

Member Health & Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee 15.10.19

The committee received a presentation of the revised Housing Allocation policy and key changes, as well considered the policies Equality Impact assessment, which both inform the planned Full Cabinet Report of November 2019.

The Member feedback is captured below:

Comment	Officer Response
<p>Pleased to see took on board member earlier views, namely</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Applications cancelled based on 3 offers will read suitable offers • Financial thresholds will include a discretion and levels will be reviewed in 2021/2022 • Really pleased members have been involved throughout (member seminar, pervious scrutiny) and now opportunity to scrutinise EqIA and listened to • Any final scrutiny comments on EqIA to TMM/DK by 31/10/19 	<p>Response and feedback noted. For applications to be cancelled it will need to be suitable. All applications in band 1 will have a suitability assessment completed upon banding award as part of the process. There also remains the right to a review which would be undertaken by someone not involved in initial decision.</p> <p>EqIA has been independently reviewed for legal advice.</p> <p>Financial resources thresholds were based on proportions of average house and rent prices will be reconsidered annual once baseline information has been captured.</p>
<p>EqIA – support vulnerable people; discussion around portal / digital by default so that resources can be diverted to prevention and service then tailored to those with diverse needs</p>	<p>Those in band 1 will have officers assigned to monitor and support their bidding. Vulnerable persons already supported through bidding and this is recorded on the housing register. Those who are unable to access ICT will be supported to do so as part of the wider ICT inclusion policies. The Assistant Director for People will keep the committee informed on the development of the portal.</p>
<p>EqIA – can we update profiling information; discussion around census data and that shift to e-form will improve customer profiling</p>	<p>Most of the data currently held is in relation to historic application where the data was not required to be captured. All new applications ask for information on the equality strands and this will be considered through the development of the portal.</p>

Support local connection	Response and support noted. Local connection has been further strengthened within the policy to protect residents as far as possible.
EqIA – disability concerns around providing information in different languages and ‘browse aloud’ ; confirmed this was captured and already part of equality planning	Concerns noted and acknowledged they have been addressed as part of the EIA. The Council will provide the application form in different languages as required and there is accessibility functionality in built within the bidding site.
Like financial thresholds and pleased to see market place initiative as part of the implementation	Financial thresholds were calculated based on a proportion of average house process and market rents. There is a commitment to review this in 2021/2022 once baseline information has been captured.
Will support be put in for those off the list; yes implementation allows for range of things including housing options surgeries; Freephone etc	The Council retains an advice and assistance duty for all, comprehensive housing options information is available for all, there is a housing assessment tool within the bidding site, and factsheets and details on housing options also displayed within the website.