

**REPORT FOR: TENANTS',
LEASEHOLDERS' AND
RESIDENTS'
CONSULTATIVE FORUM**

Date of Meeting: 29 February 2012

Subject: **INFORMATION REPORT –
Housing Changes Update**

Responsible Officer: Lynne Pennington, Divisional Director
of Housing

Exempt: No

Enclosures: None

Section 1 – Summary

This report sets out an update on the Housing Changes Review which involves a full review of and completion of a range of housing strategy and policies as required by the Localism Act 2011.

FOR INFORMATION

Section 2 – Report

- 2.1 TLRCF received a report on the Housing Changes Review at its meeting on the 11 January 2012 following approval of a number of recommendations by Cabinet at its meeting on the 15 December 2011. The report set out a number of policy options to be taken forward over the coming months in response to the flexibilities contained in the Localism Act 2011.
- 2.2 The Next Steps Action Plan sets out the key actions being taken forward. Officers are now taking forward the agreed work plan by for example, modelling the impact of introducing flexible tenancies for new tenants in terms of the additional lets that might be achieved and considering what measures might need to be adopted to eliminate and/or reduce any adverse equality impacts.
- 2.3 Draft strategies and policies will then be developed for consultation, including with TLRCF and HFTRA, before being reported to Cabinet for adoption. The intention is to conduct an email consultation with the respondents to the first consultation on the Housing Changes to ensure that views from Harrow residents living in a range of housing tenures are captured.
- 2.4 Since the Housing Changes Review report was written, the Government has also published a national Housing Strategy and the Mayor has issued a draft London Housing Strategy for consultation. When the London Housing Strategy is finalised and adopted there will be a requirement for Harrow's housing strategies and policies to be in general conformity with it.

Section 3 – Further Information

- 3.1 A verbal update will be provided at the meeting on the current work plan and timetable for consultation.

Section 4 – Financial Implications

- 4.1 This information report has no specific financial implications. The financial implications of any policy options will be considered as they are developed.

Section 5 - Equalities implications

- 5.1 An equalities impact assessment has been carried out on the potential impact of the proposed changes, and this helped to inform the next steps action plan. As the agreed work plan is completed and using the results from consultation and other relevant information we will conclude what, if any, potential impact the changes will have on the groups of people whose characteristics are protected by the Equalities

Act 2010 (i.e. age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage & civil partnership, pregnancy & maternity, race, religion or belief, sex, sexual orientation) and that the proposed mitigation measures are adequate. This will be set out in full equality impact assessments which will be published alongside the draft strategies and policies.

Section 6 – Corporate Priorities

6.1 This report incorporates the following corporate priorities by involving residents in determining future housing policies and strategies that support people in priority housing need:

- United and involved communities: A Council that listens and leads.
- Supporting and protecting people who are most in need.

Name: Roger Hampson	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	on behalf of the Chief Financial Officer
Date: 21 February 2012		

Section 7 - Contact Details and Background Papers

Contact: Alison Pegg/Jane Fernley

Housing Partnerships and Strategy Manager

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Background Papers: TLRCF Housing Changes Report 11 January 2012