
Meeting	Special Business Management Overview and Scrutiny Committee
Date	16 September 2013
Subject	Amendments to Housing Allocations Scheme and the Introduction of a Placements Policy
Report of	Overview and Scrutiny Office
Summary of Report	At the Business Management Overview and Scrutiny Committee meeting held on 4 July 2013, the Committee considered a call-in relation to the Housing Allocations Scheme. Following consideration of the call-in, Members requested that the consultation findings and revised scheme be presented to the Committee in advance of Cabinet considering this issue on 24 September 2013.

Officer Contributors	Andrew Charlwood, Overview and Scrutiny Manager
Status (public or exempt)	Public
Wards Affected	All
Key Decision	N/A (Cabinet decision is key)
Reason for urgency / exemption from call-in	N/A
Function of	Business Management Overview and Scrutiny Committee
Enclosures	Annex 1 – Report to Cabinet, 24 September 2013, Amendments to Housing Allocations Scheme and the Introduction of a Placements Policy
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1. RECOMMENDATION

- 1.1 That the Committee consider the Amendments to Housing Allocations Scheme and the Introduction of a Placements Policy report to attached at Annex 1 and make appropriate comments and/or recommendations to Cabinet on 24 September 2013.**

2. RELEVANT PREVIOUS DECISIONS

- 2.1 Business Management Overview and Scrutiny Committee, 4 July 2013, Call-ins – the Committee considered a call-in request in the name of Councillor Alison Moore in relation to the Housing Allocations Scheme Review and the Introduction of a Placement Policy. Following debate on the call-in request, Councillor Moore withdrew the call-in. The Committee resolved that “The Cabinet Member for Housing be requested to report the consultation findings on the proposed amendments to the Housing Allocations Scheme and the Introduction of a Placements Policy to a special meeting of the Committee to take place in advance of the Cabinet decision on 24 September 2013.” This special meeting has been convened pursuant to that request.
- 2.2 Other relevant previous decisions are as set out in the attached report at Annex 1.

3. CORPORATE PRIORITIES AND POLICY CONSIDERATIONS

- 3.1 The Overview and Scrutiny Committees, Panels and Task and Finish Groups must ensure that the work of Scrutiny is reflective of the Council’s priorities.
- 3.2 The three key priorities set out in the 2013-16 Corporate Plan are: –
- Supporting families and individuals that need it – promoting independence, learning and wellbeing,
 - Improving the satisfaction of residents and businesses with the London Borough of Barnet as a place to live, work and study,
 - Promoting responsible growth, development and success across the borough.
- 3.3 Other corporate priorities and policy considerations are as set out in the attached report at Annex 1.

4. RISK MANAGEMENT ISSUES

- 4.1 To enable the Council’s Overview and Scrutiny function to provide a constructive challenge to the executive, it is essential that the Committee have the opportunity to provide a robust, proportionate and timely challenge to the corporate change work streams as they progress through the Council’s decision-making framework. This can make a positive contribution to effective risk management.

- 4.2 Other risk management considerations are as set out in the attached report at Annex 1.

5. EQUALITIES AND DIVERSITY ISSUES

5.1 Pursuant to the Equality Act 2010 (“the Act”), the council has a legislative duty to have ‘due regard’ to eliminating unlawful discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other conduct that is prohibited by or under the Act; advancing equality of opportunity between those with a protected characteristic and those without; and promoting good relations between those with protected characteristics and those without. The ‘protected characteristics’ are age, race, disability, gender reassignment, pregnancy, and maternity, religion or belief and sexual orientation. The ‘protected characteristics’ also include marriage and civil partnership, with regard to eliminating discrimination.

5.2 In addition to the Terms of Reference of the Committee, and in so far as relating to matters within its remit, the role of the Committee is to perform the Overview and Scrutiny role in relation to:

- The Council’s leadership role in relation to diversity and inclusiveness; and
- The fulfilment of the Council’s duties as employer including recruitment and retention, personnel, pensions and payroll services, staff development, equalities and health and safety.

5.3 Other equalities and diversities considerations are as set out in the attached report at Annex 1.

6. USE OF RESOURCES IMPLICATIONS (Finance, Procurement, Performance & Value for Money, Staffing, IT, Property, Sustainability)

6.1 Use of resources implications are as set out in the attached report at Annex 1.

7. LEGAL ISSUES

7.1 Legal issues are as set out in the attached report at Annex 1.

8. CONSTITUTIONAL POWERS (Relevant section from the Constitution, Key/Non-Key Decision)

8.1 The scope of the Overview & Scrutiny Committees is contained within Part 2, Article 6 of the Council’s Constitution.

8.2 The Terms of Reference of the Overview & Scrutiny Committees are set out in the Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rules (Part 4 of the Constitution).

8.3 The Business Management Overview and Scrutiny Committee has within its terms of reference responsibility for “...the review of the policy framework and development of policy and strategy not in the remit of other overview and scrutiny committees.”

9. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 9.1 As set out in Section 2, the Committee requested that a special meeting be established to enable the Cabinet Member for Housing to report the consultation findings on the proposed amendments to the Housing Allocations Scheme and the Introduction of a Placements Policy. The consultation findings, revised Housing Allocations Scheme and Placements Policy are set out in the report attached at Annex 1.
- 9.2 The Committee are requested to review the information set out in Annex 1 and report their comments and/or recommendations to Cabinet on 24 September 2013.

10. LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 10.1 None.