

North Somerset Council

REPORT TO THE ADULT SERVICES AND HOUSING POLICY AND SCRUTINY PANEL

DATE OF MEETING: 23RD NOVEMBER 2017

SUBJECT OF REPORT: PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE HOMECHOICE NORTH SOMERSET LETTINGS AND ASSESSMENT POLICY

TOWN OR PARISH: ALL

OFFICER/MEMBER PRESENTING: COUNCILLOR RUTH JACOBS, CHAIR ASH HOUSING STEERING GROUP

KEY DECISION: NO

RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Panel retrospectively endorse the Housing Steering Group's recommendations to the Executive Member (as set out in the appended steering group report).

1. SUMMARY OF REPORT

The Steering Group met with officers to consider and feedback on a number of proposed changes to the HomeChoice North Somerset Lettings and Assessment Policy. Members agreed with the rationales underpinning the proposed changes and recommended, subject to retrospective endorsement by the full ASH Panel, that they be implemented.

2. POLICY

Policy and scrutiny contributes towards the council's corporate aim: improving the way we work. Most reviews undertaken by this Panel contribute towards the Council's aim of enhancing well-being.

3. DETAILS

On 18th October 2017, the ASH Steering group met with the Head of Strategy and Housing and Homechoice Team Manager to consider proposed changes to the HomeChoice North Somerset Lettings and Assessment Policy.

Noting that officers had recently consulted service users on the proposals, Members reviewed the options considered by officers and the recommended policy changes (as set out in the Appendix).

Members agreed with the rationales underpinning each proposed policy change, receiving assurance that the Exceptional Circumstances Policy provided a safety net in instances where flexibility on interpretation of the policy was needed due to urgent or exceptional need.

It was therefore concluded that the Steering Group make a recommendation, for endorsement by the full ASH Panel, that the Executive Member implement the proposals.

However, it was noted that the next meeting of the Panel was not until 23rd November and that delaying a decision until that time could present difficulties. In the circumstances, and in accordance with the Panel's "new ways of working", it was agreed that the Steering Group draft a recommendation report and consult all Panel members on its contents by email, prior to it being submitted to the Executive Member. Panel Members were consulted on 23rd October and the recommendations were submitted on 30th October.

4. CONSULTATION

All Members of the ASH Panel were consulted by the Steering Group.

5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

N/A

6. LEGAL POWERS AND IMPLICATIONS

N/A

7. RISK MANAGEMENT

N/A

8. EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS

N/A

9. CORPORATE IMPLICATIONS

N/A

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