

STOCKTON-ON-TEES BOROUGH COUNCIL

CABINET RECOMMENDATIONS

PROFORMA

Cabinet Meeting8th October 2015

1. Title of Item/Report

Scrutiny Review of Choice Based Lettings

2. Record of the Decision

Consideration was given to a report on the Scrutiny Review of Choice Based Lettings.

The report outlined the findings of the review of choice based lettings (CBL). The review was undertaken by People Select Committee and considered the marketing and operation of the Tees Valley CBL scheme 'Compass', and the issues facing the local social housing sector.

RESOLVED that:

1. a) The changes to the bidding process be supported (outlined at 4.32 in main report)
 - b) Enhanced auto-bidding be rolled out as soon as possible to ensure that those people without internet access are not disadvantaged
2. The Compass Partnership Steering Group should continually review the website and marketing of the Compass scheme, and in particular:
 - a) to improve the range of information provided with each property advert (for example, floor plans and greater use of photographs)
 - b) to ensure potential applicants are aware of the availability of social housing, and also the ability to 'under-occupy' (subject to housing needs of other applicants and individual financial assessment).
 - c) to ensure the bidding system remains user friendly and in line with customer needs and expectations
3. Thirteen Group as a key housing partner, continue to work to improve the attractiveness of the social housing offer. This should involve ensuring potential customers are aware of possible packages of support prior to bidding (for example, furniture or decoration incentives)

4. To continue to ensure an effective and transparent allocations process, the planned assurance work by SBC Housing Services be supported, and that People Committee receives a progress report within six months of the implementation of the new bidding process.

3. Reasons for the Decision

The report presents the findings of the scrutiny review that took place as part of the agreed work programme for 2015-16.

4. Alternative Options Considered and Rejected

None.

5. Declared (Cabinet Member) Conflicts of Interest

Councillor Nelson declared a personal non prejudicial interest in respect of agenda item 6 – Scrutiny Review of Choice Based Lettings as he was a member of Tristar Board.

6. Details of any Dispensations

N/A

7. Date and Time by which Call In must be executed

Midnight on 16th October 2015

Proper Officer
12 October 2015