

Agenda item 5(a) - Sheltered Accommodation Review

**MINUTE OF LANDLORD SERVICES COMMITTEE (CABINET WORKING GROUP)
9 MARCH 2016**

42. SHELTERED ACCOMMODATION REVIEW

Consideration was given to the draft report of the Director of Housing and Inclusion that provided details in relation to Lancashire County Council's (LCC) planned consultation exercise on the potential withdrawal of all Supporting People (SP) funding for older peoples housing related support from April 2017 and authority to determine the future use of vacant sheltered accommodation previously occupied by residential wardens and Communal Lounges for Category 1 Sheltered Accommodation. The report further advised that the Council would be undertaking its own consultation with sheltered housing tenants on LCC's proposals.

The Housing Operations Manager attended the meeting and gave an overview of the consultation exercises and proposals coming forward in relation to the Review referring to details as set down in the report. She provided a further update on the delays affecting the consultation exercise to be undertaken by LCC that had also impacted on the schedule for this Council's consultation with its sheltered housing tenants.

In discussion comments and questions were raised in relation to the following:

- Impact of LCC delay.
- Other legislative changes – delays; revised deadlines; impact on those affected.
- Impact of proposals on elderly/vulnerable people – consultation process (methodology; support to complete/understand written questionnaire).
- Warden accommodation – proposals for re-use (suitability for other users; adaptations). Loss of resident wardens.
- Future service provision – options being explored; remodelling of services.
- Review (access to up-to-date information) – Ward Members / Tenants' Groups.
- Consultation process – Officer briefings / presence.

The Housing Operations Manager responded to questions and provided clarification on issues raised. In response to queries raised related to the support / availability of officers, it was reported that support officers would be fully briefed on both consultation exercises to enable them to support all sheltered housing tenants affected by the proposals through the process, assist with issues and minimise concerns.

The complexities of the processes involved and its impact on tenants and officers was acknowledged.

RESOLVED: As, a consequence of the discussion on this item it was agreed:

- A. That the Landlord Services Committee (Cabinet Working Group); Tenant Groups and elected Members if it affects their Ward, be kept up-to-date, with the Sheltered Accommodation Review.
- B. That the recommendations to Cabinet be supported.