

SUBJECT: ALLOCATIONS POLICY

DIRECTORATE: HOUSING AND INVESTMENT

REPORT AUTHOR: YVONNE FOX – ASSISTANT DIRECTOR – HOUSING MANAGEMENT

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 To seek member approval for minor amendments to the new Allocations Policy which was approved in March 2020.

2. Background

- 2.1 Following an interim review of the Allocations Policy in 2017 in preparation for the introduction of the Homelessness Reduction Act 2018, a full review of the policy was carried out as part of the review of the Allocations and Homelessness teams. In addition, consideration was given to advice and guidance provided by the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) Specialist Homelessness Advisor; the Codes of Guidance; Case Law and the provisions of the Localism Act 2011. This policy was approved by the Leader in March 2020 after being considered by Policy Scrutiny Committee. The minutes of Policy Scrutiny Committee are attached at Annex A for completeness.
- 2.2 Since that time it has been noted that one section of the policy relating to Armed Forces (5.1.4) did not fully reflect the latest legislation and guidance. The policy has been updated accordingly. In addition, an extra appendix 'Appendix D - Bypass Reasons' has been included to ensure the council is completely transparent in all of its dealings with the allocation of accommodation.
- 2.3 The Policy has been subject to full consultation in line with the legislation.
- 2.4 It is intended that this Policy is implemented in the New Year when the Abrisas Housing Allocations IT System has been updated to accommodate the changes.

3. Strategic Priorities

- 3.1 Let's reduce inequality
- 3.2 The successful implementation of the Council's Allocations Policy is key to reducing inequality amongst vulnerable groups.

Key needs met include:

- Prevention and relief of homelessness
- Prevention and relief of street homelessness
- Households adversely affected by welfare reform

- Households whose homes are not suitable for their medical needs or disability
- Move-on from hospitals
- Move-on from Supported housing

4. Organisational Impacts

- 4.1 Finance (including whole life costs where applicable) – None associated with these minor changes to the policy.
- 4.2 Legal Implications including Procurement Rules - There are no direct legal implications arising from this report at this time
- 4.3 Equality, Diversity and Human Rights - The Public Sector Equality Duty means that the Council must consider all individuals when carrying out their day-to-day work, in shaping policy, delivering services and in relation to their own employees.

It requires that public bodies have due regard to the need to:

- Eliminate discrimination
- Advance equality of opportunity
- Foster good relations between different people when carrying out their activities

The Policy will ensure that anyone will be safeguarded against exposure to the different elements contained in the policy. Those who exhibit a protected characteristic would automatically be covered by this policy, and therefore there is no negative impact on anyone displaying a protected characteristic.

- 4.4 Human Resources - There are no direct HR implications arising from this report at this time

5. Risk Implications

- 5.1 There are no risks identified with implementing this policy.

6. Recommendation

- 6.1 Members are asked to approve the minor amendments to the Allocations Policy.

Is this a key decision? Yes

Do the exempt information categories apply? No

Does Rule 15 of the Scrutiny Procedure Rules (call-in and urgency) apply? No

How many appendices does the report contain? 5

List of Background Papers: None

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