

Housing Renewal Policy

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. That Council Cabinet

a) note the Community Commission welcomed i) the proposals contained in the policy ii) the Council's commitment to the Disabled Facilities Grant, DFG, as shown by the substantial financial support to that budget and iii) the development of a landlord accreditation scheme, as previously requested by the Commission and

b) approve the recommendations at paragraph 2 of the Cabinet Member's report.

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

2.1 Martin Gadsby attended the meeting, led members through the key parts of the report and responded to questions. The Commission were impressed by the amount and range of activity. DFG is a cornerstone of community care and the central government grant of £539k is more than doubled, with £861k, from the Council's resources. The Commission has previously recommended a landlord accreditation scheme.

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Background papers: None
List of appendices: Appendix 1 – Implications
Appendix 2 – Extracts from previous scrutiny reports

IMPLICATIONS

Financial

1. Addressed throughout the main report to Council Cabinet.

Legal

- 2 Addressed in Appendix 1 to the main report.

Personnel

- 3 None directly arising.

Equalities impact

- 4 Addressed in Appendix 1 to the main report.

Corporate Priorities

- 5 Addressed in Appendix 1 to the main report.

Extracts from previous scrutiny reports

- **Extract from Housing Allocations and Homelessness topic review, 2006**

57. The review heard several references to the poor quality of much of the affordable private rented sector and bed and breakfast businesses. Raising standards nationally would require primary legislation. In the absence of a stick, the Commission would propose that a voluntary quality scheme be explored by the City Council.

Recommendation 19. To raise standards in the affordable private rented sector and of bed and breakfast businesses a voluntary quality scheme should be explored by the City Council.

- **Extract from Community Commission minutes 2 October, 2006**

40/06 Housing Renewal Policy

The Commission considered a verbal report from Martin Gadsby on the proposed Housing Renewal Policy ahead of the Key Decision that was being taken on 19 Dec 2006 by Council Cabinet.

Martin Gadsby reported that a review of the Policy was necessary due to a shift in government priorities for private sector housing, the new Housing Act 2004 and changes in funding arrangements.

The timetable for the adoption of the new policy was:

- 15 November – draft policy to Council Cabinet Part Two
- 4 December – final draft policy to Community Commission
- 19 December – final report and recommendations to Council Cabinet
- 1 January 2007 – new policy implemented

Resolved

- 1. to note the report**
- 2. to request Council Cabinet to promote an accredited landlords scheme and encourage membership from the sector as a means of raising standards.**