
ISSUES ARISING FROM COMMUNITY OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE - 19 MARCH 2002

(1) RENT ARREARS RECOVERY – WATER CHARGES (Min.114/02)

The Committee considered a report from the Head of Revenue and Housing Management on the continued collection of water and sewerage charges from all tenants other than those in sheltered accommodation. Noting the item would be subject to consultation with tenants and that it was now illegal for Water Companies to cut off water supplies, the Committee recommends the following changes of policy:-

- (i) that the cessation of the collection of water and sewerage charges on behalf of Water Authorities from April 2003 be supported in principle and that preliminary notice be given to the Essex and Suffolk Water Company.
- (ii) that Tenants' views are sought in accordance with the Council's statutory duty to consult on any proposed changes to their Tenancy Agreement.
- (iii) that a further report be submitted to the Community Services Committee after the consultation period. (HRHM)"

(2) DECORATING ALLOWANCES (Min 115/02)

The Committee considered a report from the Head of Revenue and Housing Management on review of the current practice of awarding a decorating allowance against void properties in a poor state of decoration.

Noting difficulties with the present Decoration Allowance Scheme, Members endorsed Officers' proposals and recommend to the Community Services Committee:-

- (1) that the Decorating Allowance Scheme stop, with the proviso that the Housing Manager can award an exceptional decorating allowance of £40.00 per room (to a maximum of £200) if a property is refused twice or in other exceptional circumstances.
- (2) that exceptional decorating allowances be paid half in advance and the remainder is claimed within 6 months of accepting the tenancy following an inspection and proof of expenditure. Payments to be made directly into the rent account. (HRHM)"

Head of Administrative & Member Services

Background Papers:

None

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