



# MEETING OF THE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT & SCRUTINY PANEL

**FRIDAY, 30 MARCH 2007 10.00 AM**

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## **PANEL MEMBERS PRESENT**

Councillor Pam Bosworth  
Councillor Yvonne Gibbins  
Councillor Stephen Hewerdine  
Councillor Albert Victor Kerr

Councillor Peter Martin-Mayhew (Chairman)  
Councillor Bob Sandall  
Councillor Mrs Judy Smith (Vice-Chairman)  
Councillor Mrs Mary Wheat

## **OFFICERS**

Housing Solutions Manager  
Scrutiny Officer  
Scrutiny Support Officer

## **OTHER MEMBERS PRESENT**

Councillor Mrs Frances Cartwright  
Councillor Mrs Radley

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## **91. MEMBERSHIP**

The Panel were informed that Councillor Kerr was substituting for Councillor Howard for this meeting only.

## **92. APOLOGIES**

None received.

## **93. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

None received.

## **94. ACTION NOTES**

The action notes from the meeting held on Monday 5th March 2007 were agreed.

## **95. PRIVATE SECTOR FINANCE ASSISTANCE POLICY**

Members had been circulated with a briefing note which summarised the report which had previously been before the DSP and which was again going before Cabinet on 2nd April 2007 for approval. The briefing paper simplified what schemes were available in the private sector housing and what assistance was available. The Housing Solutions Manager said that he would not be looking for "customers" as work was already in place for people to be identified by officers carrying out work for warmfront and he outlined how this worked. The

Housing Solutions Manager then briefly highlighted each scheme available on the briefing paper. Members felt better informed following the Housing Solutions Managers explanation of how the system worked and agreed that the policy be forward to Cabinet for approval.

### **Conclusion**

***That the Private Sector Financial Assistance Policy 2007/08 be submitted to Cabinet for approval.***

## **96. SKDC TEMPORARY ACCOMMODATION CHARGING POLICY**

The Housing Solutions Manager referred to the recent growth in bed and breakfast and how the council was under an obligation to find accommodation for homeless people. The introduction of a charging policy was to enable him to access the benefit system so that a portion of the costs could be recovered. Member had expressed grave concern at the last meeting of the DSP that vulnerable members of society would be expected to pay these costs. The Housing Solutions Manager explained how the charging policy would operate and the reasons behind the introduction of such a policy and that for the vast majority of people who accessed temporary accommodation especially vulnerable people these costs would be paid for by the benefit system. A lot of work had been done between the Housing Solutions Section and the Benefits Section with regard to the charging policy.

Following the Housing Solutions Managers explanation of the reasons for the introduction of the policy and how it would work the Panel were happy that the policy be forwarded to Cabinet for approval.

Comments made about the content of the Equality Impact Assessment which was appended to the original report had been amended accordingly and members were happy that this also be forwarded to Cabinet.

### **Conclusion**

***That the SKDC Temporary Accommodation Charging Policy be forwarded to Cabinet for approval on 2nd April 2007 together with the Equality Impact Assessment pro-forma.***

## **97. CLOSE OF MEETING**

The Panel were informed that the next meeting of the Panel would be in the Gallery at the Guildhall on 27th April at 10.00am. Items to be discussed were the designated drinking areas and the financial aspect of Building Control Services.

The meeting closed at 10.50am.