

Review of Housing Allocation Scheme

Working Group - Terms of Reference

Purpose

The purpose of the Working Group is to review the objectives and outcomes of the Housing Allocation Scheme and make any recommendations for change.

Definitions

Under Part 6 of the Housing Act 1996 as amended, an allocation of housing occurs whenever a local housing authority selects a new tenant for one of its own homes, or nominates a tenant for a vacancy with another authority or housing association. Local policy determines whether transfers of council tenants from one home to another are generally dealt with separately or as part of the allocation scheme, and in Dudley they are dealt with within the scheme.

Objectives

The Working Group will follow the six core principles of good governance

- Focusing on the purpose of the authority and on outcomes for the community and creating and implementing a vision for the local area
- Members and officers working together to achieve a common purpose with clearly defined functions and roles
- Promoting values for the authority and demonstrating the values of good governance through upholding high standards of conduct and behaviour
- Taking informed and transparent decisions which are subject to effective scrutiny and managing risk
- Developing the capacity and capability of members and officers to be effective
- Engaging with local people and other stakeholders to ensure robust accountability

The Working Group will consider

- The national legislative framework for housing allocation schemes, including the extent to which local arrangements may be made
- The Council's current Housing Allocation Scheme, and any evidence of the outcomes that it currently delivers
- The impact of demographic change and intelligence on housing needs and demand
- The impact on related strategies, including but not limited to the Homelessness Strategy and Tenancy Strategy
- Any evidence and commentary provided by residents and stakeholders
- Opportunities and risks that can be anticipated at a local, regional and national level

The Working Group will make recommendations for

- A set of agreed objectives against which outcomes of the Housing Allocations Scheme should be measured in future
- Any changes required to the Housing Allocations Scheme

Accountability

The Working Group will report to Cabinet.

Membership

The membership will be politically balanced, with four elected members nominated by the Leader and four by the Opposition Group Leader. The Cabinet Member for Housing, Communities and Residents Welfare will be invited to attend meetings to participate in discussions.

The Chief Officer Housing will nominate up to four officers from Housing service areas and the Chief Officer Finance and Legal Services will nominate up to two officers. It will be open to the Working Group to invite or co-opt other stakeholders to join it or attend for specific discussions. Democratic Services will provide meeting support.

Meetings & reporting

The Working Group will meet monthly until otherwise agreed, and will aim to report back to Place Scrutiny Committee in January 2020 and to Cabinet before the end of the municipal year.

Approval & review

Any recommendations made by the Working Group will require Cabinet approval, and should include consideration of the arrangements for future monitoring and review.