

**TITLE OF REPORT: ITEM REFERRED FROM OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE:  
19 JULY 2016 – ADOPTION OF AN UPDATED COMMON HOUSING ALLOCATION  
SCHEME**

*The following is an extract from the Draft Minutes of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee meeting held on 19 July 2016.*

**28. ADOPTION OF AN UPDATED COMMON HOUSING ALLOCATION SCHEME**

Prior to the item being heard Councillor Clare Billing declared a declarable interest in that she worked for Aldwyck Housing Association as a Housing Officer. She advised that this was not within North Herts and therefore would not preclude her from taking part in the debate and vote.

The Executive Member for Housing and Environmental Health presented the report of the Head of Housing and Public Protection entitled Adoption of an Updated Common Housing Allocation Scheme.

He summarised the background and the reasons for the amendments and explained that the current scheme had resulted in those who had been evicted for rent arrears or anti-social behaviour being excluded from applying for further social housing and living in temporary accommodation for a long time.

The amendments sought to recognise those people who had subsequently started to repay arrears or had altered their behaviour and enable them to apply again for social housing.

Members acknowledged that those who made real efforts to repay rent arrears or change their behaviour should not be penalised unnecessarily and were supportive of the updated scheme.

***RECOMMENDED TO CABINET:***

1. That the updated version of the Common Housing Allocation Scheme be approved;
2. That Cabinet delegates to the Executive Member for Housing and Environmental Health, in conjunction with the Head of Housing and Public Protection, the power to make minor amendments to the Common Housing Allocation Scheme and to agree the launch date for the commencement of the updated Scheme on behalf of the Council.

***REASON FOR DECISION:*** To enable the Overview and Scrutiny Committee to consider the report entitled Adoption of an Updated Common Housing Allocation Scheme prior to consideration by Cabinet.

**[NOTE: The report to which this referral relates is Item 11 on this agenda.]**

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