

Title of Report:	Development of the Housing Allocations policy – progress report
Report to be considered by:	Overview and Scrutiny Management Commission
Date of Meeting:	26 February 2013

Purpose of Report: To update the Overview and Scrutiny Management Commission on the activity to date on the development of the Council's Housing Allocations policy.

Recommended Action: Note the contents of the report.

Task Group Chairman	
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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 the intended time line for future activity.

2. Task Group membership

- 2.1 The task group comprises Councillors Dominic Boeck, Garth Simpson and Tony Vickers. Councillor Boeck has been elected Chairman.

3. Activity to date

- 3.1 Whilst officers in the Housing Service have been carrying out most of the work in the development of the new policy, the task group has been engaging with them at key points and has provided both challenge to and opinion on officers' proposals. The following meetings have been held:

Monday 14 May 2012. The Housing Strategy and Operations Manager (Mel Brain) briefed the members of the task group on the background and rationale for the work to be undertaken. The process for the policy development was explained, including the two stage consultation (firstly with statutorily required and other stakeholders and then more broadly with the public), and the points within the process at which the task group would engage were agreed.

Members examined the changes proposed in the revised allocations policy and their comments were taken into consideration for the first consultation draft.

25 September 2012. The task group examined the results obtained from the consultation exercise undertaken since the 14 May meeting. A number of changes were proposed which will be reflected in future documents.

Comment and direction were also given on how the national guidance for housing former members of the armed forces might be reflected locally.

16 October 2012. This meeting concluded the work begun on 25 September.

4. Future activity

- 4.1 The task group will meet again to inform the final draft after the views on the policy of the general public have been received by the Housing Service. It is expected that the full Commission will also have the opportunity to comment on the document prior to its adoption by the Executive in June or July 2013.

5. Recommendation

- 5.1 It is recommended that the Members of the Commission note the progress of the task group.

Appendices

There are no appendices to this report.