

Portfolio Holder Executive Decision Statement

The Local Authority (Executive Arrangements)(Meetings and Access to Information)(England) Regulations 2012

Subject: Funding the management of the Sevenoaks District Housing Register (SDHR) service in 2016/17 and 2017/18.

Details of Decision taken: To approve the allocation of £30,000 per annum over the next two financial years from S106 Affordable Housing contributions, to fund a member of staff (working for WKHA) to provide housing advice and help with management (by WKHA) of the SDHR service in 2016/7 and 2017/18 .This will help towards reducing homelessness and make savings for the Council with reduced Management costs.


Reason for Decision : Management of the SDHR service is out-sourced by the District Council to West Kent Housing Association. In conjunction with the District Council's own housing advice service, local people rely on the SDHR service when they face housing difficulties. Often, such housing difficulties are broad, complex and necessarily time consuming to resolve. Failure to resolve can lead to homelessness. The importance of the SDHR service is therefore crucial if the District Council is to minimise homelessness and control the financial burden homelessness places on the General Fund. Housing advice if provided timely can often prevent eviction and homelessness.

Under Local Plan policy SP3 and the associated Affordable Housing Supplementary Planning Document, S106 Affordable Housing contributions can be used to "*manage future needs for affordable housing including homelessness prevention and benefit advisory services*". Approval is therefore sought to allocate £30,000 per annum over the next two financial years, from S106 contributions to part-fund the management of the SDHR service in 2016/17 and 2017/18.

**All Documents considered:
None.**

Details of any alternative options considered and rejected by the Member

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when making the Decision:	
Financial implications	
Legal Implications and Risk Assessment Statement	
Equality Impacts (Consideration of impacts under the Public Sector Equality Duty) The decision recommended through this paper has a remote or low relevance to the substance of the Equality Act. There is no perceived impact on end users.	
Local Member (s), other Portfolio Holders and/or Directors/Heads of Service Consulted: None.	
Details of any conflicts of interest a) declared by any executive member who is consulted by the Decision Taker b) and any details of dispensations granted by the Chief Executive in respect of any declared conflict	
Decision taken by:	Portfolio Holder for Housing & Health Portfolio Holder for Planning
Signed by Portfolio Holders	
Date of Decision	8 / 10 / 15
Record made by:	George Lewis
Date of record:	12 October 2015

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(For Democratic Services use)

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