

Record of officer decision

Decision title:	New nomination agreements for housing allocation scheme with multiple housing
Date of decision:	1 July 2020
Decision maker:	Strategic Housing Manager
Authority for delegated decision:	<p>Directorate scheme of delegation: updated 20 March 2020 Directorate Economy and Place:</p> <p>Authority is given to take this decision under item 15 in the Economy and Place Directorate scheme of delegation—‘Supporting and creating the provision of good quality temporary and permanent accommodation for vulnerable households, including: homeless people, young people leaving care.’</p>
Ward:	Countywide
Consultation:	Consultation has occurred jointly and individually with the registered providers.
Decision made:	Nomination Agreements approved, based on a standard template, but individualised for each provider to reflect the percentage of properties, between 60% and 75% of vacancies, negotiated with some minor variations in process to reflect differences in working practices between registered providers.
Reasons for decision:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The statutory responsibility for ensuring that suitable accommodation is available for vulnerable and homeless households rests with council. The council is reliant on housing associations’ support and cooperation to discharge these duties. • All housing authorities should operate a nominations process in accordance with the Housing Act 1996, as amended. Government guidance indicates that council’s should have nomination agreements with each registered provider working in their area, covering a range of topics including the percentage of vacant properties available to the council, the grounds for rejecting council nominees and how disputes will be resolved. • Housing associations have a duty under s.170 Housing Act 1996 to cooperate with housing authorities, where the authority requests it, to such extent as is reasonable in the circumstances in offering accommodation to people with priority under the authority’s allocation scheme. Similarly s.213 provides that where a housing association has been requested by the council to assist them in discharge of their homelessness functions under Part 7, it must also cooperate to the same extent • Housing associations are expected to ensure that the properties available for council housing register nominees reflect the mix of the property type, stock and location that become vacant in their stock.

<p>Highlight any associated risks/finance/legal/equality considerations:</p>	<p>Some providers originally sought a very limited agreement on the basis that the organisations had worked together on strategic issues for a considerable length of time. However, the nomination agreement is the only formal document in respect of the new and a more comprehensive document allows for the effective management of potential allocation scheme at present and therefore needs to cover a range of topics in some detail.</p> <p>There are no health and safety implications in respect of these agreements.</p> <p>All providers have equality policies and monitoring of equality issues will be instigated as part of the implementation of the new scheme.</p>
<p>Details of any alternative options considered and rejected:</p>	<p>Government guidance indicates the level of detail that should be covered in nomination agreements. The suggestion that a limited agreement should be used was considered but rejected based on the guidance and the fact that there is currently no other agreement in place in respect of working arrangements for the allocation scheme.</p>
<p>Details of any declarations of interest made:</p>	

Signed.....