

REPORT TO: CABINET

DATE: 28 JANUARY 2016

TITLE: REFERRAL FROM SCRUTINY COMMITTEE –
REVIEW OF THE COUNCIL'S SHELTERED
HOUSING SERVICE (PHASE 1)

PORTFOLIO HOLDER: COUNCILLOR ROD TRUAN

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**This is not a Key Decision
Call-in Procedures may apply
This decision will affect no ward specifically.**

RECOMMENDED that Cabinet notes the findings of the Scrutiny Committee of its review the Council's Sheltered Housing Service (Phase 1) and has regard to the Committee's advice in reaching a decision on the Award of Contract for Out of Hours Supported Housing Services item, elsewhere on the agenda for this meeting.

REASON FOR DECISION

A The Scrutiny Committee considered final report on its Review of the Council's Sheltered Housing Service (Phase 1) at its last meeting. The Committee has asked the Cabinet to agree changes to some aspects of the Sheltered Housing Service.

BACKGROUND

1. At its meeting on 8 December 2015, the Scrutiny Committee received a final report on its review of the Council's Sheltered Housing Service (Phase 1).
2. The Committee considered proposals for changes to some aspects of the Sheltered Housing Service, specifically a proposal to introduce service charges to users and a proposal to outsource emergency response services to a specialist provider.
3. The Committee **RESOLVED**:
 - A** To inform Cabinet that it is broadly in agreement with the proposal to

introduce new service charges to Housing Related Support users as a way to recover reduced payments from Essex County Council from April 2016/17 over a two-year phased period, subject to having measures to ensure that the Council works with affected individuals to identify how any additional financial burdens can be mitigated.

- B** That the proposal to outsource the emergency response service to a specialist provider be forwarded to Cabinet together with further information on how the service will operate under such an arrangement.
4. A report on the Award of Contract for Out of Hours Supported Housing Services appears elsewhere on the Cabinet agenda for this meeting. Cabinet are asked to have regard to the Scrutiny Committee's advice when considering this and related matters.
 5. The Committee has also expressed a desire to examine eligibility criteria for Sheltered Housing Services and will conduct a Phase 2 review on this matter in 2016/17.

IMPLICATIONS

Implications of the recommended decision are outlined in the 'Implications' section of the original report, which is attached as Appendix 1.

APPENDICES

Appendix A – Original report to the Scrutiny Committee, 'Review of the Council's Sheltered Housing Service (Phase 1), Final Report', incorporating:
Appendix 1 – Terms of Reference for Scrutiny Committee Review
Appendix 2 – Consultation results on Proposed Funding Changes
Appendix 3 – Tender results (Confidential).

BACKGROUND PAPERS

All original reports to the Scrutiny Committee can be viewed from <http://moderngov.harlow.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=119&MId=653&Ver=4>