

WYRE FOREST DISTRICT COUNCIL

CABINET
15TH FEBRUARY 2011

**Recommendation from Community and Regeneration Scrutiny Committee,
Thursday 3rd February 2011**

Review Of Allocations Policy (Home Choice Plus)

The Community and Regeneration Scrutiny Committee considered a report from the Strategic Housing Services Manager that outlined proposed changes to the Allocations Policy that the Home Choice Partnership want to take to consultation before taking a final amended policy through Council later in the year.

Home Choice Plus has been in use across the district since December 2007 following a decision taken in July 2007 to participate in a sub-regional Choice Based Letting Scheme. In December 2009 the Government published guidance on social housing allocations for local authorities which clarified the position on certain aspects of Choice Based Lettings schemes, following case law.

The statutory guidance prompted a review of the Home Choice Plus Policy to ensure that it was legally compliant and considered the latest good practice in allocation policies. This work was led by Stratford-on-Avon and Wychavon Councils. It was also identified at the time that some of the underpinning procedure and practices would need greater clarity and that some applicant groups were not being given suitable priority by the current policy and that the Council might want to amend this following on from wider consultation.

The Home Choice Plus Partnership felt it was an appropriate time to survey customers using the system to canvas their views about the policy and the computer system to inform any future changes to the policy.

Recommended to Cabinet:

That the draft allocations policy be agreed (to include the two amendments set out below) and that full consultation be undertaken with stakeholders and applicants on the housing register.

- 1. It is recommended that the Appeals Scheme is made more accessible to people who apply for properties.**
- 2. More comprehensive feedback should be given to all applicants on the Housing Register so that they are aware of how the system works, what their banding is and what the likelihood is of them being rehoused.**