

Report of the Chief Executive

DISCHARGE OF LOCAL AUTHORITY HOMELESS DUTY THROUGH THE USE OF PRIVATE SECTOR ACCOMMODATION POLICY1. Purpose of report

To seek Committee approval for the reviewed Discharge of Local Authority Homeless Duty Through the Use of Private Sector Accommodation Policy.

2. Background

This is a review of an existing policy approved by the Housing Committee. The policy enables the Council to discharge its homeless duty to the private sector. This in turn enables the Council to more effectively prevent homelessness and house those people and families who are affected by homelessness as quickly as possible.

The Homeless Reduction Act 2017 requires the Council to support an applicant in accessing accommodation for a period of at least 6 months. To access as much accommodation as possible, accounting for the demand for and supply of certain types of accommodation in the Borough, the Council accesses the private sector to enable the Council to do so. The Council uses a Deposit Guarantee Scheme where appropriate to assist in helping applicants in accessing properties in the private sector.

The policy has been updated to incorporate the changes in legislation since the policy was written. These are both in terms of the Homeless Legislation but also in the legislation around property standards and health and safety.

3. Detail

The policy details how the Council discharges its homeless duty to the private sector by;

- Outlining how and when the Council will make offers and their location
- The property standards that the private sector tenancy must uphold
- The principles of the Deposit Guarantee Scheme
- The advice, assistance and support that the Council will provide to tenants and landlords

An Equalities Impact Assessment is included as appendix 1 to the report. the Discharge of Local Authority Homeless Duty Through the Use of Private Sector Accommodation Policy is included as appendix 2 of the report.

Recommendation

The Committee is asked to RESOLVE that the updated Discharge of Local Authority Homeless Duty Through the Use of Private Sector Accommodation Policy be approved.

Background papers

Nil