

Ref:

Called in

Yes/No

THE THANET DISTRICT COUNCIL

RECORD OF DECISION OF CABINET

Cabinet Member

Councillor Helen Whitehead

Relevant Portfolio:

Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Housing

Date of Decision:

19 December 2024

Subject:

Housing Allocations Policy

Key Decision

Yes

In Forward Plan

Yes

Brief summary of matter:

The Council is required to have an Allocations Policy that details its priorities and clearly states how social rented and affordable rented homes within the Thanet district are allocated. The policy sets out what determines entitlement and eligibility and is aligned with all other relevant legislation and explains the help that those on the housing register or in temporary accommodation can expect from the Council in meeting their housing needs.

Decision made:

Cabinet agreed the following:

1. That the consultation draft of the Allocations Policy be agreed;
2. The draft policy be subject to public consultation to be conducted early in 2025;
3. The results of the consultation will be published on the Council's website;
4. Authority be delegated to the Head of Housing and Planning in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Housing to make minor amendments to the policy;
5. That the policy be reviewed on an annual basis, or when required.

Reasons for decision:

The council is required to publish an allocations policy. The allocations determines who is eligible to apply for housing, how applications are assessed and prioritised and how affordable and social rented homes in the district will be allocated. The allocations policy provides guidance for housing applicants and other agencies and professionals supporting households in housing need in the district.

Alternatives considered and why rejected:

As with any matter of policy there are a number of alternative options that could be considered. In part this is why there is to be an extensive consultation about the policy with Stakeholders. The Council will confirm that the eligibility criteria matches

expectations and inviting any challenges to that which is proposed. This is particularly pertinent when considering households owed a duty by another local authority. Should the policy have a three-tier, rather than two-tier, approach to those with medical needs? Do consultees agree with the policy regarding those 'decanted' from homes and whether they are offered the opportunity to return to their original residence once it has been refurbished? Do consultees agree with the policy's approach to households who are in overcrowded accommodation?

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:

Ashley Jackson, Head of Housing and Planning

Background papers

Cabinet version - Housing Allocations Policy - December 2024 - Google Docs
Master Draft - Housing allocation policy - Google Docs
EQIA - Allocations Policy December 2024 - Google Docs

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

None

Last date for call in: 6 January 2025