

Title of Report:	Development of the Housing Allocations policy – progress report
Report to be considered by:	Overview and Scrutiny Management Commission
Date of Meeting:	2 September 2013

Purpose of Report: To conclude the scrutiny activity contributing to development of the Council's Housing Allocations policy.

Recommended Action: Note and if appropriate comment on the Housing Allocations policy.

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Executive Report

1. Introduction

- 1.1 Following a request by the Executive, at its meeting of 10 January 2012 the Overview and Scrutiny Management Commission (OSMC) agreed to assist in the development of a new policy for the allocation of social housing. This followed a significant shift in central government policy. On 21 February 2012, the OSMC further agreed that a small task group would be established to take forward the work.
- 1.2 This report sets out the work that has been undertaken to date by the task group, and, as the work of the task group has concluded, invites comment on the final draft of the policy.

2. Task Group membership

- 2.1 The task group comprised Councillors Dominic Boeck, Garth Simpson and Tony Vickers. Following the appointment of Councillor Boeck to the Executive, Councillor Garth Simpson acted as the Chairman.

3. Activity to date

- 3.1 Whilst officers in the Housing Service carried out most of the work in the development of the new policy, the task group engaged with them at key points and provided both challenge to and opinion on officers' proposals.
- 3.2 The task group met four times and assisted in developing a detailed draft Housing Allocations Policy. This included (at its most recent meeting) assessing the action to be taken on consultation responses

4. Next steps

- 4.1 Subject to Executive approval, the new Housing Allocations Policy will be implemented from 6th November 2013.
- 4.2 The proposed final policy is at Appendix 1 for Members' comment. Appendix 2 provides a summary of the key changes proposed following the consultation and agreed at the last meeting of the OSMC Task Group

5. Recommendation

- 5.1 Note and if appropriate comment on the proposed final draft of the Housing Allocations policy.

Appendices

Appendix A – Final Draft Housing Allocations Policy

Appendix B – Summary of Amendments