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Council wins top award

■ Praise heaped on housing officers

Rebecca Jones



■ PRESTIGIOUS ACCOLADE: Tendring Council leader Neil Stock

TENDRING council has scooped a national award for creating housing opportunities to support its residents and strengthen local communities.

The council is one of fewer than ten local authorities in the country to be awarded Housing Business Ready Status by the Housing and Finance Institute.

The Housing Finance Institute visited Tendring last week to deliver the final part of its programme and carried out an extensive assessment.

It confirmed the council demonstrated a strong ability to meet all the 18 assessment criteria set out in the programme.

Natalie Elphicke, Housing Finance Institute chief executive, said: "Tendring Council is among the very best in the country for understanding the importance of housing to its locality."

"It creates housing opportunities that support its residents and strengthens local communities."

Among the successes highlighted by the House Finance Institute were officer strength and experience, assessing the capability to build and monitoring delivery to drive housing success.

Neil Stock, Tendring Council's leader, said the award is high praise for the authority.

He said: "This is one of the foremost national bodies for housing and finance stating we are getting things right for our residents and communities and that is why we have picked up this very prestigious award."

"We believe passionately in local

homes for local people and in delivering a quality living environment across the board.

Tendring Council is now working to progress the North Essex Community Garden Project, which could involve about 33,000 homes on sites in the Tendring, Braintree and Colchester. It is also working to provide new builds and quality development in Jaywick.

Mr Stock added: "It forms an important part of our role as a strong community leader and a priority for us going forward."

The Housing Finance Institute noted that Tendring Council has an outstanding team with confidence and capability to deliver with much to celebrate and share with councils across the country.

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