

PETS IN SHELTERED ACCOMMODATION

1 SUMMARY

- 1.1 This report is to advise Members of the progress towards allowing tenants in sheltered accommodation to keep companion animals.

2 INTRODUCTION

- 2.1.1 In 1999 a study was made concerning the keeping of larger pets, such as cats and dogs, by tenants in sheltered accommodation. The tenants at the time were consulted and rejected the idea of keeping pets but had no objections to scheme managers keeping pets. Accordingly, scheme managers were encouraged to keep pets and to generally allow tenants access to these animals if it was their wish. In July a report was considered by the Animal Welfare Charter Sub-Committee who requested a further tenant survey be undertaken.

3 TENANTS SURVEY

- 3.1 In a positive approach, all the tenants in Sheltered Accommodation were surveyed in August 2004 to see whether they would support the introduction of pets, such as cats and dogs, in sheltered schemes. 394 tenants replied to the survey and only 32 were in favour of the proposal. This is a very much reduced number compared to the previous survey in 1999 when, of the 376 tenants who replied, 61 had been in favour.
- 3.2 Because of a less negative response to the earlier survey, a slightly different letter was sent to tenants in Goodmans (16 flats) and Romney House (23 flats) asking for their views on the introduction of larger pets into sheltered accommodation. Only 1 tenant in Goodmans and 3 in Romney House wanted to keep larger pets. Their comments indicated that they felt the buildings unsuitable and impractical for the keeping of larger animals; they also felt it was unfair on the pet to be kept in a small confined flat. The majority of tenants are in receipt of housing benefit and feel it is an expense they cannot afford.
- 3.3 With the disposal of Hardwick House and return of the Crown Hill flats to OAP designation there are fewer tenants now living in Sheltered Accommodation, but more tenants replied to this survey than in 1999. At the same time, the number of tenants prepared to accept pets has halved.

4 RECOMMENDATION

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

- (1) That the Policy remain unaltered and that tenants of Sheltered Accommodation be not allowed to keep larger pets.
- (2) That the Policy remain unaltered and that Scheme Managers be encouraged to keep larger pets.

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Background Papers:-

Survey Letter
Survey Results

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