

PORTFOLIO HOLDER DECISION RECORD

Portfolio Holder: Councillor Samantha Hoy Portfolio Holder for Housing and Licensing	Service: Housing & Community Support
Lead Officers: Sarah Gove, Housing & Communities Manager, Dan Horn, Assistant Director	Delegated Power Being Exercised: Part 3 - Responsibilities for Functions; Table 5, paragraph 8: To approve any action within their functional area up to a value of £250,000.
Subject of Decision: To approve Amendment to Lettings Policy	

Decision Taken: To approve the proposed amendment to the Lettings Policy to reflect changes in legislation and following guidance issued by Secretary of State on 18th December 2024 regarding allocation of social housing to veterans.
Reasons for the Decisions: <ol style="list-style-type: none">Guidance was issued by the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government on 18th December 2004 to improve access to social housing for members of the Armed Forces. Improving access to social housing for members of the Armed Forces - GOV.UK. Local housing authorities are required to have regard to this guidance when exercising their allocation functions under Part 6 of the 1996 Act.The guidance updates which members of the armed forces are exempt from local connection criteria. It removes the previous requirement for the applicant to have served in the armed forces within five years of the date of their application for housing.To comply with this change, the wording in Section 3.4 of the Lettings Policy must be changed from: ‘The applicant is serving in the regular forces or who has served in the regular forces within five years of the date of their application for an allocation of housing under Part 6 of the 1996 Act’ to ‘The applicant is currently serving or has served in the Regular Armed Forces.’The Lettings Policy is already compliant with the other requirements and recommendations set out in the guidance.
Alternative Options Considered: (if appropriate): Not applicable
Background/Reports/Information: Improving access to social housing for members of the Armed Forces - GOV.UK
<u>Legal and Procurement Implications</u> It is a requirement that the Lettings Policy reflects current legislative requirements. The proposed

amendment to the wording reflects recent changes in the law and guidance and therefore must be reflected in the Policy.

Financial Implications

There are no financial implications associated with the proposal to amend the Policy.

Portfolio Holder's Signature:

Councillor Samantha Hoy, Portfolio Holder for
Housing and Licensing

Date:

16 January 2025

Please forward to Democratic Services upon completion

For Office Use Only

**Date copy passed to
Democratic Services 16/01/25**

**Implementation Date:
(if not called-in)
(Allow 5 clear working days after publication
of decision)**

Circulation: Democratic Services, Portfolio Holder, Officer and Accountancy.