

REDDITCH BOROUGH COUNCIL

**EXECUTIVE
COMMITTEE**

29th September 2010

**SUB-REGIONAL HOUSING ALLOCATIONS POLICY – REFERRAL FROM
THE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

Relevant Portfolio Holder	Councillor Brandon Clayton
Relevant Director	Executive Director of Planning and Regeneration, Regulatory and Housing Services
Non-Key Decision	

1. SUMMARY OF PROPOSALS

The Overview and Scrutiny Committee considered a presentation on Sub-Regional Housing Allocations at its meeting on 15th September. Members discussed a proposal that the Council join a Sub-Regional Scheme. The Committee took the view that the Council's interests may not be best served by entering into such an arrangement at the present time. The purpose of this report is to provide a summary of these comments for the consideration of the Executive Committee.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee is asked to **RECOMMEND** that

- 1) **subject to noting Members' comments as detailed in paragraph 4, below, the Council retain the Local Housing Allocations Policy and Redditch Home Choice System and review in accordance with the existing constitutional framework; and**

RESOLVE that

- 2) **the Borough Tenants' Panel be provided with the opportunity to consider and comment upon the Sub-Regional Housing Allocations Policy report.**

3. BACKGROUND

Overview and Scrutiny plays an important role in policy development at the Council. Increasingly, the Overview and Scrutiny Committee is reviewing important strategies and policies relating to both key and non-key decisions that are scheduled for consideration by the Executive Committee and / or the Council. The aim of the Committee is to scrutinise the issue in detail and to help the Executive by: identifying areas for improvement, assessing

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the feasibility of proposed actions; and ultimately advising on the validity of proposed decisions.

4. KEY ISSUES

There were a number of key issues which led Members to the conclusion that the Council should retain the Local Housing Allocations Policy and Redditch Home Choice System at the present time. The key issues were that:

- it would not be in the interests of the Council's tenants and prospective tenants within the Borough in that it may reduce their chances of accessing housing locally;
- the Council's existing policies and practices were considered to have enhancements that were lacking in the Sub-Regional Scheme in that it included a needs based element.; and
- the Council retained its own housing stock and might, therefore attract tenants from out of the Borough who were interested in the possibility of right to buy.

AUTHOR OF REPORT

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