

**DRAFT/**

**HOUSING AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE**

**10 May, 2011**

**TEMPORARY ACCOMMODATION UNITS – SMOKING POLICY EXCEPTION**

**(H&E/11/042)**

With reference to article 26 of the minute of its meeting of 13 April, 2010, the Committee had before it a report by the Director of Housing and Environment which requested that an exemption be granted to the Council's Temporary Accommodation Units from the Smoke Free at Work Policy.

By way of background the report reminded members that a report was presented to this Committee at the aforementioned meeting on this issue, and at this time, the Committee did not approve the recommendations of officers. Since this time, the Licensing Committee had granted an HMO licence for 77 – 79 Bon Accord Street and 95 Bon Accord Street (article (tbc) of the minute of meeting of the Licensing Committee of 22 March, 2011 refers) but at this time, a number of local residents had raised concerns in relation to residents of the units smoking and drinking around the street corner. At this juncture, a number of members intimated that this was a management issue, and not one that would be resolved through approval of the recommendations.

The report continued that the practice of not allowing smoking inside had led to a number of residents trying to smoke inside in a concealed way, and indicated that there had been several attempts to interfere with the fire detection system. Again, some members were of the opinion that this was a management issue that required to be tackled by officers.

**The report recommended:-**

that the Committee –

- (a) approves an exception to the Smoke Free at Work Policy as follows:
  - Smoking shall be permitted in designated areas (bedrooms) of the Homelessness Service Temporary Accommodation Units
  - The Homelessness Manager, in consultation with the Temporary Accommodation Senior Officer and Team Leaders of individual units will designate a proportion of individual rooms as smoking rooms; and
- (b) refers this report to the Corporate Policy and Performance Committee for its information.

At this juncture, Councillor Robertson circulated a letter from the Head of Community Safety at Grampian Fire and rescue, which set out the Service's strong opposition to the proposal to allow an exception to the Smoke Free at Work Policy.

The Convener, seconded by Councillor Fletcher, moved:  
that the report's recommendations be approved, and that a detailed report be brought back to this Committee in six months.

Councillor Robertson, seconded by Councillor Hunter, moved as an amendment:  
that this Committee does not agree that Temporary Accommodation Units should be exempt from the Smoke Free at Work Policy, and therefore instructs that the Policy is continued to be adhered to within the Council's Temporary Accommodation Units.

On a division, there voted: for the motion (7) – the Convener; the Vice Convener; and Councillors Cormie, Dunbar, Fletcher, Jaffrey and Noble; for the amendment (6) – Councillors Allan, Collie, Cooney, Hunter, Robertson and Yuill.

**The Committee resolved:-**  
to adopt the successful motion.

**In terms of Standing Order 36(3), Councillors Allan, Collie, Cooney, Hunter and Robertson referred this matter to Council for its consideration.**