

Executive – 30 October 2017

Extract of minutes

Housing Appeals Panel

Purpose of Report

To consider proposed changes to the Housing Appeals Panel procedure.

Decision

That the proposed changes to the Housing Appeals Panel procedure be supported and recommended to Council for approval.

Alternative Options Considered and Rejected

None.

Reason for Decision

Recently it had become apparent that a number of procedural changes needed to be addressed within the Housing Appeals Panel procedure both to update them in view of the legal framework but also to provide a clear understanding of roles for members and officers.

The key changes proposed to be made to the Housing Appeals Panel procedure included the following:

- a reflection of legislative changes to:
 - review decisions to seek possession of dwelling-houses on absolute grounds for anti-social behaviour as required by Section 85A of the Housing Act 1985;
 - review decisions to seek possession of dwelling-houses following a Demoted Tenancy under Section 85A of the Housing Act 1985.
- a general update to the procedure's wording to better reflect the Housing Appeals Panel's remit;
- amendments to further formalise how the Housing Appeals Panel meetings would be conducted;
- the creation of Section 13 which set out a clear role for the Chair and allowed the Panel to take more of an active role within proceedings;
- standardisation of Housing Officer recommendations and Housing Appeals Panel decisions, whilst still allowing the Panel to exercise its discretion.

The revised procedure document was appended to the report.