



CABINET – 30TH APRIL 2014

SUBJECT: PRIVATE SECTOR HOUSING RENEWAL POLICY

REPORT BY: ACTING DIRECTOR OF CORPORATE SERVICES AND SECTION 151 OFFICER

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- 1.1 The attached report, which provided a review of the Authority's Private Sector Housing Renewal Policy and sought Members' views on the proposed recommendations contained therein, was considered by the Policy and Resources Scrutiny Committee on 15th April 2014.
 - 1.2 Members were advised that at the Cabinet meeting held on 16th October 2013, Members took the decision to introduce a moratorium on selective Home Improvement Grants whilst Officers undertook a review of the Authority's Private Sector Housing Renewal Policy. The report outlined the findings of the review and offered a number of options to Members.
 - 1.3 It was advised that there was a typing error in Options 3 and 4 of paragraph 5.30 of the report, and that they should state "para 5.29 above", not "para 5.30 above"
 - 1.4 Detailed consideration of the report followed, and concerns were raised regarding the proposed withdrawal of Home Improvement Grants. It was clarified that the proposed Home Improvement Repayment Loans would act as a replacement source of assistance and could potentially be accessed by those previously deemed ineligible for Home Improvement Grants.
 - 1.5 Following discussion on the content of the report, the Policy and Resources Scrutiny Committee, by the majority present, recommended to Cabinet that for the reasons contained therein, that Option 3 of the report be approved, in that a revised Private Sector Housing Renewal Policy be implemented that reflects all the amendments mentioned within paragraph 5.29 [referred to as 5.30 in the report] of the attached report, namely:
 - To continue to provide assistance via Discretionary Disabled Facilities Grants;
 - To continue to provide assistance via Relocation Grants;
 - To continue to provide assistance via re branded Minor Works Grants;
 - To permanently withdraw assistance via Home Improvement Grants;
 - To introduce a new form of assistance via Home Improvement Repayment Loans;
 - To continue to provide assistance via Conversion Grants;
 - To withdraw assistance via HMO grants and replace it with assistance via an HMO Repayment Loan;
 - To continue to provide assistance via Group and Block Repair and to introduce a Renewal Area grant;
 - To withdraw assistance via Property Appreciation Loans;
 - To further amend the means test for discretionary grant aid.
 - 1.6 Members are asked to consider the recommendations.

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Appendices:

Appendix 1 Report to Policy and Resources Scrutiny Committee on 15th April 2014 – Agenda Item 7(2)