

SHEFFIELD CITY COUNCIL

POLICY COMMITTEE DECISION RECORD

The following decisions were taken on Thursday 15 December 2022 by the Housing Policy Committee.

Item No

7. **GAS SERVICING POLICY**

7.1 The report sought approval of a new policy on gas servicing. There has not been a policy relating to gas servicing before as there has been legal and statutory duties to carry out annual safety inspections. This policy provides a clear position statement of those duties and Sheffield City Council's commitment to achieve 100% compliance.

7.2 **RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY:** That the **Housing** Policy Committee:-

1. Approve the Gas Safety Policy for Sheffield City Council

7.3 **Reasons for Decision**

7.3.1 It is recommended that the Housing Policy Committee approve this policy.

7.4 **Alternatives Considered and Rejected**

7.4.1 Sheffield City Council are not required to have a clear policy for gas servicing due to the legal and statutory obligations to carry out this activity, but we feel it is best practice to have one in place.

8. **HOMELESSNESS PREVENTION AND ROUGH SLEEPING STRATEGY 2023-28**

8.1 The Report sought approval of the Homelessness Prevention and Rough Sleeping Strategy 2023-28. The Report will outline the statutory framework under which the Council has developed the strategy and the rationale for taking this course of action.

8.2 **RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY:** That the **Housing** Policy Committee:-

1. Approve the Homelessness Prevention and Rough Sleeping Strategy 2023-28.

8.3 **Reasons for Decision**

8.3.1

- To address the increase in homelessness.
- To have a strategic city-wide approach to homelessness prevention agreed by all of the key partners.

8.4 **Alternatives Considered and Rejected**

- 8.4.1 It is a statutory requirement of the Homelessness Act 2002 to produce a Homelessness Prevention Strategy every five years.⁵ The previous strategy came into effect on 03/01/2018 and a new strategy is therefore required. The option of not producing or delaying the development of a new strategy would be unlawful, we have therefore discounted this option.

9. DAMP AND MOULD UPDATE

- 9.1 Following the tragic death of Awaab Ishak who died two years ago from a respiratory condition caused by damp and mould in his home, both the Secretary of State for The Department of Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLHUC) and the Regulator of Social Housing (RSH) have written to Sheffield City Council to seek re-assurances that it is fulfilling its legal and regulatory responsibilities in relation to damp and mould, and if not, to outline how it intends to become full compliant. The report outlined work undertaken to date in responding to DLUHC and the RSH and how SCC is responding to dealing effectively with damp and mould.

- 9.2 **RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY:** That the **Housing** Policy Committee:-

1. Note the contents of this report and the work being done to address the issues of damp and mould in private rented homes and council housing.

9.3 Reasons for Decision

- 9.3.1 To inform the Housing Policy Committee of the work being undertaken by Officers to respond to the challenges of damp and mould in both private sector housing and council housing in Sheffield.

9.4 Alternatives Considered and Rejected

- 9.4.1 None

10. CAPITAL FINANCE MONITORING REPORT

- 10.1 The report brought the Committee up to date with the Housing Capital Programme financial position as at Month 7 2022/23.

- 10.2 **RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY:** That the **Housing** Policy Committee:-

1. Note the Housing Capital Programme financial position as at the end of October 2022 (month 7), as set out on appendix A to this report.

10.3 Reasons for Decision

- 10.3.1 Not applicable: note only item.

10.4 Alternatives Considered and Rejected

10.4.1 Decline to approve the recommendation.