


REPORT TO SAFER NEIGHBOURHOODS AND ACTIVE COMMUNITIES SCRUTINY BOARD

04 October 2018

Subject:	Housing Allocations and Temporary Accommodation for the Homeless
Cabinet Portfolio:	Councillor Kerrie Carmichael - Cabinet Member for Housing
Director:	Director - Housing and Communities - Alan Caddick
Contribution towards Vision 2030:	
Contact Officer(s):	Alex Goddard, Scrutiny Officer alexander_goddard@sandwell.gov.uk

DECISION RECOMMENDATIONS

That Safer Neighbourhoods and Active Communities Scrutiny Board:

1. consider and comment upon the information presented on housing allocations and temporary accommodation for the homeless in Sandwell;
2. determine if there are specific areas within the topics presented that it wishes to review in more detail.

1 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 At its meeting on 5 June, 2018 the Safer Neighbourhoods and Active Communities Scrutiny Board considered its work programme for the 2018-19 municipal year. Housing Allocations was identified as a topic for consideration. In addition, the Budget and Corporate Scrutiny Management Board subsequently requested that the Scrutiny Board consider temporary accommodation for the homeless.
- 1.2 Officers will attend the meeting to present information on these topics, answer questions from councillors and contribute to the Scrutiny Board's discussion.

2 IMPLICATIONS FOR VISION 2030

- 2.1 Housing allocations and temporary accommodation for the homeless both contribute to a number of ambitions within Vision 2030:-

Ambition 1 - Sandwell is a community where our families have high aspirations and where we pride ourselves on equality of opportunity and on our adaptability and resilience.

Ambition 2 – Sandwell is a place where we live healthy lives and live them for longer and where those of us who are vulnerable feel respected and cared for.

Ambition 5 – Our communities are built on mutual respect and taking care of each other, supported by all the agencies that ensure we feel safe and protected in our homes and local neighbourhoods.

Ambition 10 – Sandwell now has a national reputation for getting things done, where all local partners are focused on what really matters in people's lives and communities.

3 BACKGROUND AND MAIN CONSIDERATIONS

- 3.1 Officers will present further information to the meeting on housing allocations and temporary accommodation for the homeless.

4 THE CURRENT POSITION

- 4.1 Information on the following topics will be presented to the meeting:-

- Housing allocation in Sandwell;
- Temporary accommodation for the homeless.

5 CONSULTATION (CUSTOMERS AND OTHER STAKEHOLDERS)

- 5.1 Allocation of council houses was raised by the public as an item for consideration by the Scrutiny Board through the public consultation exercise carried out by the Overview and Scrutiny function of the Council.

6 ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS

- 6.1 If the Scrutiny Board does not consider the information presented to it then potential recommendations and actions to improve services would be missed.

7 STRATEGIC RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

7.1 There are no specific strategic resources implications arising from this report.

8 LEGAL AND GOVERNANCE CONSIDERATIONS

8.1 The allocation of council housing stock is governed by Part 6 of the Housing Act 1996 (as amended). This Act was amended by the Homelessness Act 2002 and the Localism Act 2011.

8.2 The main legislation governing homeless includes Part 7 of the Housing Act 1996 (as amended), the Homelessness Act 2002 and the Homelessness Reduction Act 2017.

9 EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

9.1 No equality impact assessment is required for this report.

10 DATA PROTECTION IMPACT ASSESSMENT

10.1 No data protection impact assessment is required for this report.

11 CRIME AND DISORDER AND RISK ASSESSMENT

11.1 There are no crime and disorder impacts associated with this report and no risk assessment is required.

12 SUSTAINABILITY OF PROPOSALS

12.1 There are no specific sustainability issues associated with this report.

13 HEALTH AND WELLBEING IMPLICATIONS (INCLUDING SOCIAL VALUE)

13.1 Housing is key to improving wellbeing and health outcomes for our residents.

14 IMPACT ON ANY COUNCIL MANAGED PROPERTY OR LAND

14.1 Allocation of council housing ensures effective and efficient use of the authority's housing stock.

15 CONCLUSIONS AND SUMMARY OF REASONS FOR THE RECOMMENDATIONS

15.1 The Board is invited to consider the information presented to it and determine if there are more specific areas of interest that it would like to review in further detail.

16 BACKGROUND PAPERS

16.1 None.

17 APPENDICES

None.

Alan Caddick
Director – Housing and Communities