

**22 February 2018**

**Engagement with social housing providers**

**Ward(s)** All

**Portfolios:** Cllr Jeavons – Deputy Leader and Regeneration  
Cllr D. Coughlan – Social Care

**Report:**

On 6 April 2017, the Committee held a discussion on engagement with social housing providers and recommended to invite social housing providers who provide housing in Walsall to a future meeting of the Committee to establish ways to improve engagement and understandings with providers.

Providers which operate in Walsall range in sizes and level of customers with some organisations having a larger impact than others. The following housing providers have accepted an invitation to attend the meeting of the Committee:-

Walsall Housing Group – Appendix 1  
Accord Housing Association – Appendix 2  
Housing & Care 21 – Appendix 3  
Bromford Group – Appendix 4  
Clarion Housing – Appendix 5  
Longhurst Group – To follow  
WATMOS Community Homes – To follow

In total 15 providers were invited to attend the Committee and were asked to consider the following points:-

Engagement between the Council and housing providers;  
Impact on benefit cuts, current government policy and any current barriers;  
How housing providers are serving Walsall residents;  
Future plans or proposals;  
Homeless support available and types/causes of homelessness.

Midlands Heart Housing Group & Sanctuary Group reported that they have very limited stock of properties in Walsall. However, to satisfy the Committee they have set out their current situation outlined in Appendix 6 & 7.

**Recommendation:**

**That the Committee considers representations from social housing providers and considers if there are any topics or themes that require further investigation.**

**Background papers:**

- Whg Proposed Governance Report to Corporate and Public Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 25 November 2015;
- Whg Governance Proposals Report to Full Council on 11 January 2016;
- Engagement with social housing providers report to Corporate and Public Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 6 April 2017.

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