

Decision Notice

Delegated Decision

Decision No:	DD37
Subject:	REVISION OF HOUSING ALLOCATION POLICY
Notification Date:	13 March 2023
Implementation Date:	13 March 2023
Decision taken by:	Louise Taylor, Head of Housing
Delegated Authority:	Delegation 109 to the Head of Housing of the Scheme of Officer Delegations (Section 6) of Part 3 (Responsibility for Functions) of the Constitution: 'To exercise the powers and functions of the Council as local housing authority including the management and letting of all dwellings, buildings and land held or subsequently acquired or appropriated for housing purposes.'
Decision Type:	Executive Non-Key Decision
Call-In to Apply?	No (<i>Call-in does not apply to non-Key Officer decisions</i>)
Classification:	Unrestricted

Reason for the Decision:	To make amendments to the Council's Housing Allocation Policy.
Decision:	To make necessary amendments to the Council's Housing Allocation Policy, as detailed in the attached Appendix.

1. **Consideration and Alternatives** (*if applicable*)

- 1.1 Section 166A of the Housing Act 1996 requires Local Authorities to publish an Allocation Policy which sets out how social rented housing is allocated within the district, including who is eligible to join the housing register.
- 1.2 Section 5.8 of the Allocation Policy outlines considerations in determining priority. Within this section there is a reference to how the Council prioritises the allocation of un-adapted houses with gardens to families with children aged 13 and under.
- 1.3 A recent review of the Policy has found that the explanation of this particular consideration may be ambiguous, and therefore requires revision.
- 1.4 The Allocation Policy has been amended to clarify the rules that the Council will follow when allocating un-adapted houses with gardens.
- 1.5 The minor amendment to the policy does not require formal consultation.

2. **Identification of Options**

- 2.1 The Options available are to:
 - A. Approve the revised Allocation Policy.
 - B. Reject the revised Allocation Policy.

3. **Evaluation of Options**

Option A: This is the preferred option as Section 5.8 of the existing policy needs clarification to ensure that housing applicants understand how we prioritise the allocation of un-adapted houses with gardens.

Option B: This is not recommended because the existing policy may be misinterpreted.

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

None.

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

See attached Appendix. Section 5.8 is track-changed for ease of reference.

6. **Resource Implications**

6.1 There are no resource implications related to this report.

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 and has no further comments (AC)

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

8.2.1 Comment from the Equalities Officer: This report regarding the Allocations Policy does not specifically highlight any equality implications. The amendments do not change the barriers to those that the Secretary of State class as being ineligible for housing assistance, as outlined in the Housing Act 1996. In discharging their duties members 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>

8.3 Other Officers (as appropriate):