

45. Acquisition Policy Addendum

The Assistant Director of Housing Investment and Strategy

- a. presented the Council's Acquisition Policy and explained that it was implemented in June 2019.
- b. advised that a more streamlined process was required for the acquisition of private dwellings which were not former local authority dwellings, but were of strategic importance to the Council.
- c. added that now the Policy was in use, minor changes to the Acquisition Policy were required and asked for Policy Scrutiny Committees comments prior to submission to Executive.
- d. detailed the proposed amendments to Section 3 and Section 4 of the Acquisition Policy as detailed at paragraph 3.1 of the report and advised that these changes would bring the Policy in line with the process of acquiring former council dwellings.
- e. highlighted some minor amendments to the report since it was published.
- f. invited members questions and comments.

Comment – This was a good policy and it was important to buy freehold properties.

Response – The Council would consider buying leasehold properties but only if they were within a building that the Council already owned.

Question – Asked for clarification on the right to first refusal on a property?

Response – The right to first refusal only applied to former Council properties that were purchased under the right to buy scheme and the property was put on the market within 5 years.

Question – Would the properties be used for lettings or for the homeless?

Response – They would be used for both, some would be used for temporary accommodation for families instead of using B&B's.

RESOLVED that the proposed minor policy and process amendments to the Acquisition Policy be supported and referred to Executive for approval.