

COMMITTEE: HOUSING PANEL
DATE: 8TH OCTOBER 2002
SUBJECT: ALLOCATIONS REVIEW - CONSULTATION
REPORT BY: HEAD OF HOUSING (STRATEGY & PRIVATE SECTOR)
CONTACT OFFICER: Michael McMahon Tel: 546201

IMPLICATIONS:

LEGAL	COMMUNITY SAFETY
EQUALITIES	ENVIRONMENT
FINANCIAL	CONSULTATIONS
STAFFING	OTHER

WARDS AFFECTED: ALL

RECOMMENDATION(S)

1. That the views of the Housing Panel are sought on the Review of Allocations draft consultation questionnaire proposed to be used for consultation with applicants on the Housing Register and the Transfer List and make any appropriate recommendations to the Executive.

BACKGROUND

2. As members will be aware a report was presented to an earlier meeting of the Housing Panel this year outlining draft proposals to amend and alter the existing housing allocation systems.
3. During the summer consultation has taken place on the outline scheme with Registered Social Landlord partners, Voluntary Organisations that support the Council in fulfilling its homelessness responsibilities, the Tenants Consultative Committee and the Race, Women's and Disabilities Advisory Forums.
4. The general consensus of responses has been to broadly support the draft proposals, subject to further consultation on the details of the scheme to be introduced.

5. In terms of the consultation process, the next phase will involve consulting with applicants on the Housing Register and the Transfer List.
6. In this connection a draft questionnaire has been prepared, drawing on the outline schemes previously reported to members and also the guidance which has been issued by the Office of Deputy Prime Minister.
7. Copies of the draft questionnaire will be circulated separately for members prior to the meeting of the Panel.
8. In terms of the progress on introducing a new system of allocation, after the consultation with applicants (which is suggested should take approximately a month), once the subsequent analysis of replies has been completed, a revised scheme will be developed which would be reported back to members around the turn of the year. Following approval by members of the new scheme there will be a further requirement to consult with stakeholders, particularly applicants on the Housing Register and the Transfer List.
9. In the most recent guidance issued from the Office Deputy Prime Minister it is recommended that consultation on the revised scheme should be subject to a consultation period with a 12 week minimum duration period. Assuming members agree a revised scheme in December/January, the earliest a new scheme could be implemented after the completion of the consultation period, would be a June 2003.

APPENDIX

10. Draft questionnaire (to be circulated separately)
11. Code of Guidance (Enclosed separately for Members only)

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS **LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972, SECTION 100D**

11. DTLR – Allocation of Accommodation – Code of guidance for local authorities.