

SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE 14 JUNE 2011

HOUSING ALLOCATIONS POLICY

REPORT OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE

STRATEGIC PRIORITIES: SP2: Healthy City; SP3: Safe City; SP5: Attractive and Inclusive City

CORPORATE PRIORITIES: CIO1 Customer focused services; CIO2 One Council; CIO3 Efficient and effective council; CIO4 Improving partnership working

1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 At its last meeting on 12 April 2011, and as part of its consideration of items on the Forward Plan, the Scrutiny Committee requested further information on the Housing Allocations Policy.
- 1.2 The Housing Allocations Policy is scheduled to be considered by Cabinet on 20 July 2011.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 As Scrutiny Committee members are aware, the Allocations Policy was the subject of a Policy Review undertaken by this Committee in 2009/2010. Recommendations from the Review have been actioned and factored into the wider review of the Allocations Policy that has been ongoing over the past eighteen months.
- 2.2 Consultation on the revised Policy has been undertaken with Elected Members, Registered Housing Providers and the public; feedback on which will be provided as part of the presentation to Committee.
- 2.3 Whilst the Allocations Policy has been under review there have been a range of consultation documents emanating from the Government regarding proposed changes to social housing and the introduction of affordable rents and flexible tenancies, in particular the implications of these new proposals need to be considered and accommodated in the new policy where necessary.

The Government has also proposed that a Strategic Tenancy Policy, be developed by local authorities, which will set out the overarching principles

for tenancy policies and the approach the City wants to take. More information on this will be provided at the meeting.

2.4 Cabinet will be asked to consider the following recommendations:

- to adopt the new Allocations Policy;
and;
- to inform/explain to Cabinet how the new policy fits together with a scheme for the Tyne and Wear sub-region to be called “Tyne and Wear Homes”.
- to inform Cabinet that a full registration exercise will take place for all those on the Council and Gentoo’s waiting list.
- to seek Cabinet’s approval to close the existing housing register at a specific point in time (to be determined).

3. CURRENT POSITION

3.1 Mr Alan Caddick, Strategic Head of Housing will attend the Scrutiny Committee meeting to give members a presentation and answer any questions on the Access to Housing – Allocations Policy.

4. RECOMMENDATION

4.1 The Committee is recommended to receive a presentation on the Housing Allocations Policy in advance of it being considered by Cabinet.

5. BACKGROUND PAPERS

- Forward Plan: Key Decisions from - 01/Jun/2011 to 30/Sep/2011
- Sustainable Communities Scrutiny Committee Agenda and Minutes, 12 April 2011
- Sustainable Communities – Review of Allocations Policy.