

# Decision Notice

## Delegated Decision

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<b>Decision No:</b>	<b>DD33</b>
<b>Subject:</b>	<b>ADOPTION OF THE HOUSING SERVICE NEIGHBOURHOOD MANAGEMENT POLICY</b>
<b>Date of Decision</b>	<b>17 January 2023</b>
<b>Notification Date:</b>	<b>20 January 2023</b>
<b>Implementation Date:</b>	<b>26 January 2023</b>
<b>Decision taken by:</b>	<b>Mike Davis, Strategic Director (Finance and Housing)</b>
<b>Delegated Authority:</b>	<b>Cabinet Decision CAB 4 of June 2022 as follows: ‘That the Strategic Director (Corporate Resources) be authorised, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Social Housing, Port Health, Skills and Education, to make minor amendments to the policy arising from the consultation and, thereafter, adopt the policy on behalf of the Council with effect from 1 September 2022.’</b>
<b>Decision Type:</b>	<b>Executive Key Decision</b>
<b>Call-In to Apply?</b>	<b>Yes</b>
<b>Classification:</b>	<b>Unrestricted</b>
<b>Reason for the Decision:</b>	The Neighbourhood Management Policy 2022 has been consulted upon with tenants and service users and there have been no further comments received. The Policy now needs to be formally adopted.
<b>Decision:</b>	To adopt the Neighbourhood Management Policy 2022.

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### 1. Summary

- 1.1 At its 6 June 2022 meeting, Cabinet agreed to adopt, subject to consultation, a new Neighbourhood Management Policy for the housing service. ([Minutes Template \(dover.gov.uk\)](https://www.dover.gov.uk)).
- 1.2 The Regulator of Social Housing, Neighbourhood and Community Standard states that: “Registered providers shall keep the neighbourhood and communal areas associated with the homes that they own clean and safe” and that the “policy shall include any communal areas associated with the registered providers homes.”
- 1.3 It is a requirement of the Standard that: “Registered Providers shall consult with tenants in developing a published policy for maintaining and improving neighbourhoods associated with their homes.”
- 1.4 The Neighbourhood Management Policy reflects current government legislation and aims to inform how the housing service will:

- (a) Play a key role in keeping Council estates and communal areas clean, safe, well maintained, and attractive places to live.
- (b) Work in partnership with tenants, key local partners, contractors, and other public bodies to achieve our objectives.
- (c) Set clear service standards for the maintenance and management of estates and communal areas.
- (d) React promptly to reports of problems and where necessary enforce the terms of tenancy agreement to manage the land the Council owns.
- (e) Put customers at the heart of our services by encouraging active customer involvement and consultation on all aspects of neighbourhood management.

1.5 The current content of the Neighbourhood Management Policy was agreed by Cabinet on the 6 June 2022 to go out for public consultation.

## 2. **Consultation and Feedback**

### The Consultation

2.1 The public consultation for the Neighbourhood Management Policy was for a period of 7 weeks, from 1 July 2022 to 15 August 2022.

2.2 Tenants were made aware of the consultation through the following means:

- (a) The Tenant Newsletter (Summer edition). A QR code was provided on the newsletter so that tenants could access the consultation page directly.
- (b) Keep Me Posted notifications sent to tenants who has signed up to the notification service.
- (c) A dedicated consultation webpage was created which included information on the content, why the policy was created, and how it benefitted tenants and the Council. Copies of the document were link to the webpage so tenants could access it.

2.3 Tenants were invited to comment and provide feedback on the proposed policy via the Feedback pages.

### Tenant Feedback

2.4 We have received no comments, concerns, or feedback from tenants on the proposed policy during the consultation period.

2.5 We have received no comments, concerns, or feedback from Members on the proposed policy during the consultation period.

## 3. **Identification of Options**

3.1 Option 1: Adopt the Neighbourhood Management Policy 2022.

3.2 Option 2: Not adopt the Neighbourhood Management Policy 2022.

## 4. **Evaluation of Options**

4.1 Option 1 is the recommended option. The policy presented to Cabinet on 6 June 2022 was agreed subject to consultation. The consultation has taken place and no further comments have been received.

4.2 Option 2 Not adopt the Neighbourhood Management Policy 2022. This is not the recommended option as the housing service will be without a Neighbourhood Management Policy and will not in this area meet the requirements of the Regulatory framework set by the Regulator of Social Housing.

5. **Any Conflicts of Interest Declared?**

5.1 None.

6. **Resource Implications**

6.1 The adoption and application of the Neighbourhood Management Policy will be delivered within existing resources in the Housing Revenue Account (HRA).

7. **Climate Change and Environmental Implications**

7.1 There should be no environmental or climate change implications as a consequence of this decision being taken.

8. **Corporate Implications**

8.1 Comment from the Director of Finance (linked to the MTFP): 'Accountancy have been consulted in the writing of this report and have no further comment to add. (AC)'

8.2 Comment from the Solicitor to the Council: The Solicitor to the Council has been consulted in the preparation of this report and has no further comments to make. (BD)

8.3 Comment from the Equalities Officer: 'The Equality Officer has been consulted during the development of this report and has no further comments to make, other than to remind Members that in discharging their responsibilities they are required to comply with the public sector equality duty as set out in section 149 of the Equality Act 2010 <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2010/15/section/149>'

8.4 Other Officers (as appropriate):

9. **Supporting Information** (*as applicable*)

Neighbourhood Management Policy

Summer 2022 Tenant Newsletter