

## **OFFICER DECISION – Housing Allocation Scheme – Covid 19 Amendment**

Decision:

(i) Details of decision

To authorise an amendment to the Council's published Housing Allocations Scheme during the Covid 19 lockdown and restrictions. The amendment is to allow direct permanent lettings of housing association properties to households accepted on the Housing Register, who have also been assessed under the homelessness legislation, and are living in emergency accommodation.

(ii) Reasons for decision

To enable the Council during the Covid 19 lockdown and restrictions to have sufficient emergency accommodation to house homeless households, rough sleepers and those who are homeless and self isolating or have Covid 19 symptoms. By letting housing association accommodation direct to households already living in emergency accommodation space can be created and new households that approach for help can be offered the most appropriate emergency accommodation. Direct lettings to households living in emergency accommodation will be made in the order of priority set out in the Council's Housing Allocation Scheme and by agreement with the individual housing associations.

(iii) Details of any alternative options considered and rejected.

Housing associations have suspended their usual lettings process and as a result, the Home Choice system has been suspended. If direct lets were not available as an alternative, significant pressure will be placed on the emergency accommodation options available and it would be likely that a higher number of homeless households would not have appropriate accommodation during the Covid 19 lockdown and restrictions.

(iv) Conflicts of Interest and any Dispensations Granted

None.

(v) Consultation undertaken with :

Councillor Stephen Cooksey Leader of the Council and Councillor Elizabeth Daly, Cabinet Member for Wellbeing

Decision taken by:

(i) Name: Karen Brimacombe

(ii) Designation: Chief Executive

Date of Decision: 8<sup>th</sup> April 2020

Date of Publication of Record of Decision: 9<sup>th</sup> April 2020

**NOTE: Urgent Decisions taken by Officers**

These may be taken in accordance with the scheme of delegation to officers as set out in the Council Constitution: Part 3, paragraph 11, which states:

The Chief Executive and/or Deputy Chief Executive will have power (within the overall financial constraints of the Council's balances and the reservation of powers to the Council) to deal with any urgent matter arising in between ordinary meetings of the Council, the Cabinet or Committees in consultation with the Leader, or the appropriate Cabinet Member or Committee Chairman.