

18. HOUSING ALLOCATION POLICY REVIEW

The Council Executive considered a report (copies of which had been circulated) by the Head of Housing, Construction and Building Services providing an update on the progress of the review of the Council's Housing Allocation Policy and Points framework.

The Council Executive was informed that the current Allocations Policy had been in place since 2005 (amended in 2010). The policy met legislative requirements, was needs based, and allocated houses to applicants with the highest need points award. There were 3 priority groupings and a transfer-led policy for new build.

There were four main areas which should be considered as part of the Housing Allocations Review. These were outlined in the report. Examination of the existing Housing Allocation Policy had identified a range of areas for consideration for change. These were examined in the report under the following headings:-

1. Introduce a new system to allocate housing
2. Review the Points framework
3. Review allocation approach for Homeless applicants
4. Promoting Re-housing of Transfer Applicants
5. Lettings Plan
6. Sensitive Letting Approach

A summary of the advantages and disadvantages of the proposals were set out in a table within the report.

Finally, the report provided indicative timescales for the various steps in the approval process.

The Head of Housing, Construction and Building Services concluded that the areas identified and proposals for change would build on and further enhance the council's approach and develop innovative solutions to meet the needs of a greater proportion of people seeking housing in West Lothian whilst, at the same time promoting balanced and sustainable communities.

The report recommended that the Council Executive endorse the proposals to change the Housing Allocations Policy and agree that the report proceed to an agreed period of consultation.

Motion

"Council Executive notes the proposals to change the Housing Allocation Policy as set out in the report, and agrees to the commencement of the consultation programme on the proposals, subject to the proposals being

amended to retain the age of eight for separate bedrooms for children”

- Moved by Councillor Paul and seconded by the Chair

Decision

To unanimously agree the terms of the motion.