

Report of the Assistant Director, Legal and Governance

**Update on Implementation of Recommendations from Previously  
Completed Housing Registrations Scrutiny Review**

**Summary**

1. This report provides the committee with their first formal update on the implementation of the recommendations arising from the previously completed Housing Registrations Scrutiny Review, and asks Members to sign off any recommendations now considered to be either fully implemented or no longer appropriate.

**Background**

2. In March 2016 the Communities & Environment Policy & Scrutiny Committee received an overview of the council's Housing Allocations & Choice Based Lettings system. This provided an update on the ongoing officer review of the Council's current working methods, and the legislation and North Yorkshire Homes Choice (NYHC) allocations policy that governs those processes.
3. The Committee agreed they would like to participate in the ongoing review and a Task Group was formed. In early May 2016 the Task Group met for the first time to receive introductory information in support of their review and agreed the following review aim and objectives:

Aim

'To actively engage with and contribute to the ongoing officer review, to help shape improvements to the Council's housing allocations process and contribute to the decisions and actions to be taken around the Council's Housing Allocation & Choice Based Lettings System.'

## Objectives

- i. To review the Housing Registrations service to understand the Council's policy, process, systems and application criteria.
  - ii. To consider national good practice, visits and findings of the 'Allocations Service Development Officer Review' work to date.
  - iii. To consider proposed changes to the Housing Registrations service, systems and policy and the implications associated with any changes.
4. The Task Group worked closely with Housing Officers and the review final report with the recommendations arising from the review (see Column 1 of Annex A) was presented to this Committee in July 2016, resulting in all of the arising recommendations being endorsed and fed into the ongoing officer review.
  5. The Housing Team subsequently completed their review and their report on the review of the Housing Registrations Service was considered by the Executive Leader at his decision session in October 2016.

## **Consultation**

6. The Head of Housing Services supported this scrutiny review and will be present at this meeting to provide further information on the ongoing work to respond to forthcoming changes in housing related legislation.

## **Options**

7. In light of the update information provided in Annex A (Column 2) and at this meeting, Members may choose to:
  - a. Sign off any recommendations which have been fully implemented.
  - b. Request a further update on any recommendations outstanding, and the attendance of the relevant officer at a future scrutiny meeting in six months time.
  - c. Agree that any outstanding recommendations will be implemented in time through either the introduction of the Council's new Local Plan, or as part of the council's ongoing work to address forthcoming changes to housing related legislation.
  - d. Agree to sign off the outstanding recommendations on the understanding that the appropriate scrutiny committee will in the future receive overview reports relating to housing and the council's allocations policy.

## Council Plan 2011-15

8. The Housing Registrations Scrutiny Review supported the Council's priority to listen to residents and deliver frontline services.

## Implications & Risk Management

9. There are no known implications or risks associated with the recommendations made in this report.

## Recommendations

10. Members are recommended to:
  - i. Note the implementation update information detailed in Annex A
  - ii. Sign off any recommendations that have been fully implemented.
  - iii. Sign off the remaining recommendations and request that the appropriate scrutiny committee receive regular updates on the ongoing work to respond to changes in housing related legislation etc.

Reason: To conclude this review in line with scrutiny procedures and protocols and inform the future work of scrutiny

## Contact Details

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**Report Approved**



**Date**

30 April 2017

### Wards Affected:

**All**



For further information please contact the author of the report

**Background Papers:** None

### Annexes:

Annex A – Update on Housing Registrations Review Recommendations  
Annex B - Update on Recommendation (ii) - Personal interviews for new applicants to be introduced