



East
Northamptonshire
Council

Policy and Resources Committee – 27 September 2012

Housing Policy Working Party

Purpose of report

This report seeks Member approval to amend the Terms of Reference for the Housing Policy Working Party.

Attachment(s)

Appendix 1 - Housing Policy Working Party Revised Terms of Reference

1.0 Background

1.1 The Housing Policy Working Party was set up in January 2012 to take forward a number of significant pieces of work including:

- New Tenancy Strategy
- Revised Housing Allocation Policy
- New Housing Strategy

1.2 Terms of Reference were agreed, which the group has been working to since its formation.

2.0 Progress

2.1 To date the group has produced a Tenancy Strategy, reviewed the Housing Allocation Policy, and produced a draft Housing Strategy.

2.2 The Tenancy Strategy has been adopted, and the other two documents are likely to be finalised and adopted before Christmas.

3.0 Revised Terms of Reference

3.1 The working party has recently reviewed its future work programme, and has agreed that, to take this forward effectively, a slight amendment to the Terms of Reference is required.

3.2 The existing Terms of Reference provide for the group to review affordable housing targets, tenure and mix. It would be beneficial to expand this to enable the group also to review market housing requirements and requirements for specialist accommodation - such as accommodation for older people. It will be important to review such requirements in light of Welfare Reform, and also for the forthcoming 4 Towns Plan.

3.3 Revised Terms of Reference are attached, which incorporate the amendment at the last paragraph.

4.0 Equality and Diversity Implications

4.1 There are no equality and diversity implications.

5.0 Legal Implications

5.1 There are no legal implications associated with the recommendation below.

6.0 Risk Management

6.1 There are no risks associated with the recommendation below.

7.0 Financial Implications

7.1 There are no financial implications associated with the recommendations below.

8.0 Corporate Outcomes

8.1 The progression of the work being undertaken by the Housing Policy Working Party contributes to the following Corporate Outcomes:

- A Good Quality of Life – Sustainable: Sustainable Development
- A Good Quality of Life – Healthy: Improved Housing
- High Quality Service Delivery

9.0 Resource Requirements


9.1 There are no additional resource requirements associated with the recommendation below.

10.0 Recommendation

10.1 The Committee is recommended to

- (1) Agree the revised Housing Policy Working Party Terms of Reference attached at Appendix 1.

(Reason: to enable the Housing Policy Working Party to continue effectively.)

Legal	Power: Localism Act 2011
	Other considerations: Housing Act 1996
Background Papers:	
Person Originating Report: Cat Hartley , Housing Strategy Manager 01832 742078, chartley@east-northamptonshire.gov.uk	
Date: 17 September 2012	
CFO	
MO	
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Housing Policy Working Party

Terms of Reference

1. Membership

Members: Councillor Glenvil Greenwood-Smith (Chair)
Councillor John Farrar
Councillor Rupert Reichhold

Key/Lead Officers:	Sharn Matthews	Executive Director
	Rob Back	Head of Planning Services
	Lisa Hyde	Head of Customer and Community Services
	Jenny Walker	Environmental Protection Manager
	Cat Hartley	Housing Strategy Manager

There may be a need to involve other officers as and when required, such as representatives from Finance or Planning Services.

2. Terms of Reference

- To establish the full impact of the changes to housing benefit for housing applicants.
- To develop and agree the principles for the new Tenancy Strategy for presentation to P&R, to include:
 - => Establishing preferred tenancy types and affordable housing products.
 - => Establishing 'affordability' levels for housing applicants
 - => Agreeing the content of the new Policy
- To develop and agree the principles for the new Housing Allocation Policy for presentation to P&R, to include:
 - => Assessing the options provided in the Localism Act and considering whether to take them forward.
 - => Agreeing the content of the new Policy
- To develop and agree the principles for the new Housing Strategy for presentation to P&R, taking into account the Government's new Housing Strategy.

- To develop and present to Planning Policy any consequent changes on the mix and level of affordable housing required across the District
- To develop and present to Planning Policy requirements for:
 - Affordable housing targets
 - Affordable housing mix and tenure
 - Market housing mix
 - Specialist housing requirements ie housing for older people