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**Cabinet Report – Housing Policies: Temporary Accommodation; Private Rented Sector**

*This item was moved to the first item on the agenda.*

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The Housing Services Manager presented the report on Housing Policies, Temporary Accommodation and Private Rented Sector as included in the agenda highlighting key areas.

The Chair, Councillor Collop thanked the Housing Services Manager for the report and invited questions and comments from the Panel as summarised below.

Councillor Kemp asked whether deposits were offered for private rented accommodation and whether more supportive landlords were being sought. The Housing Services Manager confirmed deposits were already provided to homeless households and would continue. He added that they worked with SHIPS to engage landlords and carried out checks with Housing Standards to ensure good standards.

In response to questions from Councillor Long, the Housing Services Manager explained that the Private Rented Sector Discharge Policy prioritised households for whom social housing was not an option or who were furthest from receiving it. He expected a small increase of around 5–10 households per year.

In response to a question from Councillor Devulapalli, the Housing Services Manager stated he could not discuss Housing Companies in the meeting but would provide feedback afterwards. Councillor Long reminded Members that Housing Company business could not be discussed publicly and that a recording of the briefing to all Members was available to review.

Councillor Sandell asked whether the policy would help families stay together. The Housing Services Manager confirmed it would, as the private rented sector offered more options.

In response to questions and comments from Councillor Colwell, the Housing Services Manager explained that officers would continue to carry out suitability

assessments to ensure people could still access support services. The Housing Services Manager added that they were working with Housing Standards on the implications of the renter's rights bill and were in discussions with landlords.

The Portfolio Holder for People and Communities, Councillor Rust commented that only small numbers would move into the private rented sector and only those not eligible for social housing. She highlighted the Council's strong reputation for homelessness policies and thanked the Housing Services Manager for the report.

**RESOLVED:** The Environment and Community Panel supported the following recommendation to Cabinet:

The Panel resolves:

To endorse the Temporary Accommodation Policy and Private Rented Sector policies, to be presented to Cabinet 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2026.