

## Report of the Portfolio Holder for Housing

### Allocations Policy

#### 1. Purpose of Report

To obtain feedback on the updated Allocations Policy

#### 2. Recommendation

**Cabinet is asked to APPROVE the updated Allocations Policy.**

#### 3. Detail

The Allocations Policy sets out who can apply for social housing; how priority is given to different applicants; and how the housing register is maintained.

The draft Allocations Policy has been considered by the Tenants Influence Panel, and a workshop held with Housing employees who use the Policy prior to being submitted to the Policy Overview Working Group for consideration.

The current Policy was approved in 2024. There are many changes in the proposed document, some of which are due to changes in guidance. The draft Allocations Policy can be found in **Appendix 1** with the changes that have been made are outlined in **Appendix 2**.

An Equalities Impact Assessment is provided in **Appendix 3**.

#### 4. Key Decision

This report is a key decision as defined under Regulation 8 of the Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Meetings and Access to Information) (England) Regulations 2012.

#### 5. Updates from Policy Overview Working Group

Policy Overview Working Group considered the policy. Changes to have been made to the section regarding teenage parents following feedback.

#### 6. Financial Implications

The comments from the Interim Deputy Chief Executive and Section 151 Officer were as follows:

There are no additional financial implications to consider with any costs being contained within existing budgets.

7. Legal Implications

The comments from the 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.. This, ultimately ensures there is a robust structure in place for the allocation of social housing.

8. Human Resources Implications

There were no comments from the Human Resources Manager.

9. Union Comments

Not applicable.

10. Climate Change Implications

Any climate change implications are contained within the report.

11. Data Protection Compliance Implications

This report does not contain any OFFICIAL(SENSITIVE) information and there are no Data Protection issues in relation to this report.

12. Equality Impact Assessment

As this is a change to policy an equality impact assessment is included as an appendix to this report.

13. Background Papers

Nil.