

## HOUSING BENEFIT PERFORMANCE STANDARDS

### 1 SUMMARY

- 1.1 Members to consider the report by the Head of Revenue and Housing Management on the progress of the Housing Benefit Performance Standards with the proposal of a full assessment findings report to be presented to members in October 2003.

### 2 DETAILED CONSIDERATIONS

- 2.1 Members will be aware that they agreed to adopt the Housing Benefit Performance Standards in October 2002 with the understanding that they would receive progress reports at six monthly intervals.
- 2.2 The standards were designed to :-
- Give a comprehensive picture of what makes up an effective benefits administration – divided into seven key functional areas.
  - Be a clear strategic and operational framework for assessing the performance of each Authority.
  - Be an aid to identifying local priorities for action and planning for continuous improvement.
  - Improve accountability for £14 billion of public funds.
  - Act as a measurement for the Best Value Review and the Comprehensive Performance Assessment.
- 2.3 As expected the standards are updated yearly and officers have just received the revised standards. This new set of standards has changed the scoring mechanism and how we obtain a standard so all the standards that are currently achieved will be reviewed over the next couple of months.

### 3 RECOMMENDATION

It is proposed that the Committee **RESOLVES**

To defer consideration of the new assessment until October 2003 to allow officers time to carry out the necessary work.

Steve Clarkson

Head of Revenue and Housing Management

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**Background Papers:**

None

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