

Select Committee on Environment - 18th September, 2006

Report of the Director of Law and Property

Review of Succession

Purpose of Report

1. To consider the decision of the Council in relation to a Notice of Motion Under Council Procedure Rule 12 considered on 24th July, 2006 regarding the issue of a review of succession to tenancy.
2. To consider the process for an all party review of the present policy on succession with the involvement of the respective lead members and spokespersons for housing.

Background

3. The Committee, at its meeting held in September, 2005 agreed to oversee the process of introducing Choice Based Lettings in Dudley and have further included the issue as part of its Work Programme for 2006/07.
4. Members will be aware that the following Notice of Motion, as amended, was approved by the Council on 24th July, 2006:-

“That this Council confirms its commitment to introduce Choice Based Lettings so that prospective tenants will be able to see what properties are available and exercise choice over where they will live, rather than being “allocated” a property by an officer. This Council believes that the transparency of the process will increase public confidence in the lettings service, and that giving people more choice will help to promote settled, sustainable communities.

This Council notes that succession of tenancy is a major and very sensitive human issue and that this Council supports an urgent all party review of the present policy via the appropriate Select Committee with involvement of respective political housing lead members or spokespersons”.

5. The Select Committee is requested to consider the process for the review of the present policy regarding succession to tenancy as referred to in the second part of paragraph 4 above.

Finance

6. The information contained in the report submitted does not have a direct impact regarding the Council's finances. Any relevant financial issues will need to be taken into account by Members in conducting the review of the present policy.

Law

7. The allocation of tenancies is governed by the Housing Act 1980.

Equality Impact

8. The report has no direct implications for the Council's Equality and Diversity Policy and whilst, at this stage, there are no direct implications for children and young people, any conclusions reached in the review may impact on those groups.

Recommendation

9. That consideration be given to the issue of reviewing the policy on succession to tenancy approved by Council on 24th July 2006.

John Pugh

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Director of Law and Property

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List of Background Papers

Council Minutes – 24th July 2006