

## **Main updates to the draft Tenancy Strategy 2024**

### **Section 1 – Introduction**

Minor updates and update to explain the Social Housing White Paper 2020 (Charter for Social Housing Residents) affirms the view that social rented housing should be places where residents can put down roots and contribute to their communities.

### **Section 2 – Purpose**

Paragraph 2.3. – Added webpage links to the Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy, Housing Allocations Policy, and Corporate Plan. Updated the Corporate Plan strategic objective for housing to reflect the current Corporate Plan.

Paragraph 2.4. – This paragraph explains the Council's Tenancy Policy supplements the Tenancy Strategy and has been updated to include more information about what the Tenancy Policy covers.

### **Section 3 – Dartford's Profile**

Paragraph 3.1. – Dartford's population figures updated.

Removed a paragraph referencing the impact of the Covid pandemic at the time of the previous 2021 version of the Strategy.

### **Section 4 – Dartford's Housing**

Paragraph 4.1. – Figures about the types and numbers of dwellings in Dartford updated.

Paragraph 4.2. – Average monthly rent figures updated.

### **Section 5 – Housing Applications and Allocations**

Paragraph 5.2. – Figures updated on the number of people waiting on the housing register for accommodation.

Table 1 – Figures updated to show how many people are in each housing band waiting for accommodation.

Paragraph 5.3. – Figures updated on the average number of letting made to Council and housing association properties.

### **Section 6 – Tenancy Standard**

Updated section to explain the Tenancy Standard 2024 and the required outcomes and specific expectations under this consumer standard.

### **Section 8 – Lifetime Tenancies**

Paragraph 8.4. – New paragraph to explain that, in accordance with the Domestic Abuse Act 2021, where the Council, for reasons connected with domestic abuse, grants a new tenancy to a person who has an existing lifetime tenancy of social housing, the Council will grant the person a lifetime secure tenancy. The Council expects that, where registered providers offer further tenancies in such circumstances, that they are granted on a lifetime basis where possible. The aim is to ensure victims and survivors of domestic abuse are provided with stability and the security they need.

### **Section 11 – Equality and Diversity**

Paragraph 11.3. – Updated paragraph to include that the Customer Access Reviews carried out on the Tenancy Strategy concluded that they should have an overall positive impact on tenants and housing applicants by assisting them to understand the types of tenancies available and what is expected in their use to ensure homes are let in a fair, transparent and efficient way.