

**RECOMMENDATIONS AND REFERENCES FROM THE
MEETING OF THE COMMUNITY SERVICES
COMMITTEE HELD ON 30 JANUARY 2001**

**1 MINUTE 47 – HOMELESSNESS AND HOUSING ADVICE – BEST
VALUE REVIEW**

1.1 Resolution (4) of Minute 47 reads:-

- (4) That the Finance & General Purposes Committee be requested to agree the current arrangements for procurement of bed and breakfast accommodation.

Note: A report from the Head of Housing, Health & Community Care is attached.

Andrew Smith

Head of Administrative and Member Services

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BED AND BREAKFAST ACCOMMODATION (Min 47/01)

1 SUMMARY

- 1.1 This report requests Members' approval for the current arrangements for purchase of bed and breakfast accommodation for homeless people.

2 BED AND BREAKFAST ACCOMMODATION

- 2.1 At Community Services Committee on 30 January 2001, Members considered the Officer Best Value Review Group's final report on homelessness and housing advice.
- 2.2 The review identified that bed and breakfast accommodation had, of necessity, been increasingly used in recent months to house applicants whilst their claim was investigated.
- 2.3 The report noted:-

"Bed and Breakfast accommodation is also expensive and often in short supply. This is a 'sellers market' and it is doubtful whether hotel owners would be willing to undertake a detailed tendering process, as they have demand for accommodation from many authorities, including London Boroughs. It is not uncommon for staff to have to ring many hotels before a vacancy can be found. The review group felt that these difficulties should be brought to Members' attention and that if use of bed and breakfast accommodation continues to be necessary, than a procurement strategy is needed".

- 2.4 Community Services Committee agreed that alternative, more satisfactory, accommodation options should be sought, but recognised the current difficulties given the shortage of accommodation under the Council's control and the demand led nature of the service.
- 2.5 Contract Standing Orders would normally require a formal tendering process to be followed for purchase of services in excess of £20,000. The original budget for bed and breakfast accommodation of £18,000 for 2000/01 was recently increased by Council to £40,000.
- 2.6 As the best value report notes, in the current high demand situation, it is unlikely that the few providers of accommodation in this area would be prepared to undertake the formal tendering process. One of the difficulties of setting up a formal contract would be that the Council is not in a position to guarantee placements.

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- 2.7 The priority must be to avoid the use of bed and breakfast by securing a greater range of more satisfactory accommodation in this district, but in the meantime, Members are requested to agree the continuation of the current 'spot purchase' arrangements.

3 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

- 3.1 Homelessness is a demand led function. The full year costs of interim accommodation are reported at the close of accounts.

4 RECOMMENDATION

It is proposed that the Committee **RESOLVES**

- 4.1 To agree the present arrangements for procurement of bed and breakfast accommodation. (HHHCC)

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