

## **Eliminate the use of B&B Amamendment EqIA 1 12/02/2015**

### **What is possibly changing?**

The Budget Proposal (Agenda item X) currently includes a saving of £480,000 (S32) as a result of change to the Housing Allocations Policy. The policy change prioritised statutory homeless people, when allocating available housing (both Council housing stock and stock for registered providers).

Since the publication of the Cabinet Agenda, the decision to change the Allocations Policy has been subject to Executive Scrutiny. This session considered a number of issues relating to the policy change.

The Cabinet are still committed to eliminating the use of Bed and Breakfast provision for those people who are statutorily homeless, but recognise that this change in policy needs to be scrutinised to allow the implementation of the scheme to be fully considered. It is therefore proposed that a Scrutiny Task and Finish Group is convened, to allow time for the scrutiny of this item and for recommendations to be formulated to influence the development and implementation of this policy change. It is anticipated the work of this Task and Finish Group will be completed, to allow a revised Policy to be agreed in September.

This delay to the implementation of the policy change has an impact in terms of the Budget currently proposed to Council.

### **What is the impact?**

Recognition that eliminating the use of Bed and Breakfast provision for those people who are statutorily homeless promotes equality of opportunity is in the main EqIA. However to consider making changes in a managed way that allows the Council to ensure that there is no adverse impact allows further due regard to occur. It is likely that some people will be housed in Bed and Breakfast accommodation in this period and therefore there will be a delay to the advancement of equality. As long as the Scrutiny Group comes to its findings soon so that the revised policy comes in September, the impact is unlikely to be high.