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**To: Communities and Neighbourhoods Scrutiny Board (4)**

**Date: 14<sup>th</sup> November 2019**

**Subject: Coventry Homefinder Review**

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**1 Purpose of the Note**

- 1.1 To provide recommendations for the Communities and Neighbourhoods Scrutiny Board (4) on the Homefinder Review and consultation.

**2 Recommendations**

- 2.1 The Communities and Neighbourhoods Scrutiny Board (4) is recommended to:
- 1) Consider the engagement that has taken place already as part of the ongoing consultation
  - 2) Identify any comments or recommendations to be included as part of the consultation on the Homefinder Review

**3 Information/Background**

- 3.1 Whilst the Council no longer owns any housing itself, it is legally required to have a scheme that allocates social housing. In Coventry, this policy is called the Coventry Homefinder Policy.

- 3.2 A review of Coventry Homefinder began in June 2019 and between June and October 2019 there has been significant consultation activity with Registered Providers. There was overwhelming agreement that the review needed to be undertaken. A Steering Group was set up with Council Officers, nominated Registered Providers and a representative of the Welfare Forum Working Together Group. As part of the continued consultation process, a public consultation survey will be published from 11 November 2019 until 3 January 2020 to seek wider feedback on our proposals for change. Participants will be able to respond online using the Coventry Let's Talk website and using the paper survey in libraries and by request.

In total there have been 4 workshops with 6 Registered Providers involved to review the current policy and develop a set of proposals for change. To support workshop discussions other feedback on the current policy has been received from the Homelessness Forum, the Frontline network and from the general public via the Let's Talk Engagement site.

- 3.3 The revised Coventry Homefinder Policy will then be presented to the Council's Cabinet in early 2020 for approval. The implementation of the revised policy is expected to be no later than Autumn 2020. Notification of the survey is being sent out through different routes, including everyone currently on the Homefinder register and via partners.

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