

Item 6a – Review of Housing Allocation Policy

The attached report was considered by the Cabinet on 16 July 2024. The relevant Minute extract is below.

Cabinet (16 July 2024, Minute 16)

The Portfolio Holder presented the report for the Draft Housing Allocation Policy 2024-25 which had been revised following the feedback from the recent consultation. Making changes to the Housing Allocations Policy required a period of consultation and the report set out the results of the consultation. The Housing Allocations Policy had been amended to reflect the changes and the draft was attached at Appendix 1.

Following discussion at the Housing & Health Advisory Committee, it was requested that the definition of 'suitable accommodation' be clarified in the policy, and was included in the following sections, One offer/refusals, right to review and housing register panel, and recommended this change be approved.

Members discussed the report. In response to discussion points, the Head of Housing advised that frequently asked questions document and a guide for the Bands would be produced, as had been done when the current Policy was implemented in 2022. The monthly Housing and Community Hub held would be themed to tie in with the launch of the Policy, to enable residents to raise any questions. Further events would be held across the District. The Head of Housing emphasised that the Housing Register Team were available to assist residents with any queries.

Public Sector Equality Duty

Members noted that consideration had been given to impacts under the public sector quality duty.

Resolved: That

- a) the feedback received from the consultation exercise, be noted;
- b) the revised draft of the Housing Allocations Policy 2024-2027, be considered; and
- c) it be recommended to Council that the Housing Allocation Policy 2024-2027, be adopted, with the inclusion of the definition of suitable accommodation.