
Meeting	Business Management Overview and Scrutiny Committee
Date	18 th April 2012
Subject	Housing Allocations Scheme- 6 month review
Report of Summary	Head of Strategy and Performance Appendix 1 provides the Committee with the Cabinet report outlining the Housing Allocations Review (6 Month Review and Localism Act changes)

Officer Contributors	Paul Shipway, Head of Strategy and Performance Chloe Horner, Housing Strategy and Business Improvement Manager
Status (public or exempt)	Public
Wards Affected	All
Key Decision	Yes
Reason for urgency / exemption from call-in	N/A
Function of	Business Management Overview and Scrutiny Committee
Enclosures	Appendix 1- Housing Allocations Scheme- 6 month review- report to Cabinet on 4 th April 2012
Contact for Further Information:	Chloe Horner, Housing Strategy and Business Improvement Manager, 020 8359 4775, chloe.horner@barnet.gov.uk

1. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 1.1 That the Business Management Overview and Scrutiny Committee consider the outcomes of the Housing Allocations Scheme 6 month review which was reported to Cabinet on 4 April 2012, and make appropriate comments/recommendations as appropriate to the Cabinet Member for Housing.

2. RELEVANT PREVIOUS DECISIONS

- 2.1 Cabinet, 10 January 2011, Decision Item 6, Report of the Housing Allocations Overview and Scrutiny Panel – Cabinet accepted the recommendation made by the Panel that “... an evaluation of the new housing allocation policy be undertaken at six months with a further review after two years with the findings reported to the appropriate Overview and Scrutiny Committee.”
- 2.2 Business Management Overview and Scrutiny Committee, 11 July 2011, Agenda Item 13 – the Committee received an update on the implementation of Task and Finish Group / Scrutiny Panel recommendations accepted by Cabinet which included an update on the progress made in implementing the recommendation set out at 2.1 above as follows: “The policy will be evaluated after it has been in operation for six months (i.e. from 1st April 2011) and reported to the appropriate overview and scrutiny committee and Cabinet. Preparations for carrying out the evaluation are in hand.
- 2.3 Relevant previous decisions as they relate to the Cabinet decision are set out in the attached report as Appendix 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 priority outcomes set out in the 2012-13 Corporate Plan are:
- Better services with less money
 - Sharing opportunities sharing responsibilities
 - A successful London suburb
- 3.3 Corporate priorities and policy considerations as they relate to the Housing Allocations Review are set on in the Cabinet report attached in Appendix 1.

4. RISK MANAGEMENT ISSUES

- 4.1 To enable the Council’s Overview and Scrutiny function to provide a critical friend challenge to the executive, it is essential that the Committee have the opportunity to provide a robust, proportionate and timely challenge to key Executive decisions as they progress through the council’s decision-making framework. Failure to facilitate scrutiny of significant decisions in this way might result in reputational damage to the council.
- 4.2 Risk management considerations as they relate to the Housing Allocations

Review are set out in the Cabinet report attached in appendix 1.

5. EQUALITIES AND DIVERSITY ISSUES

- 5.1 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
- 5.2 Equalities and diversity considerations as they relate to the Housing Allocations Review are set out in the Cabinet report attached in appendix 1.

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

- 6.1 The use of resources implications of the Housing Allocations Review are set out in the Cabinet report attached in appendix 1.

7. LEGAL ISSUES

- 7.1 The Housing Allocations Scheme was amended in the light of the Localism Act 2011. The legal issues are set out in the Cabinet Report attached at appendix 1.

8. CONSTITUTIONAL POWERS

- 8.1 Council Constitution, Article 6 – details the scope of the Council's Overview & Scrutiny Committees.
- 8.2 Council Constitution, Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rules – details the terms of reference of the Council's Overview & Scrutiny Committees. 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 within the remit of other overview and scrutiny committees."

9. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 9.1 Barnet Council implemented a new Housing Allocations Scheme in April 2011 which was reviewed in November 2011. The Housing Allocations Scheme was also reviewed in the light of the permissive reforms set out in the Localism Act 2011. Changes to the Scheme were proposed and consulted upon during January and February 2012. Cabinet agreed a revised Scheme on 4th April 2012.

- 9.2 The details of the review are contained in the Cabinet report at appendix 1.
- 9.3 The Committee are requested to note that the Cabinet agreed a revised scheme on the 4th April 2012, prior to the scheme being considered by the Business Management Overview and Scrutiny Committee. Scrutiny Members are therefore requested to make their representations directly to the Cabinet Member for Housing. The Cabinet Member will be requested to provide a formal response to the Committee to any comments and/or recommendations made.

10. LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

10.1 None

Cleared by Finance (Officer's initials)	MC/JH
Cleared by Legal (Officer's initials)	JO