

North Somerset Council Decision



**Decision Of: Executive Member for Adult Services,
Health and Housing**

With Advice From: Director of Adult Social Services

Directorate: Adult Social Services

Decision No: ASC52 (22/2023)

Subject: HOME CHOICE POLICY AMENDMENTS

Key Decision: YES

Reason: Executive Member Decision, affecting more than two Wards.

Background:

A review of the Home Choice Policy has been undertaken to ensure the policy is kept up to date including some minor changes to text to reflect the implementation of the new IT system that went live in January 2021, for example, the policy referred to Abritas our previous IT provider we now use Jigsaw.

Some other small changes to the policy are proposed to improve clarity and reflect current practice. Our policy already reflected changes within the Domestic Abuse Bill and there were no other legislative changes to make.

A copy of the revised policy can be found at Appendix A, a table of the amendments and additions with a short commentary on each change can be found at Appendix B and the Equality Impact Assessment is at Appendix C

Decision:

To approve the revised Home Choice Policy as set out in Appendix A, for publication and implementation.

Reasons:

To have an up to date Home Choice Policy to take account of statutory guidance and where appropriate, reflecting best practice and the policies of other Local Authorities.

Options Considered:

For the Home Choice Policy to remain in its current form would mean that parts of the policy would not be in line with statutory guidance or best practice so updating the policy is the only option that could be considered.

Financial Implications:

NONE

Costs:

NONE

Funding:

NONE

Legal Powers and Implications:

The council has a legal duty to allocate (or nominate to) accommodation in accordance with Part 6 Housing Act 1996 and there is a range of statutory guidance. The proposed amendments meet the requirements of the act and guidance.

Climate Change and Environmental Implications: NONE**Consultation:**

The proposals were shared with the Adult Social Services & Housing Scrutiny Panel and the Housing Sub-Group. We have also consulted on the proposed changes with Registered Provider partners, other key stakeholders including Citizens Advice North Somerset and the resulting feedback has been incorporated into the proposed amendments.

Risk Management:

Monitoring of the changes will be undertaken to ensure that applicants have appropriate banding to reflect their needs.

Equality Implications:

Have you undertaken an Equality Impact Assessment? Yes (Appendix C)

Corporate Implications:

NONE

Appendices:

Appendix A Revised Home Choice Policy

Appendix B Table of amendments & additions to the Home Choice Policy

Appendix C Equalities Impact Assessment

Background Papers:

North Somerset Home Choice Policy (lettings and assessment)

Allocation of Accommodation: Guidance for local authorities in England 2012;

Providing Social Housing for Local People: Statutory guidance on social housing for local authorities in England 2013; Domestic Abuse Act 2021 – (Housing Duties)

Signatories:

Decision Maker(s):

Signed: 

Title: Executive Member for Adult Services, Health and Housing

Date: 16 January 2023

Signed: 

Title: Director of Adult Social Services

Date: 16 January 2023

With Advice From:

Signed: *Kay Eccles*

Title: Head of Housing Solutions

Date: 16 January 2023

Footnote: Details of changes made and agreed by the decision taker since publication of the proposed (pre-signed) decision notice, if applicable: N/A