

DRAFT

HOUSING AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

24 August, 2010

INTRODUCTION OF FURNISHINGS SERVICE CHARGE – H&E/10/133

1. Reference was made to article 13 of the minute of its previous meeting, whereby officers had been instructed to report back detailing costed options in relation to the introduction of a furnishings service charge. The Committee had before it on this day, the report as requested at the aforementioned meeting.

The report presented one option, which proposed the introduction of a furnishings service charge of £300 for a single person or couple, that would provide a bed, bedding and a cooker; and £700 for a family, that would provide a cooker, fridge, beds and bedding.

On noting that any electrical goods purchased for this purpose required to be checked on an annual basis, members queried as to whether officers could follow the same procedures that had previously been agreed in relation to gas safety checks (article 24 of the minute of meeting of 13 April, 2010 refers).

The Committee resolved:-

- (i) to agree to the introduction of a service charge for the provision of furnishings to new tenants, subject to the approval of the Finance and Resources Committee;**
- (ii) to instruct that, subject to the approval of the Finance and Resources Committee, the service charge be set on a 48 week per annum basis as follows:**
 - single person or couple to pay £6 per week**
 - families to pay £10 per week;**

- (iii) to instruct that the Director of Housing and Environment report back when the service charge has been in effect for six months to provide a review of its implementation;
- (iv) to note that if a new member of staff was required, that a business case would be submitted at the appropriate time;
- (v) to request that officers share the contact details of the 'Somebody Cares' charity with appropriate tenants and all elected members; and
- (vi) to instruct that officers ascertain if it would be possible to follow the same procedures for the electrical tests, that are followed for the gas checks in Council properties (article 24 of the minute of meeting of this Committee of 13 April, 2010 refers).