MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE - 25 MARCH 2022**PORTFOLIO: THE LEADER****REPORT FROM: THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE****SUBJECT: NEW DEED OF VARIATION WITH SANCTUARY HOUSING ASSOCIATION****1 DECISION BEING RECOMMENDED**

- 1.1 To enter into a new Deed of Variation (the “New Deed of Variation”) with Sanctuary Housing Association (“Sanctuary”).

2 REASON/S FOR RECOMMENDATION

- 2.1 The Council and Sanctuary entered into a contractual agreement in 2016 as an extension to the original stock transfer agreement (the “Previous Deed of Variation”) following which both parties have developed a joint commitment to promote sustainable communities across the district.
- 2.2 As we emerge out of the pandemic, the parties have agreed to vary the Previous Deed of Variation through the execution of the New Deed of Variation. The New Deed of Variation reflects how the relationship has developed with the continuing mutual ambition to be involved in the promotion of regeneration, housing and sustainable communities; and the health and well-being of residents, especially those in the greatest need.
- 2.3 To support the ongoing place shaping work across the district and the New Deed of Variation, Sanctuary is contributing £1,000,000 to the Council for the Council’s use in relation to community investment projects and initiatives.
- 2.4 The monies will be held by the Council in a ring-fenced reserve, to be spent in accordance with a plan (the “Community Investment Plan”) to be agreed by the Executive.

3 SALIENT INFORMATION

- 3.1 In the Previous Deed of Variation, Sanctuary agreed to satisfy a number of obligations, referred to as the “Development Objectives”, the “Economic and Investment Objectives”, the “Asset Services Objectives” and the “Older Persons Accommodation Objectives”.
- 3.2 Since that date all but one of these objectives, (the “Economic and Investment Objective”) have been satisfied and that is because this obligation extends to 2037. This objective will, therefore, be continued under the New Deed of Variation and Sanctuary will continue the obligation to invest monies into the

district each financial year to support the Disabled Facilities Grant until 2037 as previously agreed.

- 3.3 The Council and Sanctuary have been successfully working together for 14 years and the Previous Deed of Variation in 2016 reinforced this partnership working. Regular relationship meetings, focusing on operational matters have enabled the agreement to happen at place level, and these continue to date, aiming to help those residents most in need through housing nominations and enabling work, joint community investment initiatives and housing adaptation delivery.
- 3.4 Members also continue to sit on the Sanctuary in Rochford Committee and this committee is currently looking at a renewed partnership charter, covering a range of community investment commitments, including responsibilities to better climate change, digital connectivity, health and wellbeing and other local community initiatives.

4 GOVERNANCE ARRANGEMENTS

- 4.1 The New Deed of Variation contains an obligation that the Council develop a Community Investment Plan to achieve the objectives set out in the document and referred to in paragraph 2.2 above.
- 4.2 The Executive will work with the Assistant Director for People and Communities to create the Community Investment Plan which will be reported back formally through the Executive for its approval prior to any funds being drawn down.

5 ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 5.1 Not to execute the New Deed of Variation and to continue with the only remaining objective under the Previous Deed of Variation.

6 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 Preparation of the New Deed of Variation has been undertaken within existing resources.
- 6.2 The proposed Community Investment Plan will be approved by the Executive before any monies are drawn-down.

7 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 The Council and Sanctuary will enter into the New Deed of Variation which will amend and largely replace the Previous Deed of Variation.

8 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS

8.1 An Equality Impact Assessment has been carried out and the proposals will have a positive impact for persons within our district who have a disability.

I confirm that the above recommendation does not depart from Council policy and that appropriate consideration has been given to any budgetary and legal implications.



LT Lead Officer Signature: _____

Chief Executive

Background Papers:-

None.

For further information please contact Jonathan Stephenson on:-

Phone: 01702 963313

Email: Jonathan.stephenson@rochford.gov.uk

If you would like this report in large print, Braille or another language please contact 01702 318111.