



Subject:	NIHE – Tenancy Succession Policy Response
Date:	8th September 2026
Reporting Officer:	Barry Flynn, Committee Services Officer.
Contact Officer:	As above.

Restricted Reports

Is this report restricted?

Yes

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No

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Call-in

Is the decision eligible for Call-in?

Yes

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No

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1.0	Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues
1.1	To update the Committee on the response received in relation to the motion entitled, Northern Ireland Housing Executive – Tenancy Succession Policy, which was endorsed by the Committee at its meeting on 23rd June.
2.0	Recommendations
2.1	The Committee is requested to note the receipt of the response.
3.0	Main report
3.1	At the meeting held on 23rd June, the following motion, which was proposed by Councillor Canavan and seconded by Councillor Black, was adopted:
3.2	“This Council, notes the ongoing housing crisis across the North and the increasing demand for permanent social housing; • That many families live for long periods in Housing Executive properties and develop vital community roots; • That the current Northern Ireland Housing Executive (NIHE) succession policy prevents family members who have lived long-term in a property from succeeding a tenancy following the death of the tenant, where succession has already previously occurred (for example, between husband and wife) and

	• That this policy can lead to unnecessary displacement, eviction, hardship, and further breakdown of family units. This Council believes: • That housing policy should prioritise stability for families and communities; • That family members or partners who have contributed to and depended on the household should not face eviction due to restrictive succession rules; and • That social housing should be managed in a way that balances fairness, community stability, and objective housing need. Accordingly, this Council resolves: • To write to the Minister of the Department for Communities calling on him to undertake a legislative review of the NIHE tenancy succession policy; • To request the introduction of safeguards to prevent unnecessary eviction or relocation following the death of a tenant, particularly where long-term residence and established community ties exist; • To support the development of a fair and community-aligned succession policy that protects households while ensuring that social housing is allocated on the basis of objective need; and • To seek engagement with residents' groups, community organisations, and elected representatives in the development of any revised succession policy.
3.3	<u>Financial and Resource Implications</u> None at this stage as there is no commitment to proceed with the Notice of Motion. Details of any financial and resource implications will be reported at a subsequent meeting.
3.4	<u>Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment</u> None associated with this report at this stage of the process.
3.5	Appendix 1 - attached response.