Report

SOUTH LANARKSHIRE COUNCIL

Report to:	**Executive Committee**
Date of Meeting:	**1 May 2019**
Report by:	**Chief Executive**

Subject:	**Recommendations Referred by Housing and Technical Resources Committee**

1. Purpose of Report
1.1. The purpose of the report is to:-

♦ request approval of the following recommendations referred to this Committee by the Housing and Technical Resources Committee held on 20 March 2019

2. Recommendation(s)
2.1. The Committee is asked to approve the following recommendation(s):-

(1) that the recommendations referred by the Housing and Technical Resources Committee in relation to the Housing Allocation Policy be approved.

3. Background
3.1. **Housing Allocation Policy – Extract of Minute**
3.1.1. A report dated 28 February 2019 by the Executive Director (Housing and Technical Resources) was submitted on the introduction of the revised Housing Allocation Policy.

The current Housing Allocation Policy was introduced in June 2009 and had been subject to a number of amendments to reflect changes in legislation and to address particular local circumstances.

In accordance with Housing and Technical Resources' Policy Review Schedule, the Housing Allocation Policy had been subject to a full review during 2018/2019. A key focus of the review had been to ensure that the policy was fully compliant with the legislative requirements of the Housing (Scotland) Act 2014. This Act introduced key changes to the legal framework for the allocation of social rented housing in Scotland which would become effective on 1 May 2019.

In addition, the review also considered local and national policy developments which were likely to impact on the Housing Allocation Policy, including:-

♦ regulatory requirements
♦ the priorities set out within the Local Housing Strategy (LHS) 2017 to 2022
♦ the Council and its partners' priority objectives to significantly reduce homelessness as detailed within the Rapid Rehousing Transition Plan (RRTP)

During the pre-consultation stage, to support the development of the consultative draft Housing Allocation Policy, a focus had been placed on ensuring the effective involvement of tenants, other customers and key stakeholders in the co-production of the consultative draft Housing Allocation Policy. A particular focus had also been placed on engagement with elected members.

The consultative draft Housing Allocation Policy had been published on the Council's website for a 12 week formal consultation period from 21 November 2018 to 11 February 2019. Consultation events had taken place with specific interest groups, such as homelessness service users, sheltered tenants and residents in the Council's Gypsy traveller sites.

The proposed policy amendments, which required to reflect legislative requirements, were detailed in the report and included under occupancy and owner occupation.

In addition to the amendments required to reflect legislative requirements, a number of other amendments were proposed in relation to the mainstream policy. Those took account of local needs and circumstances as well as local and national policy developments.

The revised Housing Allocation Policy remained fundamentally based upon meeting housing needs and key amendments included:-

♦ points categories
♦ offers of housing
♦ suspension of applications
♦ local letting plans

Proposed amendments to the sheltered housing aspect of the policy were also detailed in the report and included qualifying criteria and assessment of needs

Given the change in approach to the assessment of sheltered applicants and in order to carry out an effective assessment of an individual's needs, it was proposed that the sheltered aspect of the Housing Allocation Policy be implemented from 1 February 2020.

The revised Housing Allocation Policy document was attached as Appendix 1 to the report.

Following discussion, it was agreed that an awareness session be arranged, for all Members, on the amended Housing Allocation Policy.

The Committee recommended to the Executive Committee:

(1) that the amendments to the Housing Allocation Policy arising from the statutory provisions of the Housing (Scotland) Act 2014, as detailed in Section 6 of the report, be approved effective from 1 May 2019;

(2) that the mainstream housing aspects of the revised Housing Allocation Policy, as detailed in Section 7 of the report, be approved and implemented from 1 May 2019; and

(3) that the sheltered housing aspects of the Housing Allocation Policy, as detailed in Section 8 of the report, be approved and implemented from 1 February 2020.

[Reference: Minutes of the Executive Committee of 5 November 2008 (Paragraph 16)]

4.   Employee Implications
4.1.   All employee implications were highlighted as part of the original report to Housing and Technical Resources Committee.

5.   Financial Implications
5.1.   All financial implications were highlighted as part of the original report to Housing and Technical Resources Committee.

6.   Other Implications
6.1.   Any risks or sustainability issues or other implications were highlighted as part of the original report to the Housing and Technical Resources Committee.

7.   Equality Impact Assessment and Consultation Arrangements
7.1.   Equality impact assessment and consultation arrangements were highlighted as part of the original report to the Housing and Technical Resources Committee.

7.2.   There is no requirement to carry out an Equality Impact Assessment or consultation in terms of the proposals contained in this report.

Lindsay Freeland
Chief Executive

17 April 2018

Link(s) to Council Values/Ambitions/Objectives
♦   Accountable, effective, efficient and transparent

Previous References
♦   Minutes of Housing and Technical Resources Committee of 20 March 2019

List of Background Papers
♦   Housing Allocation Policy Consultation Report – February 2019

Contact for Further Information
If you would like to inspect the background papers or want further information, please contact:-
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