

Lettings Policy Review

3.0 COMMENTS OF OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY

- 3.2 The Overview and Scrutiny (Environment, Communities and Partnerships) Panel discussed the report at its meeting on 5th February 2026.
- 3.3 Councillor Bywater expressed his gratitude for the inclusion of Care Leavers into the Policy, a sentiment which was echoed by the Panel. Following a further enquiry from Councillor Hassall, the Panel were advised that the number of care leavers on the Housing list was low and potential in single figures, however the Panel were assured that Officers worked with Care Leaving Team colleagues to identify care leavers who would be applying for social housing and were able to plan and accommodate for them. It was noted that the very low numbers of care leavers against the total number of households registered to the list meant that this group had a minimal impact on the list overall but that the support provided was invaluable.
- 3.4 In response to a question from Councillor Shaw, the Panel were advised that victims of domestic violence were identified by Officers and case workers through investigative and liaison work and that priority was awarded accordingly.
- 3.5 It was observed by Councillor Criswell that the report identified a future review during the next municipal year of the Policy and requested involvement of Councillors and Overview and Scrutiny within that process. This sentiment was shared by the Panel, the Chair and the Executive Councillor as an action to take forward.
- 3.6 Following an enquiry from Councillor Pitt, it was clarified to the Panel that the minor amendments referenced in the recommendation for Officer delegation were small amends such as clarification of wording. Further concern was expressed by Councillor Hassall as to whether the term minor amendment could be defined. Following discussion, the Panel were reassured that any decisions taken under this recommendation would be between the Corporate Director Communities and the Portfolio Holder. It was further suggested that the Overview and Scrutiny Chair be apprised of these decisions so that they could report back to the Panel if deemed necessary.
- 3.7 Following the discussion, the Panel were informed that their comments would be added to the Cabinet report in order for an informed decision to be made on the report recommendations.