

NOTICE OF MEETING

CABINET MEMBER FOR HOUSING AND TACKLING HOMELESSNESS

THURSDAY, 22 FEBRUARY 2024 AT 10.00 AM

COUNCIL CHAMBER - THE GUILDHALL, PORTSMOUTH

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If any member of the public wishing to attend the meeting has access requirements, please notify the contact named above.

Membership

Councillor Darren Sanders (Cabinet Member)

Councillor Cal Corkery
Councillor Raymond Dent

Councillor Charlotte Gerada
Councillor Daniel Wemyss

(NB This agenda should be retained for future reference with the minutes of this meeting).

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Deputations by members of the public may be made on any item where a decision is going to be taken. The request should be made in writing to the contact officer (above) by 12 noon of the working day before the meeting and must include the purpose of the deputation (for example, for or against the recommendations). Email requests are accepted.

AGENDA

- 1 Apologies for Absence**
- 2 Declarations of Members' Interests**
- 3 Proposal to consult on Portsmouth City Council's policy for allocating social housing (Pages 7 - 12)**

Purpose of Report

To seek permission to consult on Portsmouth's policy for allocating social housing, which sets out the arrangements for allocating housing accommodation within the meaning of Part VI of the Housing Act 1996, including:

1. The selection of applicants to be offered tenancies by Portsmouth City Council.
2. Nominations to tenancies offered by private registered providers of social housing.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. **The Cabinet Member for Housing and Tackling Homelessness agrees that a formal consultation will be undertaken on the requirements of an effective allocations policy. Consultation would seek the views of:**
 - a) **Private registered providers of social housing and local authority housing service.**
 - b) **Local residents likely to be affected by any changes to policy, including those currently on the housing register.**
 - c) **Members of the Portsmouth City Rough Sleeping and Homelessness Partnership Group.**
 - d) **Partner organisations likely to be affected by the policy including council directorates.**
 2. **The Cabinet Member for Housing and Tackling Homelessness notes that the consultation would run from around 14th May 2024 to around 24th June 2024, with officers reviewing the current policy ahead of the consultation.**
 3. **The Cabinet Member for Housing and Tackling Homelessness notes that the outcome of the review and consultation would be presented to the Cabinet Member for Housing and Tackling Homelessness along with any proposed changes to the policy.**
- 4 **Update on our preparedness for the Social Housing Regulation Act and Building Safety Act (Pages 13 - 112)**

Purpose of Report

The report was requested by Councillor Darren Sanders, Cabinet Member for Housing and Tackling Homelessness.

1. To update on some of the legislative and regulatory changes that have been introduced since the publication of the Social Housing White Paper in 2020.

2. To set out the actions taken by Housing, Neighbourhood and Building Services in response to legislative change and future planning.
3. To notify that the Director of Housing, Neighbourhood and Building Services is nominated as the 'responsible person' who is the point of contact and ensures compliance with the social housing regulatory standards.
4. To notify that the Building Safety Manager is nominated as the 'responsible person' for ensuring health and safety in Council properties and housing owned buildings and recognising that the manager will be supported by the Corporate Health and Safety Team, and that ultimate responsibility lies with Portsmouth City Council as a Registered Provider.
5. To update on the recruitment to the new posts of Housing Policy Officer and Housing Complaints Lead.
6. To note the following policies have been recently revised - the lettings policy, domestic abuse policy and safeguarding policy.
7. To update on the development of a new Resident Engagement Pledge and plan for 2024 - 2027 and note the resident engagement strategy for the residents within the Council's high-rise buildings.
8. A report providing a further update on the work underway and planned will be brought forward mid-municipal year notwithstanding that other reports will be presented for decision as and when needed throughout the year.

5 Portsmouth City Council's Tenancy Strategy 2024 - 2029 (Pages 113 - 128)

Purpose of Report

To present the Tenancy Strategy which details Portsmouth City Council's approach to tenancies for all registered providers of social housing across the city including the local authority as a registered provider.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- 1. The Cabinet Member for Housing and Tackling Homelessness approves the Council's Tenancy Strategy 2024 - 2029 (Appendix 1), to be effective from 1st April 2024.**
- 2. The Cabinet Member for Housing and Tackling Homelessness notes that this publication of the Tenancy Strategy does not constitute a major change to the existing Tenancy Strategy. The changes to this strategy remove reference to the local authority as a registered provider allowing for the publication of the Local Authority Housing Lettings Policy.**

- 3. The Cabinet Member for Housing and Tackling Homelessness notes that there are no changes to this strategy which impact registered providers within the city and accordingly the strategy is not being consulted on. Copies of the republished strategy will be shared with registered providers explaining the change.**

6 Damp and Mould Policy (Pages 129 - 168)

Purpose of Report

The purpose of the report is to update members of a review of the Council's Housing Services processes for managing damp and mould in council housing and to seek approval to implement a new Damp and Mould Policy.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- 1. The Cabinet Member for Housing and Tackling Homelessness approves the new Damp and Mould Policy (Appendix A - Damp and Mould Policy, version 1.1) and asks Housing, Neighbourhood and Building Services to implement the new policy with immediate effect.**
- 2. The Cabinet Member for Housing and Tackling Homelessness approves the implementation plan set out in section 5.**
- 3. The Cabinet Member for Housing and Tackling Homelessness requests an information only report to be brought back mid-year to update on the progress of the work.**

7 Park Homes Pitch Fee review 2024 & Park Homes Policy (Pages 169 - 204)

Purpose of Report

The purpose of the report is to make recommendations regarding the Park Homes pitch fee review, and agree the approach that will be applied to the upcoming annual pitch fee review process for April 2024. This report also makes recommendations for officers to conduct a resident consultation regarding the implementation of a Park Home Policy.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- 1. That the Cabinet Member for Housing and Tackling Homelessness increase Park Home pitch fees in line with the Consumer Price Index (CPI) for England. The rate of CPI applied will be the last available figure that was published 28 days before the review date (1st April 2024). Due to CPI being published mid-month in arrears, the rate applicable will be the January 2024 CPI rate.**
- 2. That an annual report will be brought to the Cabinet Member for Housing and Tackling Homelessness for decision before each pitch fee review process commences.**

- 3. That the Cabinet Member for Housing and Tackling Homelessness instructs officers to conduct a 4 week resident consultation starting 1st March 2024 regarding the implementation of a Park Homes Policy. The Cabinet Member for Housing and Tackling Homelessness should instruct officers to bring a report back to cabinet regarding the findings of this consultation and a further recommendation regarding the implementation of this policy.**
- 4. That, regardless of any consultation, the current policy of not charging any sales commission is reconfirmed.**

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Date Not Specified