

# Report

Report to:	<b>Housing and Technical Resources Committee</b>
Date of Meeting:	<b>5 February 2020</b>
Report by:	<b>Executive Director (Housing and Technical Resources)</b>

Subject:	<b>Policy and Strategy Review Schedule</b>
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## 1. Purpose of Report

1.1. The purpose of the report is to:-

- ◆ request approval for the Policy and Strategy Review Schedule for Housing and Technical Resources

## 2. Recommendation(s)

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

- (1) that the Policy and Strategy Review Schedule as attached at Appendix 1, be approved; and
- (2) that the outcome of policy and strategy reviews be reported to future Committees in line with the schedule.

## 3. Background

- 3.1 To support ongoing and systematic service improvement process, a formal policy review schedule was established in October 2011 and reviewed on an annual basis, with the last update to Committee on 23 January 2019.
- 3.2. The policy review schedule assists annual service planning by providing a clear timeframe for the formal review of all key housing policies. The review schedule also enables the annual work plan for tenant/customer involvement to be prepared and thereby provides a basis for the Council to ensure that its statutory obligations for engagement with service users about policy matters are delivered.
- 3.3. This report requests approval for an updated Policy and Strategy Review Schedule. The updated schedule also reflects changes in the local and national policy context, including legislative and regulatory changes.

## 4. Outline of the Policy and Strategy Review Schedule

4.1. The policy and strategy review schedule (Appendix 1) sets out:-

- ◆ details of the policy and strategy
- ◆ the frequency of reviews
- ◆ when the review is scheduled to take place

4.2. As part of the policy review process, the associated procedures and protocols which give effect to the policy and support the delivery of relevant services are also considered and reviewed as appropriate. This ensures that scope for service improvements are also considered as part of the review process.

- 4.3. The scope of the policy areas covered by the schedule is consistent with the key service areas which are considered by the Scottish Housing Regulator's regulatory framework. In summary these are:-
- ◆ allocation of housing
  - ◆ rent management
  - ◆ tenancy and estate management services
  - ◆ repairs, maintenance and improvement
  - ◆ gypsy/travellers
  - ◆ tenant participation
  - ◆ homelessness
- 4.4. In addition to the policy areas noted in paragraph 4.3, the review also incorporates the key housing and other strategies which the Resource has lead responsibility for within the Council.
- 4.5. The previous Policy and Strategy review Schedule noted that the South Lanarkshire Council Homelessness Policy was scheduled to be reviewed during 2019/2020. However, the South Lanarkshire Local Housing Strategy 2017 to 2022, approved at Executive Committee on 30 August 2017, and the Rapid Rehousing Transition Plan 2019-24, approved by Housing and Technical Resources Committee on 23 January 2019, define the Council and its partners approach to preventing and alleviating homelessness. In addition, the priority given to applicants for housing, as assessed as being homeless in terms of the relevant legislation, is contained within the Allocation Policy approved in 2019. In light of this, it is therefore considered that there is no requirement for a separate Homelessness Policy. As such, it is proposed that the Homelessness Policy be removed from the schedule.
- 5. Next Steps**
- 5.1. The schedule will inform the next round of Resource and Service Plans for 2021/2022 and will be used to establish a joint programme for customer engagement.
- 5.2. The proposed frequency of review is considered appropriate to the individual policy or strategy area, with the period reflecting the nature of the policy area. In some circumstances, linked to legislative and regulatory changes, there may be a requirement for policy areas to be revised within a scheduled period. An updated schedule will be presented to Committee on an annual basis which will advise of progress and any amendments to the schedule.
- 5.3. Committee will continue to be updated fully and separately in relation to the development of the specific policies and strategies contained within the schedule.
- 6. Employee Implications**
- 6.1. There are no employee implications associated with this report.
- 7. Financial Implications**
- 7.1. There are no financial implications associated with this report.
- 8. Climate Change, Sustainability and Environmental Implications**
- 8.1. This report does not introduce a new policy, function or strategy which impacts on the natural environment, climate change or sustainability.

8.2. This report does not introduce a new policy, function or strategy or recommend a change to an existing policy, function or strategy and therefore no strategic environmental assessment is required.

## **9. Other Implications**

9.1. The content of this report will contribute to the evidence to support the requirements of the Annual Assurance Statements.

## **10. Equality Impact Assessment and Consultation Arrangements**

10.1. On an ongoing basis discussions have taken place with tenants representatives on the future programme for tenant engagement. These discussions are reflected in the proposed schedule. The schedule provides a basis for discussion with tenants and other service users to facilitate the planning of future service user engagement.

10.2. This report does not introduce a new policy, function or strategy or recommend a change to an existing policy, function or strategy and therefore no impact assessment is required.

**Daniel Lowe**

**Executive Director (Housing and Technical Resources)**

18 December 2019

## **Link(s) to Council Values/Ambitions/Objectives**

- ◆ Improve the availability, quality and access of housing
- ◆ Work with communities and partners to promote high quality, thriving and sustainable communities

## **Previous References**

Housing and Technical Resources Committee, 23 January 2019

## **List of Background Papers**

- ◆ None

## **Contact for Further Information**

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

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## Appendix 1: Policy and Strategy Review Schedule (Revised February 2020)

Strategy and Policy		Review frequency	Date of next review	Comments
1.	<b>Rapid Rehousing Transition Plan</b>	5 yearly	2023/24	This will be subject to annual review in line with the SHIP.
2.	<b>Strategic Housing Investment Plan (SHIP)</b>	Annually	2020/21	
3.	<b>Local Housing Strategy</b>	5 yearly	2021/22	
4.	<b>Customer Involvement Strategy</b>	5 yearly	2021/22	
5.	<b>Home Improve/Scheme of Assistance Grants</b>	5 yearly	2020/21	
6.	<b>Rent Management Policy</b>	5 yearly	2019/20	Currently subject to consultation.  Revised Rent Management Policy to be presented to Housing and Technical Resources Committee 1 April 2020 and for approval at Executive Committee on 13 May 2020.
7.	<b>Homelessness Policy</b>	5 yearly	2019/20	Incorporated into Local Housing Strategy and Rapid Rehousing Transition Plan
8.	<b>Gypsy/Travellers Pitch Allocation Policy</b>	6 yearly	2019/20	Currently subject to consultation.  Revised Pitch Allocation Policy to be presented to Housing and Technical Resources Committee on 5 February 2020 and for approval at Executive committee on 26 February 2020.
9.	<b>Tenancy and Estate Management Policy</b>	5 yearly	2020/21	
10.	<b>Anti-social Behaviour Policy</b>	4 yearly	2020/21	
11.	<b>Anti-social Behaviour Strategy</b>	4 yearly	2023/27	
12.	<b>Repairs Policy</b>	5 yearly	2023/24	
13.	<b>Housing Allocation Policy</b>	5 yearly	2024/25	