

Report of: Chair of Housing Scrutiny Committee

Meeting of	Date	Ward(s)
Executive	28 September 2017	All

Delete as appropriate		Non-exempt
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**Subject: Housing Services for Vulnerable People Scrutiny Review –
Recommendations of the Housing Scrutiny Committee**
1. Synopsis

- 1.1 This report requests that the Executive receive the recommendations of the Housing Scrutiny Committee following the completion of its review of Housing Services for Vulnerable People. A response to the recommendations set out in the report will be considered at a future meeting of the Executive.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 That the report of the Housing Scrutiny Committee be received.
- 2.2 That the Executive Member's response be reported to a future meeting of the Executive, including having due regard to any relevant implications of the Housing Scrutiny Committee's recommendations.

3. Background

- 3.1 In July 2016 the Housing Scrutiny Committee commenced a review of housing services for vulnerable people. The overall aim of the review was to review the effectiveness of the housing services the council provides to vulnerable people. The objectives of the review included to confirm that the council's housing services are accessible to vulnerable people; to assess how vulnerable people and their particular needs are identified by housing services; and to evaluate how the council's housing services communicate and engage with vulnerable people. The final report of the Committee was agreed in June 2017 and is appended.

4. Implications

4.1 Financial Implications

The proposals in the report need to be costed before a response is made by the Executive.

4.2 Legal Implications

Relevant legal implications will be considered as part of the response to the review.

4.3 Environmental Implications

There are no environmental implications at this stage. Any environmental implications will be identified as part of the Executive Member response.

4.4 Resident Impact Assessment

The council must, in the exercise of its functions, have due regard to the need to eliminate discrimination, harassment and victimisation, and to advance equality of opportunity, and foster good relations, between those who share a relevant protected characteristic and those who do not share it (section 149 Equality Act 2010). The council has a duty to have due regard to the need to remove or minimise disadvantages, take steps to meet needs, in particular steps to take account of disabled persons' disabilities, and encourage people to participate in public life. The council must have due regard to the need to tackle prejudice and promote understanding.

The Committee has had regard to any equalities implications and resident impacts identified by witnesses during the course of the review. Details of any such implications are set out in the appended report. A Resident Impact Assessment has not been completed as the Executive is only asked to receive the report at this stage. The impact on residents will need to be fully considered as part of the Executive Member response to the review, at which point a Resident Impact Assessment will be completed if required.

5. Conclusion and reasons for recommendations

- 5.1 The Committee welcomes the council provides a wide range of specialist housing options and additional housing services to disabled and vulnerable people. However, it is considered that these services could be made more effective. One particular area for improvement is communication and engagement, which appears to be at the heart of many of the issues raised by both residents and officers. The Committee has made 14 recommendations in response to the evidence received. It is hoped that the Committee's recommendations will assist the council in providing more effective and more personalised housing services, which will support the overall wellbeing of vulnerable people and help to maintain or develop their independence and resilience.
- 5.2 In carrying out the review, the Committee met with officers, service users, and other housing providers to gain a balanced view. The Executive is asked to endorse the Committee's recommendations

Appendices:

- Housing Services for Vulnerable People – Report of the Housing Scrutiny Committee

Background papers:

- None.

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