

Ref:

Called in

Yes/No

THE THANET DISTRICT COUNCIL

RECORD OF DECISION OF CABINET

Cabinet Member

Councillor Helen Whitehead

Relevant Portfolio:

Deputy Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Housing and Community Services

Date of Decision:

18 June 2020

Subject:

Tenant and Leaseholder Health and Safety Policies

Key Decision

In Forward Plan

Brief summary of matter:

The adoption of new tenant and leaseholder health and safety compliance policies for fire safety, water hygiene, gas and electrical safety, passenger lists and asbestos.

The proposed policies reflect both the statutory requirements on landlords for tenant and leaseholder health and safety and industry best practice.

The policies are written to reflect the decision of the Cabinet on 17 February 2020 to deliver the council's tenant and leaseholder services in house and terminate the agreement with east Kent Housing. The new policies will be in place ready for the launch of the new service.

The report proposes that the policies are kept under review to enable a process of continual improvement in performance and recommends a formal policy review every 2 years.

Decision made:

Cabinet agreed the following, to:

1. Adopt the proposed compliance policies as detailed in annexes 1 to 6 to the Cabinet report;
2. Delegate authority to the Head of Housing and Planning, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Housing and Safer Neighbourhoods to make minor operational changes to the policies, as required;
3. Formally review the policies every 2 years.

Reasons for decision:

The adoption of Tenant and Leaseholder Policies is a statutory requirement for social landlords and a requirement of the Regulator for Social Housing.

Alternatives considered and why rejected:

- Reject the proposed policies: This option was rejected. Although there were already operational arrangements in place for the management of health and safety, the council required formally adopted policies.
- Adopt amended policies: The draft policies had been prepared by specialist health and safety consultants and incorporated legislative and best practice requirements. The implications for both residents and the council of any amendments would need to be carefully considered prior to adoption.

Details of any conflict of interest declared by any executive Member who has been consulted and of any dispensation granted by the Standards Committee:

None

Author of Officer report:

Bob Porter, Head of Housing and Planning Services

Background papers

Compliance Policies Cabinet report.doc
Annex 1_ Thanet_Fire Risk Assessment Policy_March 2020_FINAL
Annex 2_ Thanet Gas and Heating Policy_March 2020_FINAL
Annex 3_ Thanet_Electrical Inspection and Testing Policy_March 2020_FINAL
Annex 4_ Thanet_Lift Safety Policy_March 2020_FINAL
Annex 5_ Thanet Water Hygiene Policy_March 2020_FINAL
Annex 6_ Thanet Asbestos Policy_March 2020_FINAL

Statement if decision is an urgent one and therefore not subject to call-in:

None

Last date for call in: 26 June 2020