

COMMUNITIES, HOMES & REGENERATION
SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
13TH DECEMBER, 2023

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

Purpose:

To provide Scrutiny Committee with the monitoring report of the impact of the implementation of the Emergency Social Housing Allocations Policy.

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.

Reason(s)

Scrutiny Committee requested to receive regular updates on the effectiveness of the change.

CABINET MEMBER PORTFOLIO HOLDER:-

Cllr. Linda Evans, Deputy Leader & Cabinet Member for Homes.

Directorate Communities Name of Head of Service: Jonathan Morgan Report Author: Rachael Parkinson	Designations: Head of Housing & Public Protection Interim Housing Hwb Manager	Email Addresses: JMorgan@carmarthenshire.gov.uk RParkinson@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

DETAILED REPORT ATTACHED ?

YES

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

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 is being carried out and will be made available once completed.

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.

7. 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	
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 20th 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)