

Rother District Council

Report to:	Audit and Standards Committee
Date:	20 March 2023
Title:	Homes England 2022/23 Compliance Audit Programme
Report of:	Joe Powell, Head of Service Housing & Communities
Purpose of Report:	To present an update from a recent Homes England audit of the Next Steps Accommodation Programme (NSAP)
Officer	
Recommendation(s):	It be RESOLVED : That the report be noted.

Introduction

1. This report provides the outcome from the Homes England audit of the Next Steps Accommodation Programme 2021 (NSAP). This was our first external audit of this capital grant scheme. The NSAP 2021 was delivered by Homes England in collaboration with the Department of Levelling Up Housing and Communities (DLUHC) in support of the Government's wider objectives to end rough sleeping.
2. The Council was successful in its bid to the NSAP 2021 and was awarded £391,050 of match funding. The Council was able to use this match funding to purchase several properties and provide supported accommodation to former rough sleepers. As part of NSAP 2021, we were also awarded funding of up to £76,600 so that residents can be supported in their homes. The support is delivered through the local East Sussex Rough Sleeping Initiative (RSI), which brings together a range of service providers and agencies from across Housing, Health, Social Care and the wider voluntary and community sector.

Details

3. The purpose of the Compliance Audit report is to confirm that grant recipients have met Homes England's funding conditions and contractual requirements and have properly exercised their responsibilities as set out in the Capital Funding Guide.
4. Homes England selected one of our NSAP schemes that was purchased in late 2021, and that joined the RSI support contract from April 2022.
5. The audit outcomes had to be acknowledged within three months of the report notification, and therefore Councillor Drayson has had prior sight of, and acknowledged, the Audit report. This was due to the dates of the Audit and Standards Committee meetings falling outside that timescale.

Conclusion

6. On review of the evidence provided, the outcome of the audit has shown we have complied with all the programme requirements and guidance. A GREEN grade has been assigned and no breaches were identified.

Financial Implications

7. Homes England use the audit findings to inform their future investment decisions and to reassure the Homes England Chief Accounting Officer that public funds have been properly used.

Other Implications	Applies?	Other Implications	Applies?
Human Rights	No	Equalities and Diversity	No
Crime and Disorder	No	External Consultation	No
Environmental	No	Access to Information	No
Risk Management	No	Exempt from publication	No

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Appendices:	Appendix A - Compliance Audit Report 2022/23
Relevant Previous Minutes:	None
Background Papers:	None
Reference Documents:	None