

Report of Head of Scrutiny and Member Development

Report to Scrutiny Board (Housing and Regeneration)

Date: 25th September 2012

Subject: Initial Findings following Completion of the Consultation on Proposed Major Changes to Housing Policy

Are specific electoral Wards affected? If relevant, name(s) of Ward(s):	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Are there implications for equality and diversity and cohesion and integration?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Is the decision eligible for Call-In?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Does the report contain confidential or exempt information? If relevant, Access to Information Procedure Rule number: Appendix number:	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No

Introduction

1. At the last Scrutiny Board meeting Members were advised of proposed major changes in housing policy which would determine how the Council would allocate its housing stock over the next ten years. The Board received reports of the Director of Environment and Neighbourhoods on the Tenancy Strategy 2013-2015 and lettings policy review which had been approved by the Executive Board on 20th June 2012. This included proposals to undertake a consultation exercise with all relevant parties concerned. The Scrutiny Board was invited to contribute to that consultation process which will be used to help formulate the new policies.
2. The Scrutiny Board agreed to establish a Working Group to which all Members of the Board would be invited to attend in order that Members could contribute to the consultation process in an informal setting.
3. The Scrutiny Board Working Group met on 3rd September 2012 and a number of comments and concerns were expressed which were submitted to the consultation. A note of that meeting is attached for members information.

Overview of the Outcome and Recommendations from the Consultation

4. The Director of Environment and Neighbourhoods has agreed to provide the Board at today's meeting with an overview of the outcomes and recommendations as a consequence of that consultation which concludes in late September 2012. This report will be tabled at today's meeting in order to give the Directorate the maximum time possible to analyse the information received.

5. This Scrutiny Board is invited to make any further comments or recommendations to the Executive Board following consideration of the Director of Environment and Neighbourhoods report.
6. In accordance with the agreed timetable the Director of Environment and Neighbourhoods will then submit to the Executive Board on 7th November 2012 a report seeking approval to implement a tenancy strategy for the Council.

Recommendations

7. Members are asked to
 - (a) Consider the report of the Director of Environment and Neighbourhoods which provides an overview and recommendations that will form the basis for his report to the Executive Board on 7th November 2012.
 - (b) Determine what, if any, further information or action the Board wishes to undertake in this regard.

Background documents¹

8. Reports of the Director of Environment and Neighbourhoods on the Tenancy Strategy 2013-2015 and lettings policy review

¹ The background documents listed in this section are available for inspection on request for a period of four years following the date of the relevant meeting. Accordingly this list does not include documents containing exempt or confidential information, or any published works. Requests to inspect any background documents should be submitted to the report author.