

Report to the Housing Scrutiny Panel

Date of report: 25 October 2007

Portfolio: Housing – Councillor D Stallan

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Committee Secretary: Adrian Hendry, ext.4246

Subject: Review of the Housing Allocations Scheme



Recommendation:

That the Housing Scrutiny Panel considers the attached draft report on the review of the Housing Allocations Scheme, prior to consultation with registered social landlords operating in the District and local councils, and pass on their comments to the Housing Portfolio Holder for his consideration prior to its submission to the Cabinet.

Background Report:

1. The Council is legally required to have an Allocations Scheme setting out the procedures for allocating its housing accommodation and making nominations to Registered Social Landlords (RSLs). Each year the Cabinet considers the Council's Allocations Scheme and reviews any changes to be made.
2. The Housing Scrutiny Panel is asked to consider the attached report on proposed changes to the Allocations Scheme to take effect from 1 April 2008. The Panel's comments will be considered by the Housing Portfolio Holder, prior to the report being submitted to the Cabinet.
3. Following the Housing Scrutiny Panel's meeting, all RSLs operating within the District and all local councils will be consulted on the proposed changes, with their comments taken into account by the Housing Portfolio Holder prior to reporting to the Cabinet.

Consultation

4. The Tenants and Leaseholder's Federation were consulted at their meeting on 13 September 2007. Although, generally, they agreed the report, under Section 13.2 of the Allocations Scheme, they suggested that, in addition to extending incentives to those moving from 2 bedroom accommodation to one bedroom, the Housing Scrutiny Panel could consider offering incentives to all tenants who downsize by one bedroom or more (e.g. 3 bedroom to 2 bedroom) provided the their new accommodation is in accordance with their need. The Citizens Advice Bureau will be consulted at the quarterly Housing & Citizens Advice Bureaux Liaison meeting on 23 October 2007 and their views be reported verbally.