

POLICY DEVELOPMENT & REVIEW 2009/10: DRAFT REPORT

LINK TO WORK PROGRAMME: POLICY DEVELOPMENT & REVIEW

Report of the Chief Executive

STRATEGIC PRIORITIES: SP1, SP5

CORPORATE PRIORITIES: CIO1, CIO4

1. Why has this report come to committee?

- 1.1 The report provides Members of the committee with the first draft report from the evidence gathered in relation to this year's policy review on access to social housing.
- 1.2 The review report presents in detail the evidence, research and conclusions drawn throughout the review process and members are asked to comment on this for relevance, clarity and accuracy.
- 1.3 The review into access to social housing has clear links to the Councils Strategic Priorities in particular 'Attractive and Inclusive City.' The review also has links to Corporate Priorities on delivering customer focused services and improving partnership working.

2. Background

- 2.1 At its meeting on 15th June, 2009 following discussions regarding the work programme the Committee consider the possibility of a study into the issue of access to social housing in Sunderland.
- 2.2 The review came at an important time in light of the work being undertaken at local, regional and national levels in relation to Choice Based Lettings and Fair and Flexible guidance. The Committee used its skills and expertise to stimulate community engagement and develop themes presented during their evidence gathering procedures.

3. The Draft Report

- 3.1 The draft report on Access to Social Housing in Sunderland is attached as an appendix to this report and presents members with the facts and evidence that have been gathered throughout the review process. As part of the review process evidence was obtained from a variety of national, regional and local key witnesses and stakeholders.
- 3.2 The report is divided into a number of sections which provide the background information to the review, how the review was carried out and the findings and conclusions from the review process. The findings from the review are set out as follows:

- Social Housing – The National and Local Picture
- Social Housing Providers
- Private Landlords
- Tenants and Applicants
- Choice Based Lettings.

3.3 Members are asked to read the report and comment on the content with particular reference to the findings of the review and the conclusions that have been drawn from these findings. Members may wish to amend the report for purposes of accuracy, clarity or relevance to ensure the report is a true reflection of the review work undertaken.

3.4 Members should also begin to consider themes and issues for recommendations. The draft report has no recommendations attached at present and it is for members to consider the direction and content of the recommendations for this policy review work.

4. Conclusion

4.1 The Sustainable Communities Scrutiny Committee are presented with a draft copy of the policy review document for comment and amendment with the aim of producing a final draft report with recommendations for approval by the committee.

5. Recommendation

5.1 That the Sustainable Communities Scrutiny Committee provide comments on the draft report and that any agreed amendments are made.

5.2 That consideration is given to themes and issues for recommendations to be included in the policy review report by the Sustainable Communities Scrutiny Committee.

5.3 That a final review report is presented to the Sustainable Communities Scrutiny Committee at its April 2009 meeting.

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