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## **ISSUES ARISING FROM COMMUNITY OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – 12 JUNE 2003**

### **1 PRIVATE SECTOR RENEWAL POLICY**

- 1.1 This item of business was referred to the Community Services Committee by the Community Overview & Scrutiny Committee on 12 June 2003 with the recommendation that the policy on private sector housing renewal assistance be agreed for immediate implementation for the financial year 2003/04. A copy of the Officer's report is attached at Appendix A.
- 1.2 Members of the Overview & Scrutiny Committee had noted the following amendments to the draft policy:-
- Paragraph 7 – amend the wording to read “The prior residence requirement ..... applications under 6(e) and (g) above.”
  - Paragraph 8 – amend the first sentence to read “In order to make a valid application for grant, the applicant must submit the following documents, as appropriate.”
  - Paragraph 8 – include an additional point (to read “Proof of responsibility for a child/proof of pregnancy.”
- 1.3 In response to Member questions at that meeting, the following had been noted:-
- The final report of the survey, commissioned to update the Council's information on the condition of the private sector stock, was still awaited and the Council's Legal team were being consulted over this.
  - The Council had been assured that the company would supply the information. Final payment would, however, be withheld until this had been received. Abandoning the process at this stage would only require another survey to be undertaken.
  - Partner agencies carry out checks relating to information supplied.
  - Once the final results of the survey had been received, the Policy would be re-checked. Minor amendments would be dealt with under delegated authority. Any significant policy change would be brought back to Committee.
  - Assistance would be available through the administering body, the Springboard Home Improvement Agency in terms of help with completing forms and providing appropriate advice, which could include directing people to other sources of help. It was noted that the Agency charges applicants an administration fee of 15% of total costs in respect of

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Disabled Facilities Grants and 10% for discretionary grants, subject to a £50 minimum fee.

- Provision of funding had been made within the current capital programme but operation of the scheme for future years would be dependant on agreement on the revenue budget and capital programme.

## **2 RECOMMENDATION**

2.1 It is proposed that the Committee **RESOLVES**

That, subject to the amendments above, the policy on private sector housing renewal assistance appended to the report be agreed for immediate implementation for the financial year 2003/04. (HHHCC)

Sarah Fowler

Head of Administrative & Member Services

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### **Background Papers:**

None

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