



<b>Subject:</b>	Motion – Homeless Status
<b>Date:</b>	10th September, 2019
<b>Reporting Officer:</b>	Sara Steele, Democratic Services Officer
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	Sara Steele, Democratic Services Officer

<b>Restricted Reports</b>	
<b>Is this report restricted?</b>	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<b>If Yes, when will the report become unrestricted?</b>	
<b>After Committee Decision</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>After Council Decision</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Some time in the future</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Never</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>

<b>Call-in</b>	
<b>Is the decision eligible for Call-in?</b>	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>

<b>1.0</b>	<b>Purpose of Report/Summary of Main Issues</b>
1.1	To consider a response which has been received from Mr. Clark Bailie, Chief Executive, Northern Ireland Housing Executive (NIHE), in relation to a motion on Homeless Status which was passed by the Council on 1st July.
<b>2.0</b>	<b>Recommendation</b>
2.1	The Committee is requested to note the response. Representative from the NIHE will be attending a Special Housing Meeting on 16th September and it is suggested that consideration of this matter could be added to the agenda, subject to the relevant NIHE officers being available to attend rather than convening a separate all party deputation.
<b>3.0</b>	<b>Main Report</b>
	<b><u>Key Issues</u></b>

3.1	<p>The Council, at its meeting on 1st July, passed the following motion in regard to Homeless Status and Full Duty Application Status which had been moved by Councillor Hargey and seconded by Councillor Walsh:</p> <p><i>“This Council commends the #FDANODELAY campaign and recognises that people living in hostels and other temporary/emergency accommodation across our society are homeless and deserve to be legally recognised as such by having Full Duty Applicant status awarded.</i></p> <p><i>The Council calls on the NIHE Chief Executive to respond, outlining what measures the NIHE will now take to accurately audit the extent of the problem regarding homeless people who are not recognised as such and what steps will be taken to remedy these oversights.”</i></p>
3.2	<p>At the request of Councillor Ferguson, the proposer agreed to amend her motion to the effect that the Chief Executive of the Northern Ireland Housing Executive be invited to meet with an all-Party delegation from the Council to discuss the motion.</p>
3.3	<p>After discussion, the motion, as amended, was put to the Council and passed.</p>
3.4	<p>A letter was forwarded subsequently to the Chief Executive, NIHE, in relation to the motion. His response is attached.</p>
3.5	<p>The Chief Executive explains that the awarding of homelessness status (Full Duty Applicant Status) is set out in the criteria laid down in The Housing (NI) Order 1998.</p>
3.6	<p>He highlights the fact that, where a person presents to the Housing Executive as homeless, they will respond in accordance with this law and commence enquires accordingly. He explains that a full duty applicant is a person who passes the following four tests for homelessness:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Homeless/threatened with homelessness;</li><li>2. Eligible for assistance;</li><li>3. In priority need; and</li><li>4. Unintentionally homeless.</li></ol>

3.7	<p>The Chief Executive concludes by pointing out that assessments are carried out on an individual basis by the Housing Executive and when enquiries are complete a notification of decision is given in writing to the applicant.</p>
3.8	<p>He added that should the Council still require a meeting that he would arrange for the appropriate staff to attend.</p>
3.9	<p><b><u>Financial and Resource Implications</u></b></p> <p>None.</p>
3.10	<p><b><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications</u></b></p> <p>None.</p>
<b>4.0</b>	<b>Appendices - Documents Attached</b>
	Appendix 1 - Correspondence from NIHE