

Report to: **Housing Review Board**

Date of Meeting: 17th September 2020

Public Document: Yes

Exemption: None

Review date for release None



Subject: **Policy for allocations and management of 18A & B St. Andrews Road, Exmouth flats (known locally as the Sailors Rest)**

Purpose of report: This report seeks approval of the policy that determines the allocations and management procedures of the properties known as 18A & B St. Andrews Road, Exmouth.

Recommendation: **To approve the Policy**

Reason for recommendation: To ensure the flats are allocated and managed in accordance with the guidelines set out in the Senior Officer Urgent Decision report dated 20th May 2020 ref: Allocation of 18a and 18b St Andrews Road, Exmouth (also known as the Sailors Rest)

Officer: Andrew Mitchell, Housing Solutions Manager

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Portfolio Holder: Portfolio Holder for Sustainable Homes and Communities

Financial implications: No specific financial implications are set out within the report.

Legal implications: No specific legal implications are set out within the report.

Equalities impact: Low Impact

Climate change: Low Impact

Risk: Low Risk

If the flats are not allocated or managed correctly there may be implications including anti-social behaviour and rent arrears

Links to background information: .

Link to [Council Plan](#): Choose Priorities and delete what not appropriate.
Outstanding Place and Environment
Outstanding Homes and Communities
Outstanding Economic Growth, Productivity, and Prosperity
Outstanding Council and Council Services

Report in full

1. Background

1.1 A report dated 20th May 2020 proposing that the twelve general purpose flats at 18a and 18b, St Andrews Road, Exmouth, could be used as temporary accommodation or move on accommodation for homeless applicants who had been placed in temporary accommodation was composed by the Housing Service Lead and agreed by Cabinet. This decision was made in response to the homeless crisis and huge increase in the need to accommodate people as a temporary measure as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic.

1.2 The report gives the Housing Solutions Manager the authority to designate (where required) the use of the twelve flats for the purpose of temporary or move on accommodation as a direct result of the Covid-19 pandemic. The decision has been subsequently made that move on accommodation is the preferred option, providing a stable accommodation arrangement for homeless applicants and also freeing up the existing temporary accommodation resources for new homeless approaches

1.3 This measure has been brought in for an undetermined temporary period of time and will go some way to alleviate the pressure on the Council's Homelessness budget in the general fund as well as providing income for the Housing Revenue Account, with the aspiration to significantly reduce the use of emergency accommodation including bed and breakfast.

1.4 An Allocations and Management policy has been composed to ensure correct allocation and management of the flats whilst they are being used as move on accommodation. Secondary to this, the policy provides clarity on what furniture and fittings will be provided with each flat and what the arrangements will be when each tenancy ends.

2. Recommendation

2.1 That members approve this policy (**appendix 1**) to provide support and clarity to the allocation and management process for the flats at 18a and 18b St Andrews Road, Exmouth, whilst they are being used as move on accommodation.