

ISSUES ARISING FROM FINANCE & PROCEDURES OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

1 HOUSING BENEFIT PERFORMANCE STANDARDS

- 1.1 This item of business was referred to the Policy & Finance Committee by the Finance & Procedures Overview & Scrutiny Committee on 9 December 2003 with the recommendation that a bid be included in the 2004/05 Draft Budget. A copy of the Officer's report is attached at Appendix A.
- 1.2 Members of the Overview & Scrutiny Committee had noted that external help was anticipated for 2004/05 in order to progress the standards and officers were therefore suggesting the inclusion of £15,000 in the 2004/05 budget, part of which might be funded by the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) from the Standards Fund.
- 1.3 It had further been noted that the DWP recommendations were that a Member be designated as the "Benefits Champion". Officers had proposed that this be the Chairman of the Finance & Procedures Overview and Scrutiny Committee.
- 1.4 It is proposed that the Committee **RESOLVES**
 - (1) That a bid for £15,000 be included in the 2004/05 Draft Budget (subject to the outcome of the Standards Fund bid).
 - (2) That the Chairman of the Finance & Procedures Overview & Scrutiny Committee be appointed as the "Benefits Champion". (HRHM)

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Background Papers:

None

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