

WEST DUNBARTONSHIRE COUNCIL

Report by the Acting Executive Director of Housing, Environmental and Economic Development (Housing & Regeneration Services)

Housing, Environment & Economic Development: 9 January 2008

Subject: Housing Allocation Policy Working Group

1. Purpose

- 1.1 This report provides Committee with information relating to the progress of the Housing Allocation Policy Working Group and advises of the recommendations of the Group.

2. Background

- 2.1 At the meeting of the Social Justice Committee held on Wednesday, 8 February 2006 the revised Housing Allocation Policy was approved. It was also agreed to set up a Member/Officer Working Group to scrutinise the Housing Allocation Policy.
- 2.2 A total of 8 meetings have taken place between 25 May 2006 and 12 December 2007.

3. Main Issues

- 3.1 At the first 5 meetings of the group, various aspects of the current Allocation Policy were discussed in terms of the legality and aspects that members would like to be included within a revised policy. At the meeting held on 12 December 2006, it was agreed that a revised draft policy be subject to an integrated impact assessment. This was completed. It was further agreed that the draft policy be subject to consultation with service users prior to submission to the Social Justice Committee with a target date for submission of 14 March 2007. Due to the large number of consultations being carried out over the period, the consultation was not carried out until April 2007 with the results becoming available in May 2007.
- 3.2 Following the local election on 3 May 2007, Council agreed the new make up of the Housing Allocation Policy Working Group at the meeting held on 30 May 2007. There were no members remaining from the original working group.
- 3.3 The first meeting of the new working group took place on 20 June 2007. At this meeting progress in relation to the Housing Allocation Policy Working Group was discussed in conjunction with the results of the service user consultation. Two further meetings of the Group took place on 10 September 2007 and 12

December 2007 at which consideration was given to the ongoing consultation work being carried out as part of the Remedial Plan for Housing Management Services agreed with Communities Scotland and the impact this would have on any decision in relation to the Housing Allocations Policy.

- 3.4** At the meeting held on 12 December 2007, the Working Group agreed that it had now achieved its desired aims of scrutinising the Housing Allocations Policy and that the consultancy work underway should inform any decisions in relation to any revision of the Housing Allocations Policy. It was proposed that the Working Group should be wound up with a report being drawn up for consideration at a future meeting of the Housing, Environment & Economic Development Committee which would outline the agreement obtained in terms of the original remit of the Working Group, since its inception. Accordingly, it was agreed that issues relating to Housing Allocation Policy would in future be reported to the Housing, Environment & Economic Development Committee in terms of its remit for such matters.

4. Personnel Issues

- 4.1** There are no personnel issues associated with this report.

5. Financial Implications

- 5.1** There are no financial implications associated with this report.

6. Risk Analysis

- 6.1** A risk analysis is not applicable

7. Conclusion

- 7.1** The Housing Allocations Policy Working Group have fulfilled its remit to scrutinize the Housing Allocations Policy and agree that the consultancy work being carried out as part of the Remedial Plan for Housing Management Service agreed with Communities Scotland should form the basis of any future decisions in relation to any revision of the policy. It is therefore proposed that the Working Group be wound up and that issues relating to the Housing Allocations Policy in future are reported to the Housing, Environment & Economic Development Committee in terms of its remit for such matters.

8. Recommendation

8.1 The Committee is asked to:

- a) agree the proposal to wind up the Housing Allocation Policy Working Group; and
- b) agree that issues relating to the Housing Allocations Policy be reported to the Housing, Environment & Economic Development Committee in terms of it's remit for such matters.

Irving Hodgson

**Acting Executive Director Housing, Environment & Economic Development
(Housing & Regeneration)**

Date: 14 December 2007

Person to Contact: Margaret Caldwell, Manager of Housing Operations
Garshake Road, Dumbarton
Tel: 01389 737874
Email: margaret.caldwell@west-dunbarton.gov.uk

Appendices: None

Background Papers: Council 17 January 2007; Communities Scotland
Inspection of Housing Management Services

Council 28 February 2007; Communities Scotland
Inspection of Housing Management Services

Council 25 April 2007; Communities Scotland
Inspection of Housing Management Services

Wards Affected: All