SOUTH KESTEVEN DISTRICT COUNCIL

Allocations Update

Report Author
Jodie Archer, Head of Housing
✉ jodie.archer@southkesteven.gov.uk

Purpose of Report

This report seeks to update members on the progress of the Council's allocation of properties since adoption of the new policy in July 2022 and an update on the implementation of a Choice Based Lettings system.

Recommendations

That the Committee:

1. **Notes the proposed changes to the Allocations Policy.**

2. **Notes the current position and timeline for implementation of the Choice Based lettings system.**

3. **Recommends a future update on Choice Based Lettings pot go-live in October 2023.**

Decision Information	
Does the report contain any exempt or confidential information not for publication?	No
What are the relevant corporate priorities?	Housing that meets the needs of all residents
Which wards are impacted?	All

1. Implications

Taking into consideration implications relating to finance and procurement, legal and governance, risk and mitigation, health and safety, diversity and inclusion, safeguarding, staffing, community safety, mental health and wellbeing and the impact on the Council's declaration of a climate change emergency, the following implications have been identified:

Finance and Procurement

1.1 Any financial implications arising from the proposed Policy or the implementation of the Choice Based Lettings system referenced in the report have been incorporated in the financial projections for 2023/24.

Completed by: Richard Wyles, Chief Finance Officer

Legal and Governance

1.2 There are no legal or governance implications arising from this report.

Completed by: Graham Watts, Assistant Director of Governance and Monitoring Officer

2. Background to the Report

2.1 The Council has a clear commitment in its Corporate Plan 2020-2023 to provide "Housing that meets the needs of all residents". As a stock-retained local authority, the Council has statutory and regulatory obligations to maintain and repair all our properties.

2.2 Following adoption by Cabinet in July 2022 of the allocation policy it has become apparent that there are a number of changes required to enable consistent and compliant use of the policy. Upon adoption Cabinet delegated to the Director of Housing and Property authority to make minor amendments to the Allocations Policy as needed by changes to regulation or legislation.

2.3   This report is raising awareness of the amendments to be made to the original Allocations Policy that was approved in July 2022. The draft amended policy can be seen at Appendix 1 – Draft SKDC Housing Allocations Policy July 2023. With the table of changes made visible in Appendix 2 – Table of Allocations Policy changes.

2.4   This paper provides an update on the proposed changes to the policy to satisfy the allocation of housing stock utilising a choice-based lettings approach.

2.5   **Choice Based Lettings update**

2.6   The Choice Based Lettings system shall enable a total change in approach to the way that Social Housing properties are allocated across South Kesteven. The contract award for the Hume system was approved in December 2022.

2.7   The system implementation is now well underway, and the project timeline can be seen at Appendix 3 - CBL Implementation Timeline. Key points to note are that we are currently in the system configuration period until sign off in early August 2023.

2.8   All current applicants on the Housing Register shall be required to re-register and this re-registration shall commence w/c the 28th of August 2023 and closing on the 25th of September 2023.

2.9   The system is due to go-live week commencing the 23rd of October 2023.

3.   Reasons for the Recommendations

3.1   This report is for noting and comment, committee may wish to schedule additional updates on the Choice Based lettings system post go-live in October 2023.

4.   Appendices

4.1   Appendix 1 – Draft SKDC Housing Allocations Policy July 2023.
        Appendix 2 – Table of Allocations Policy changes
        Appendix 3 - CBL Implementation Timeline