

<b>CITY OF WOLVERHAMPTON COUNCIL</b>	<b>Cabinet</b> <b>20 October 2021</b>
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<b>Report title</b>	Joint Black Country Regulators Operating Framework 2021	
<b>Decision designation</b>	AMBER	
<b>Cabinet member with lead responsibility</b>	Councillor Steve Evans City Environment and Climate Change	Councillor Bhupinder Singh City Assets and Housing
<b>Key decision</b>	Yes	
<b>In forward plan</b>	Yes	
<b>Wards affected</b>	All Wards	
<b>Accountable Director</b>	Ross Cook, Director of City Housing and Environment	
<b>Originating service</b>	City Housing and Environment	
<b>Accountable employee</b>	Chris Howell Tel Email	Commercial Regulation Manager 01902 554554 Chris.howell@wolverhampton.gov.uk
<b>Report to be/has been considered by</b>	City Housing and Environment Leadership Team	14 September 2021

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#### **Recommendations for decision:**

The Cabinet is recommended to:

1. Approve the revised Black Country Regulators Operating Framework 2021.
2. Delegate authority to the Cabinet Member for City Environment and Climate Change, in consultation with Director of City Housing and Environment to agree minor amendments to the Black Country Regulators Operating Framework following future bi-annual reviews.

#### **Recommendation for noting:**

The Cabinet is asked to note:

1. That Wolverhampton's Private Sector Housing service are now included in the operating framework.

## **1.0 Purpose**

- 1.1 To inform Cabinet of the review that has taken place of the Joint Black Country Regulators Operating Framework 2021.
- 1.2 To seek approval for the revisions and to seek delegation to the Cabinet Member for City Environment and Climate Change in consultation with the Director of City Housing and Environment for further bi-annual minor amendments.

## **2.0 Background**

- 2.1 The draft Joint Black Country Regulators Operating Framework was approved at Cabinet on 16 September 2015 subject to consultation and minor amendments.
- 2.2 Within the document there is a requirement to review the document bi-annually. The review commenced in July and the four black country authorities have participated in the review.
- 2.3 The document attached at appendix 1 is the agreed final version.

## **3.0 Review.**

- 3.1 In addition to grammatical and layout changes the key updates made are:
  - Private Sector Housing added to the services in scope
  - Investigatory Powers Act 2016 to list of powers applicable to conduct of investigations and sanctions.
  - Addition of Civil penalties as a consequence of failure to comply with a statutory notice.

## **4.0 Evaluation of alternative options**

- 4.1 Option one would be to make no change to the existing policy. This would result in an out-of-date policy, not reflective of recent regulatory practices.
- 4.2 Option two would be to partially implement the recommendations of this report. For example, requiring minor amendment changes to be approved by Cabinet. This would result in unnecessary time and resources being used for minor matters that can be adequately addressed by the Cabinet Member for City Environment and Climate Change in consultation with the Director of City Housing and Environment

## **5.0 Reasons for decision**

- 5.1 The policy is due for review.
- 5.2 The Private Sector Housing service has moved into the regulatory group of services. This policy sets the regulatory standards to which Private Sector Housing will operate.

## **6.0 Financial implications**

- 6.1 There are no direct financial implication arising from this report.
- 6.2 All costs associated with the delivery of regulatory functions in accordance with the operating framework can be accommodated within approved City Environment revenue budgets  
[SB/16092021/A]

## **7.0 Legal implications**

- 7.1 There are no direct legal implications arising from this report.
- 7.2 No legal proceedings are instigated without the requisite consultation with Legal Services. Prosecutions are authorised by the Head of Service or a Director in consultation with the Solicitor to the Councillor nominee who will have regard to the adopted regulatory policy in addition to the Code for Crown Prosecutors and other relevant guidance and legal issues in making a determination.  
[SH/16092021/E]

## **8.0 Equalities implications**

- 8.1 There are no equalities implications arising from this report.

## **9.0 All other implications**

- 9.1 This are no other implications arising directly from this report.

## **10.0 Schedule of background papers**

- 10.1 Cabinet – 16 September 2015 - [Joint Black Country Regulators Operating Framework](#)

## **11.0 Appendices**

- 11.1 Appendix 1: BC Regulators Operating Framework August 2021 Final.pdf.