

<b>Committee:</b> Community and Children's Services Committee – For Decision  Housing Management and Almshouses Sub-Committee – For Information	<b>Dated:</b>  11/02/2022  26/05/2022
<b>Subject:</b> Review of the Housing Allocations Scheme 2017	<b>Public</b>
<b>Which outcomes in the City Corporation's Corporate Plan does this proposal aim to impact directly?</b>	1, 2, 4
<b>Does this proposal require extra revenue and/or capital spending?</b>	<b>N</b>
<b>If so, how much?</b>	<b>N/A</b>
<b>What is the source of Funding?</b>	<b>N/A</b>
<b>Has this Funding Source been agreed with the Chamberlain's Department?</b>	<b>N/A</b>
<b>Report of:</b> Andrew Carter, Director of Community and Children's Services	<b>For Decision</b>
<b>Report authors:</b> Liam Gillespie, Head of Housing Management Simon Cribbens, Assistant Director, Commissioning and Partnerships	

### Summary

Local housing authorities are required by Section 166A of the Housing Act 1996 to have a scheme for allocating housing accommodation. The City Corporation's Housing Allocations Scheme was comprehensively rewritten in 2017 and implemented following extensive consultation with relevant stakeholders. The Scheme has now been refreshed, with some minor changes, to ensure that it remains as up to date as possible.

### Recommendation

Members are asked to:

- Approve the Housing Allocations Scheme for use by the Department.

### Main Report

#### Background

1. The Housing Act 1996 requires local housing authorities to have an allocations scheme, which governs how vacant social housing properties are let. Allocations schemes must determine how priority is awarded to applicants, and the procedure to be followed in handling applications for local authority housing.
2. Several pieces of legislation and statutory regulations govern the allocation of local authority housing and the management of housing registers.

3. The City Corporation's Housing Allocations Scheme (the Scheme) was rewritten in 2017 to reflect changes in law and regulation. Extensive consultation was carried out at the time to gather the views of relevant stakeholders, such as current housing applicants, City Corporation tenants, and various professionals whose work fell within the remit of the Scheme.
4. The Scheme governs the handling of applications for housing from current tenants (internal transfers) and new applicants.

### **Current Position**

5. The Scheme has now been in place for almost five years and has proven to be a useful document. There have been no significant changes in law or regulation surrounding housing allocations in England and Wales since the Scheme was written, however, a recent review has resulted in officers making several minor changes to the Scheme to offer greater clarity in some areas.
6. The changes are outlined in Appendix 2. As the changes are not substantial, a public consultation is not required.

### **Corporate & Strategic Implications**

- Financial implications – N/A
- Resource implications – N/A
- Risk implications – N/A
- Equalities implications – N/A
- Climate implications – N/A
- Security implications – N/A

### **Legal implications**

7. The Scheme was subject to detailed consideration by colleagues in the Comptroller and City Solicitor's Department when originally implemented. The revisions in Appendix 2 have been considered and approved by legal officers.

### **Conclusion**

8. The City Corporation's Housing Allocations Scheme, implemented in 2017 following substantial consultation, has been reviewed and some minor changes are recommended. Members are asked to endorse the refreshed document (see Appendix 1) for use by the Department in assessing housing applications and allocating vacant homes for social rent.

## **Appendices**

- Appendix 1 – Housing Allocations Scheme 2017 (2022 Revision)
- Appendix 2 – Changes to the 2017 Scheme

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