

## **Housing Strategy Key Achievements 2016-19**

Rotherham has a lot to be proud of since the last Strategy was published.

### **Housing growth theme**

- 576 new homes in the pipeline as part of the Council's housing development programme
- Entered into an innovative Site Clusters partnership with Wates to develop a number of key sites
- Secured £6.8m Homes England grant funding to directly deliver 227 new homes
- Development of the Rother Living brand to denote high quality Council residential development
- More than £60m of Housing Revenue Account (HRA) investment approved and Council wide support for more new homes
- Commenced a modern methods of construction pilot to deliver affordable homes to meet the needs of single people and older people
- Review of HRA land which has identified around 200 potential sites for new housing, including affordable housing
- Developed detailed area housing profiles to ensure new development meets strategic housing need
- Additional £1m HRA staffing resources committed to increase delivery of new homes

### **Social housing theme**

- Continued investment in existing stock through capital, thermal and energy investment programmes
- Remodelled underused assets to provide new, accessible homes to enable people to live independently
- Introduced pre-tenancy workshops and increased tenancy support services to help tenants through welfare reform changes and prevent tenancy failure
- Achieved TPAS (Tenant Participation Advisory Service) accreditation and recognition of excellence in tenant engagement at the national TPAS awards
- Achieved 100% gas safety compliance and maintained decency in all council homes
- 90 new homes have been acquired via Section 106 (affordable housing requirement) agreements, with 74 of these being purchased by the Council for social rent

### **Private rented housing theme**

- Developed a new private sector empty property plan and web-based support information for empty property owners
- The Rent in Advance scheme continues to utilise recycled funding to support vulnerable clients and offer them opportunities to find accommodation in the private rented sector
- Selective licensing
  - 97% of licensed properties now meeting the minimum housing health and safety standards
  - Two further selective licensing areas are under consultation
- Engagement with private landlords through a landlord forum and dedicated web pages
- Estate regeneration funding secured to address empty properties and unlock estate regeneration potential in the Swinton area

### **Affordable home ownership theme**

- Development of new Council housing products including the introduction of Council Shared Ownership and new homes for sale
- Over 450 households were helped into home ownership via Right to Buy
- Through the Council's Shared Ownership and Affordable Homes Programme, secured approval for shared ownership homes in Rawmarsh, Broom and Maltby
- Commissioned a formal report on shared ownership demand to inform future housing growth programmes and the town centre tenure mix
- Worked with a developer to negotiate development of the first Starter Homes in Rotherham

### **Specialist housing theme**

- Care and support accommodation plan commissioned to ensure we plan for the future needs of people with specific housing needs and to support the transforming care agenda
- More bungalows for disabled people and one / two bedroom homes for smaller households built and acquired
- Relocation of Shiloh to enable enhanced service provision to homeless people
- Implemented a range of excellent initiatives to prevent homelessness
- Development of four apartments in Maltby to support individuals with autism