

29TH JUNE, 2023

PURPOSE:

THE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE IS ASKED TO:-

1. Consider the data provided in the monitoring report of the Emergency Social Housing Allocation update report on the operation of the new allocation policy;
2. Provide feedback on any additional or detailed information required for the next quarterly monitoring report being mindful of GDPR rules; and
3. To commence work formalising the Policy and proceed with formal consultation.

Reason(s)

Scrutiny Committee at its meeting held on the 26th January, 2023 requested to receive updates at every meeting on the effectiveness of the change.

CABINET MEMBER PORTFOLIO HOLDER:-

Cllr. Linda Evans, Deputy Leader & Housing Portfolio Holder

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| Directorate Communities Name of Head of Service: Jonathan Morgan Report Author: Angie Bowen | Designations: Head of Housing & Public Protection Housing Hwb Manager | JMorgan@carmarthenshire.gov.uk AnBowen@carmarthenshire.gov.uk |
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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

EMERGENCY SOCIAL HOUSING ALLOCATION UPDATE REPORT ON THE OPERATION OF THE NEW ALLOCATION POLICY (MONITORING)

At its meeting held on the 20th February 2023 Cabinet considered the findings of the Communities, Homes, and Regeneration Scrutiny Committee Task & Finish Group to develop an Emergency Social Housing Allocations Policy for Carmarthenshire to address the unprecedented situation where the Council, as with all Welsh Local Authorities and Registered Social Landlords, was facing increased demand for social housing that was exceeding the level of supply.

The Emergency Allocations Policy was approved by Cabinet at this meeting, together with the following recommendation:

That the Scrutiny Committee receive updates at every meeting from officers on the effectiveness of the change; that the content of the update reports (attached) include data for the previous period referring to:

- Proportion of properties directly matched and those advertised
- Banding of Clients directly matched
- Number of properties directly matched and advertised by each community connection area, type of property and landlord
- Proportion of direct matches that were successful
- Number of direct matches where the client requests a review of the allocation, and the outcome of those reviews
- Number of direct matches where the client refuses the allocation but doesn't request a review

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| DETAILED REPORT ATTACHED ? | YES |
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IMPLICATIONS

I confirm that other than those implications which have been agreed with the appropriate Directors / Heads of Service and are referred to in detail below, there are no other implications associated with this report :

Signed: Jonathan Morgan

Head of Housing & Public Protection

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|---|-------|---------|------|------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------|
| Policy, Crime & Disorder and Equalities | Legal | Finance | ICT | Risk Management Issues | Staffing Implications | Physical Assets |
| YES | NONE | YES | NONE | YES | NONE | YES |

1. Policy, Crime & Disorder and Equalities

A thorough Equality Impact Assessment has been carried out.

3.Finance

Failure to respond to the current situation could result in significant financial pressures around the use of temporary accommodation and the inability to move households on to more permanent accommodation.

5. Risk Management Issues

Failure to implement the Policy may result in:

- The overall housing system in the County “silting up” with little move-on opportunities to permanent accommodation;
- Increased use of temporary, and more expensive accommodation, to meet housing need; and
- Perception that we are not looking at more sustainable plans for the general homeless population in the County.

6. Physical Assets

Council housing will be used as solutions for temporary as well as permanent solutions.

| CABINET MEMBER PORTFOLIO HOLDER(S) AWARE/CONSULTED YES | | Include any observations here <i>The Emergency Policy better supports residents and improves the process for those in greatest housing need. This monitoring report demonstrates the effectiveness of the way social housing is allocated in Carmarthenshire.</i> |
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| Section 100D Local Government Act, 1972 – Access to Information List of Background Papers used in the preparation of this report: THESE ARE DETAILED BELOW | | |
| Title of Document | File Ref No. | Locations that the papers are available for public inspection |
| Report to Cabinet on 20 th February, 2023 – Emergency Social Housing Allocations Policy | | Emergency Allocation Policy - Final Draft - 26 01 23.pdf (gov.wales) |
| Communities, Homes & Regeneration Scrutiny Task & Finish Report | | Task and Finish report - Final.pdf (gov.wales) |