

RUSHMOOR BOROUGH COUNCIL RECORD OF EXECUTIVE DECISION



Consultation on a direction to the Regulator of Social Housing to set a Competence and Conduct Standard for social housing

DECISION MAKERS

Jonathan Canty Development & Economic Growth Portfolio Holder

DECISION AND THE REASON(S) FOR IT

The decision has been made for council officers to submit a response to the Government having discussed the answers to be submitted with elected members at SHLPG & RP Review Group meetings.

This consultation sets out our detailed policy proposals for the new Competence and Conduct Standard. This includes our draft direction to the Regulator and a draft policy statement setting out the detail of the proposed qualification requirements for senior managers and senior executives. The draft direction requires the Regulator to set a Standard for registered providers in matters relating to the competence and conduct of relevant individuals.

The draft direction specifies that the Standard must require registered providers of social housing to ensure that all of their staff involved in the provision of services in connection with the management of social housing have the skills, knowledge, and experience and exhibit the behaviours needed to deliver a good quality service.

The Standard will only apply directly to registered providers, but registered providers will also be required to take steps to secure that relevant staff of those organisations providing housing management services on their behalf ("services providers") also have the necessary skills, knowledge and experience, and exhibit the right behaviours.

The draft direction specifies that the Standard must require registered providers to:

- have an up-to-date written policy setting out their approach to managing and developing the skills, knowledge, experience and conduct of those of their staff who are relevant individuals (see glossary of terms within the policy statement for definitions); and
- adopt or develop an appropriate code of conduct for those of their staff who are relevant individuals and to ensure this is embedded within their organisation.

The consultation closes on 2nd April 2024

DATE DECISION TAKEN: 01/03/2023

ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED N/A

ANY CONFLICTS OF INTERESTS DECLARED None
None

Signed:
(Decision Maker)

JONATHAN CROFT

Signed:
(Decision Maker)

Guidance notes for using this form

Recording executive decisions

New regulations¹ came into effect on 10 September 2012, under which council officers and cabinet members are required to record every decision they take which is connected to the discharge of a function which is the responsibility of the executive (Cabinet). This applies whether the decision is taken by an officer or an individual cabinet member. This record must be published on the Council's website.

Which executive decisions must be recorded?

The regulations state that any decision connected to the discharge of a function, which is the responsibility of the Cabinet, must be recorded and published. However, at Rushmoor we are restricting the recording requirement to those decisions that are 'closely' (rather than remotely) connected with the discharge of a function of the Cabinet. For guidance, this includes any decision that is either:

- A 'key decision'; or
- Delegated to an officer(s)/cabinet member at a Cabinet meeting; or
- Delegated to an officer in consultation with a cabinet member (within the scheme of delegation or authorised at Cabinet); or
- Any executive decision, whether or not it is in the Cabinet Scheme of Delegation, where there is a reasonable expectation of public interest in the matter being decided because it may have an impact on a community living or working in Rushmoor; or
- The subject of urgent action outside the Scheme of Delegation

Decisions which are administrative in nature – for example, purchasing low value items or are otherwise minor or routine, need not be recorded.

In addition, some decisions would be considered exempt from publication because, for example, they affect particular individuals rather than the public in general, or concern the business affairs

¹ The Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Meetings and Access to Information) (England) Regulations 2012

of any person (including the Council) where the information could be claimed to be commercially sensitive.

What are key decisions?

Key decisions are not taken by individual cabinet members and are not usually taken by officers, unless specifically delegated by the Cabinet.

A key decision is one which is likely to:

- result in the Council incurring expenditure or making savings which are significant in as much as they will have a material effect on the level of Council tax or balances or contingencies in relation to the Council's overall budget; or
- be significant in terms of its effects on communities living or working in an area comprising two or more wards within the Borough

