

## **Housing Allocations Policy Review 2015**

### **Report by John Blair, Director, Resources**

#### **1 Purpose of Report**

The purpose of this report is to bring to the Cabinet's attention recommendations by the Performance review and Scrutiny Committee in relation to the Housing Allocations Policy Review

#### **2 Background**

A report by the Director, Health and Social Care was considered by the Cabinet on 6 October 2015, when it was agreed, as follows:-

- a) To note the positive lettings outcomes following the review of the Housing Allocation Policy;
- b) To refer this report to the Performance, Review and Scrutiny Committee;
- c) To note that a review of the Housing Allocation Policy had commenced with a consultation exercise being undertaken to facilitate effective engagement with tenants and prospective tenants and other key stakeholders; and
- d) To note that a further Report would be presented to Cabinet following the consultation exercise which could recommend minor changes to the Housing Allocation Policy in order that it addresses local needs and takes account of the Housing (Scotland) Act 2014.

#### **3 Performance Review and Scrutiny Committee**

The Director's report was accordingly considered by the Performance, Review and Scrutiny Committee on 20 October 2015 and the Committee agreed to recommend to the Cabinet, as follows:-

That the consultation presently being undertaken be amended to seek views on:-

- (a) Greater priority being given to applicants for housing within the general needs category, who could establish a local connection and whose reason for relocation was to secure increased family support ; and

- (b) Defining the Council's policy on re-housing or assisting in re-housing of those persons who had been evicted or removed from accommodation within Midlothian or elsewhere, as a result of anti-social behaviour.

#### **4 Report Implications**

These remain as outlined in the report by the Joint Director Health and Social Care, which can be viewed at <http://www.midlothian.gov.uk/meetings/meeting/450/cabinet>

#### **5 Recommendations**

The Cabinet is invited to consider the recommendations of the Performance Review and Scrutiny Committee as detailed in Paragraph 3 above.

**Date 4 November 2015**

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