

**INFRASTRUCTURE, HOUSING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE
8 JANUARY 2019**

PART I - DELEGATED

**7. TEMPORARY ACCOMMODATION PLACEMENT POLICY UPDATE
(DCES)**

1 Summary

- 1.1 Following increased demand for temporary accommodation in 2016, it was necessary for the Council to introduce a Temporary Accommodation Placement Policy. The policy sets out to ensure the Council meets its statutory obligations and in particular the criteria used when considering out of district placements. This was previously agreed at Policy and Resources Committee in November 2016.
- 1.2 The Homelessness Reduction Act 2017 came into force in April 2018, therefore a review of the policy is necessary.

2 Details

- 2.1 The Council has a statutory duty to try to prevent homelessness for customers where they are eligible for assistance and homeless, within the statutory definition. However, if it is not possible to prevent homelessness the Council has a duty to provide temporary accommodation for those that are eligible for assistance, homeless and in priority need.
- 2.2 In so far as is reasonable practical, the Council will seek to accommodate homeless customers within the district and will always consider the suitability of the accommodation taking account of the circumstances of the customer. However, the demand for temporary accommodation exceeds the supply that is currently available within the district.
- 2.3 Consequently, it has become essential to secure out of district placements. However the Council will always endeavour to use accommodation within a reasonable commuting distance of the district and not as some London Boroughs have done, securing accommodation in the north of the country and the south coast.
- 2.4 The Temporary Accommodation Placement Policy sets out what factors the Council will take into account when assessing the suitability of temporary accommodation placement and in particular the criteria used when considering out of district placements.
- 2.5 The policy attached as Appendix A is fully compliant with the Homelessness (Suitability of Accommodation) (England) Order 2012 and the Homelessness Code of Guidance 2018. The policy explains the statutory duties and considerations given to all applicants when placements are made both inside and outside of the district.

3 Options and Reasons for Recommendations

- 3.1 It is recommended the Committee agree the updated policy to ensure Council compliance with relevant legislation.

4 Policy/Budget Reference and Implications

- 4.1 The recommendations in this report are within the Council’s agreed policy and budgets.
- 4.2 The recommendations in this report relate to the achievement of the following performance indicators.
 - 4.2.1 HN01 – Maximum number of households living in temporary accommodation on the last day of the quarter (snapshot).
 - 4.2.2 HN02 – Maximum number of families in bed and breakfast for more than six weeks.
 - 4.2.3 HN03 – Maximum number of households living in temporary accommodation throughout the year.

5 Financial, Staffing, Environmental, Community Safety, Public Health, Customer Services Centre, Communications & Website, Risk Management and Health & Safety Implications

5.1 None specific.

6 Legal Implications

6.1 It is recommended the Committee agree the updated policy to ensure Council compliance with relevant legislation.

7 Equal Opportunities Implications

7.1 Relevance Test

Has a relevance test been completed for Equality Impact?	Yes / No
Did the relevance test conclude a full impact assessment was required?	Yes / No

7.2 The relevance test showed that a full impact assessment was not required as sufficient provision is made within the policy to address relevant points.

7.3 Any risks resulting from this report will be included in the risk register and, if necessary, managed within the Housing Services service plan.

8 Recommendation

8.1 That Committee agree the updated policy to ensure Council compliance with relevant legislation.

Report prepared by: Kimberley Grout, Head of Housing Services

Data Quality

Data sources: relevant legislation

Data checked by: Kimberley Grout, Head of Housing Services

Data rating:

1	Poor	
2	Sufficient	X
3	High	

Background Papers - none

APPENDICES / ATTACHMENTS

Appendix One – Temporary Accommodation Placement Policy