

Committee: Overview & Scrutiny	Date: 7 th April, 2015	Classification: Unrestricted	Report No. 5.1
Report of: Service Head, Democratic Services Originating Officer(s): David Knight, Committee Services Officer		Title: The Allocations Scheme 2015 and Lettings Plan Wards: All	

1. SUMMARY

- 1.1 The attached report “6.1 The Allocations Scheme 2015 and Lettings Plan” was considered by the Mayor in Cabinet on 4 March, 2015 and has been “Called In” with regard to the recommended reduction in the quota of lettings by Councillors Candida Ronald; David Edgar; Andrew Cregan, Marc Francis and Rachel Blake. This is in accordance with the provisions of rule 16 of the Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rules in Part 4 of the Council’s Constitution.

2. RECOMMENDATION

- 2.1 That the OSC considers
- A. The contents of the attached report, review the Mayor in Cabinet’s decision (provisional, subject to Call In) arising; and
 - B. Decide whether to accept the decision or to refer the matter back to the Cabinet with proposals and reasons.

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 The request (received 12 March, 2015) to “call-in” the Mayor in Cabinet’s decision published on 6 March, 2015 was submitted under rule 16 of the Overview and Scrutiny (OSC) Procedure Rules. It was considered by the Interim Monitoring Officer who has delegated responsibility for calling in Cabinet and Mayoral decisions in accordance with agreed criteria.
- 3.2 The Call-In request fulfilled the required criteria and the decision is referred to OSC in order to consider whether or not to refer the matter back to the Cabinet for further consideration.
- 3.3 Implementation of the Cabinet decision is suspended whilst the “Call In” is considered.

4. THE MAYOR IN CABINET’S PROVISIONAL DECISION

- 4.1 The overall report, attached at Appendix 1, considered the Allocations Scheme 2015 and Lettings Plan. However, the Call-In request was specifically about the recommended reduction in the quota of lettings to be allocated to applicants in Band 3 from 10 per cent to 5 per cent. However

for ease, all the Decisions agreed by the Mayor in Cabinet in relation to the report are listed below:-

DECISION

The revised Allocations Scheme went 'live' in April 2013. The report that was considered by the Mayor in Cabinet on 4 March, 2015 served to provide an update on the success of the Scheme's amendments and proposed a number of minor changes to the Scheme and a revised Lettings Plan.

Recommendations:

The Mayor in Cabinet was recommended to:

1. Agree to amend the Allocations Scheme to provide capacity to place homeless applicants on auto bid in the circumstances set out in section 4.10 – 4.14 of the report;
2. Authorise the Corporate Director Development Renewal to set quotas for the proportion of lets to be made to homeless households; and
3. Agree the revised priority target groups for the Lettings Plan set out in section 5.3 of this report.

4.2 Reasons for Decisions

- 4.2.1 The appendix to this report sets out the full reasons for the proposals and they can be seen in the attached appendix to the Cabinet report.

4.3 Alternative Options Considered

- 4.3.1 The appendix to the report set out any alternative options considered and they can be seen in the attached appendix to the Cabinet report.

5. REASONS AND ALTERNATIVE COURSE OF ACTION PROPOSED FOR THE 'CALL IN'

- 5.1 The Call-in requisition signed by the five Councillors listed above gives the following reason for the Call-in:

- 5.1.1 We hereby call-in the Mayor's decision in Cabinet (Wednesday 4th March) with regard to the recommended reduction in the quota of lettings.

- 5.1.2 The recommended reduction in the quota of lettings to be allocated to applicants in Band 3 from 10 per cent to five per cent will have a serious impact on the likelihood of those who are deemed to be "adequately housed" making a successful bid for rehousing. While applicants in this Band includes some adult children of tenants and leaseholders who do have a bedroom of their own, it also includes existing tenants who want to

move to better accommodation e.g. those who are currently in flats at high floor levels in tower blocks who want to be nearer to the ground floor. When these applicants are rehoused another flat becomes available for letting to a household on the Waiting List.

5.2 Alternative action proposed:

- 5.2.1 That the Mayor agrees to the retaining of the existing 10 per cent quota for Band 3 applicants for at least a further 12 months

6. CONSIDERATION OF THE “CALL IN”

- 6.1 Having met the “Call In” request criteria, the matter is referred to the OSC in order to determine the “Call In” and decide whether or not to refer the matter back to Cabinet for further consideration.
- 6.2 The following procedure is to be followed for consideration of the “Call In”:
- (a) Presentation of the “Call In” by one of the “Call In” Members followed by questions from members of OSC.
 - (b) Response from the Lead Member/officers followed by questions from members of OSC.
 - (c) General debate followed by OSC decision.

N.B. In accordance with the OSC Protocols and Guidance adopted by the Committee at its meeting on 4th June, 2013, any Member(s) who present(s) the “Call In” is (are) not eligible to participate in the general debate.

- 6.3 It is open to the OSC to either resolve to take no action (which would have the effect of endorsing the original Mayoral decision/s), or to refer the matter back to the Mayor for further consideration setting out the nature of its concerns and possibly recommending an alternative course of action.

7. COMMENTS OF THE CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER

- 7.1 The comments of the Chief Financial Officer are incorporated in the attached report.

8. LEGAL COMMENTS

- 8.1 The Mayor in Cabinet’s decision has been called-in in accordance with the Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rules set out in the Council’s Constitution. The alternatives presented in paragraph 2.1 of the recommendations in this report are options available to the Committee under the Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rules.
- 8.2 Legal comments relevant to the Mayor’s decision and to the review by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee are set out in the report on which the decision was based.

9. APPENDICES

1. Appendix 1 – The Allocations Scheme 2015 and Lettings Plan

**Local Government Act, 1972 Section 100D (As amended)
List of “Background Papers” used in the preparation of this report**

Brief description of “background papers”

Name and telephone number of holder and address where open to inspection.

None