



CABINET: 10 January 2017

Report of: Director of Housing and Inclusion

Relevant Portfolio Holder: Councillor J. Patterson

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SUBJECT: GOVERNMENT CONSULTATION ON FUNDING FOR SUPPORTED HOUSING

Wards affected: Borough wide

1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 To determine if the Council wishes to respond to the Government Consultation attached at Appendix A and if so, to agree the Council's response.

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 That the response at Appendix B be sent by the Director Housing & Inclusion as the Council's response.
- 2.2 That Call In is not appropriate for this item due to the deadline for the consultation response.

3.0 BACKGROUND

- 3.1 The Government issued a consultation paper on the proposed new housing costs funding model for supported housing on 21 November 2016. The consultation closes after a 12 week period on Monday 13 February 2017.
- 3.2 The consultation paper, which is entitled 'Funding for Supported Housing' is attached at Appendix A, and seeks views on arrangements for funding the additional housing costs associated with providing supported housing in England, and on funding for emergency and short term placements across Great Britain.

4.0 ISSUES

- 4.1 The Government seeks to continue with the roll out of Universal Credit to working age claimants to improve work incentives and enhance simplicity for claimants. With this commitment they have stated that there is now a need to consider how best to fund the supported housing sector, as this has its own set of specific needs and circumstances.
- 4.2 The reform will seek to increase the role that quality, individual outcomes and value for money play in the new funding model, which the Government have indicated will come into effect from 1 April 2019.
- 4.3 A response to the consultation and the proposed new funding model has been prepared and is attached at Appendix B for consideration.
- 4.4 Given the scope of the consultation, stakeholder views have been sought to contribute to the response.

5.0 SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS/COMMUNITY STRATEGY

- 5.1 The outcome of the consultation and proposed new funding may impact on the sustainability of the supported housing provision which includes sheltered housing, within the Borough and the ability of those in need to access these services.

6.0 FINANCIAL AND RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 It is difficult to predict what impact this policy may have. The Council have however remodelled services and charges for those service users living in sheltered accommodation to limit impact. For the 17% of sheltered service users who have to fund costs themselves there will be some impact but this will be limited and managed by working with those affected offering benefit and budgeting advice. The response at Appendix A attempts to minimise the impact to all service users and the HRA.

7.0 RISK ASSESSMENT

- 7.1 The proposed new funding model is intended to commence from 1 April 2019 and a more detailed risk assessment will be carried out when the final details of the new funding arrangements have been confirmed.

Background Documents

There are no background documents (as defined in Section 100D(5) of the Local Government Act 1972) to this Report.

Equality Impact Assessment

The consultation decision does not have any direct impact on members of the public, employees, elected members and / or stakeholders. Therefore no Equality Impact Assessment is required at this time.

Appendices

Appendix A – Funding for Supported Housing Consultation Paper.

Appendix B – Director Housing & Inclusion proposed response.

Appendix C – Minute of Landlord Services Committee (Cabinet Working Group) held on 5 January 2017 – to follow