

Housing and Health Committee	
Meeting Date	22 nd October 2024
Report Title	Temporary Accommodation Policy
EMT Lead	Emma Wiggins, Director of Regeneration and Neighbourhoods
Head of Service	Charlotte Hudson, Head of Housing and Communities
Lead Officer	Rebecca Walker, Accommodation & Resettlement Manager
Key Decision	No
Classification	Open
Recommendations	1. To agree to adopt the revised Temporary Accommodation Policy.

1 Purpose of Report and Executive Summary

- 1.1 This report sets provides the Housing and Health Committee with an update on the review of the Temporary Accommodation Policy and makes recommendations for a revised Policy.

2 Background

- 2.1 Swale Borough Council has a duty to provide interim and temporary accommodation, for households who approach the Council as homeless and meet the criteria set out in the Housing Act 1996 Part VII, as amended by the Homelessness Act 2002.
- 2.2 The Policy sets out the council's approach to the provision of TA and placements into both interim and TA, both in and out of the borough, including:
- Placements and prioritising households
 - Refusals of TA and discharge of duty
 - Charging for TA
 - Pets
 - Types of TA
 - Monitoring and review
- 2.3 The current Policy was adopted by the Housing and Health Committee on 7th March 2023. Since the adoption of the current policy the Council agreed to purchase 50 properties to be utilised as TA. The TA Purchase programme is progressing well, and we now have completed on 25 properties. The Policy needs to be revised to take account of this provision and to specify the rent levels that would be charged to households placed in our own accommodation. The

rent levels are proposed at the current LHA rates for 2024 based on bedroom size. This amendment is shown on Page 6 and Page 7 of the Policy.

3 Proposals

3.1 To agree to adopt the Temporary Accommodation Policy.

4 Alternative Options

4.1 To not adopt the Policy and continue with the current process. This is not recommended as the current policy does not take into consideration properties owned by the Council.

5 Consultation Undertaken or Proposed

5.1 None

6 Implications

Issue	Implications
Corporate Plan	Health & Housing - To aspire to be a borough where everyone has access to a decent home and improved health and wellbeing. Running the Council - Working within our resources to proactively engage with communities and outside bodies to deliver in a transparent and efficient way”
Financial, Resource and Property	By updating the rents within the Policy this ensures that the Council can recover the maximum amount in rent and housing benefit to offset the costs of TA.
Legal, Statutory and Procurement	Provision of TA is a statutory responsibility for the Council to provide for eligible clients.
Crime and Disorder	None identified at this stage.
Environment and Climate/Ecological Emergency	None identified at this stage.
Health and Wellbeing	None identified at this stage.
Safeguarding of Children, Young People and Vulnerable Adults	None identified at this stage.

Risk Management and Health and Safety	None identified at this stage.
Equality and Diversity	None identified at this stage.
Privacy and Data Protection	None identified at this stage.

7 Appendices

7.1 The following documents are to be published with this report and form part of the report:

Appendix I – Temporary Accommodation Policy

8 Background Papers