

Report of the Portfolio Holder for Housing

ALLOCATIONS POLICY1. Purpose of Report

To seek Cabinet approval for the proposed amendments to the Allocations Policy.

2. Recommendation

Cabinet is asked to RESOLVE that the updated Allocations Policy be approved.

3. Detail

The Allocations Policy outlines the method by which the Council manages the Housing Register. It confirms who is eligible to join the list, how applications are assessed and prioritised and how properties are allocated. The Council aims to make the best use of the social housing stock in the Borough to meet the needs of residents.

The aims of the policy are:

- To ensure that all regulatory and legal requirements are met
- To set out the requirements for considering eligibility and qualification
- To ensure that applicants are given choice
- To set out the categories of applicants who will be given reasonable preference
- To set out the categories of applicants who will be given additional preference
- To confirm when local lettings policies and direct lets may be used
- To set out a framework for reviews and appeals

A revised Allocations Policy is included at appendix 1, and the changes are summarised in the table at appendix 2. As there are changes to Council policy, and Equalities Impact Assessment has also been completed at appendix 3.

4. Financial Implications

The comments from the Head of Finance Services were as follows:

There are no additional financial implications for the Council at this stage with any costs being contained within existing budgets. Any significant budget implications going forward, over and above virement limits, would require approval by Cabinet.

5. Legal Implications

The comments from the Monitoring Officer / Head of Legal Services were as follows:

The relevant legislation is contained within the policy document, the most relevant one is Part VI of the Housing Act 1996 that requires a local housing authority to adopt an allocations scheme, and, except in defined circumstances, to allocate property only in accordance with the scheme. When framing the scheme, the Council must have regard to statutory guidance issued by the Secretary of State and to its own homelessness and tenancy strategies. The proposals in this policy do not conflict with the statutory requirements or the Council's strategies. This, ultimately ensures there is a robust structure in place for the allocation of social housing.

6. Human Resources Implications

Not applicable

7. Union Comments

Not applicable

8. Data Protection Compliance Implications

Not applicable

9. Equality Impact Assessment

As this is a change to policy / a new policy an equality impact assessment is included in the appendix to this report.

10. Background Papers

Nil.