

Draft Extract of the MINUTES of a meeting of the POLICY DEVELOPMENT GROUP held in the Council Chamber, Council Offices, Coalville on WEDNESDAY, 10 JANUARY 2018

Present: Councillor M Specht (Chairman)

Councillors N Clarke, T Eynon, J Geary, D Harrison, G Hault, P Purver, V Richichi, A C Saffell and N Smith

In Attendance: Councillors R Johnson, J Legrys and S Sheahan

Portfolio Holders: Councillors R D Bayliss and T J Pendleton

Officers: J Arnold, Ms T Ashe, Ms K Greenbank, Mr G Jones, Mr C Lambert, Mr J Newton, Mr D Scruton, Mrs R Wallace and Miss E Warhurst

### **36. REVIEW OF HOUSING POLICIES**

The Head of Housing presented the report to Members, detailing the revisions to the Allocations Policy and the Former Tenants Arrears Policy. He also drew Members attention to an error on the front page of the report regarding equalities impact screening, it should read 'Equalities impact screenings have been completed for the two policies.'

Councillor T Eynon requested to see the equalities impact screenings as she would like further details regarding accessibility, as she believed people were being digitally excluded.

Councillor N Clarke asked what the advantages were for moving away from a sub-regional scheme. The Head of Housing explained that it made the process easier for people moving across Leicestershire.

Councillor N Clarke commented that he often saw his constituents struggling to use the choice based lettings system as it was difficult to use on a mobile phone, plus the process was lengthy, especially when calculating the banding. The Head of Housing stated that the team were always looking for ways to improve the bidding process and the move to a new software supplier should also help. The Strategic Housing Team Manager explained that the current ICT software had been in place since 2010 and was a little outdated, hence the move to a new ICT platform. He added that under the new policy, banding assessments would be clearer but the team would be happy to assist people where needed either in person or over the telephone.

By affirmation of the meeting it was

RESOLVED THAT:

- a) The report be noted.

The comments made be fed into Cabinet when considering the report on 6 February 2018.

The meeting commenced at 6.30 pm

The Chairman closed the meeting at 8.20 pm