



**AGENDA ITEM: 7(4)**

**EXECUTIVE OVERVIEW &  
SCRUTINY COMMITTEE:  
2 July 2009**

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**Report of: Council Secretary and Solicitor**

**Portfolio Holder: Councillor Mrs V Hopley**

**Contact for further information: Mrs S Griffiths (Extn. 5017)  
(E-mail: [susan.griffiths@westlancs.gov.uk](mailto:susan.griffiths@westlancs.gov.uk))**

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**SUBJECT: CALLED IN ITEM: REVIEW OF HOUSING ALLOCATIONS POLICY**

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Borough Wide Interest

**1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT**

1.1 To advise the Executive Overview and Scrutiny Committee of the reason for the call in of the decision on the above item, as set out in Minute No. 13 of the meeting of Cabinet held on 16 June 2009.

**2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS TO CABINET**

2.1 That the Committee determines whether it wishes to ask for a different decision.

2.2 That if the Committee does wish to ask for a different decision, the Committee indicates which of the options set out at paragraph 4.1 below, it wishes to pursue.

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**3.0 DETAILS RELATING TO THE CALL IN**

3.1 The report attached as an Appendix to this report was considered at Cabinet held on 16 June 2009.

3.2 The following decision of Cabinet is contained at minute no. 13:-

## **“13. REVIEW OF THE HOUSING ALLOCATIONS POLICY**

Councillor Mrs V Hopley introduced the report of the Executive Manager Housing and Property Maintenance Services which reviewed the current Allocations Policy to ensure that it remained compatible with recent legislative changes and the changes in the housing market.

In reaching the decision below, Cabinet considered the details set out in the report before it and accepted the reasons contained in it.

- RESOLVED: A. That the Housing Allocations Policy, attached as an Appendix to the report, be approved.
- B. That the Executive Manager Housing and Property Maintenance Services, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Housing, be given delegated authority to review and make future changes to the policy in light of legislative change.”

3.3 The following reason for call in was given in the requisition:

*“The Housing Allocations Policy as drafted does not take full account of housing need.”*

3.4 The requisition also provided an alternative decision which was:-

*“That the Draft Allocations Policy be forwarded to Full Council for consideration.*

*That Housing Officers bring forward a report detailing demand and turnover with regard to WLBS stock, as a means of assessing whether a local connection criterion is required.*

*That Council reaffirms that social rented properties allocated under this policy are allocated in terms of housing need and that local connection does not have priority over that need.”*

3.5 The following Members of the Executive Overview and Scrutiny Committee signed the requisition for call-in in accordance with the provisions of Overview and Scrutiny Committee Procedure Rule 15:

Councillor Pendleton  
Councillor J. Roberts  
Councillor Mckay  
Councillor Carson  
Councillor W.G. Roberts

## **4.0 CONCLUSION**

4.1 Following consideration of the decision of Cabinet and the requisition for call in, the Executive Overview and Scrutiny Committee can decide if it wishes to ask for a different decision. If the Committee does not wish to ask for different decision

then the decision of Cabinet takes immediate effect. If the Committee does wish to ask for a different decision, it may:

- a. refer the decision back to Cabinet (as the decision making body) for reconsideration, setting out the different decision; or
- b. refer the matter to Council. If the matter is referred to Council and Council does not object then the decision of Cabinet will take effect immediately from that Council meeting date. If the Council does object, then the decision and the objection will be referred back to Cabinet (as the decision making body) for reconsideration.

4.2 The Secretary of State in his Guidance recommends that Overview and Scrutiny Committees should only use the power to refer matters to the full Council if they consider that the decision is contrary to the policy framework or contrary to or not wholly in accordance with the budget.

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### **Background Documents**

There are no background documents (as defined in Section 100D(5) of the Local Government Act 1972) to this Report.

### **Equality Impact Assessment**

There is no evidence from an initial assessment of an adverse impact on equality in relation to the equality target groups.

### **Appendices**

Report of the Executive Manager Housing and Property Maintenance Services