

(For Democratic Services use)

Decision Number: 22 (2015/16)

## Portfolio Holder Executive Decision Statement

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

### Subject:

Funding the WKHA Under-Occupation Officer post and Small is Beautiful incentive scheme for a further two year period.

### Details of Decision taken:

To allocate £70,430 from S106 affordable housing contributions to fund an extension of the Under-Occupation Officer post and Small is Beautiful incentive scheme, for the two year period 2016/17 and 2017/18 (i.e. funding £35,215 p.a.), subject to the input of joint funding by WKHA.

### Reason for Decision:

In 2011/12, the District Council's Services Select Committee undertook an in-depth scrutiny to review under-occupation in the social housing sector. An under-occupation strategy subsequently followed and this was adopted as District Council policy in late 2012.

The strategy contained a number of key objectives including those relevant to this report, which were: 1) to explore opportunities for a specialist officer to act as an advocate for people looking to downsize; and 2) to increase funding for the Small is Beautiful scheme to coincide with a strategy drive.

Both of these objectives were achieved in 2013/14 through working in partnership with WKHA and using S106 affordable housing contributions to jointly fund an Under-Occupation Officer post and the incentive scheme. The post and incentive scheme continued to be jointly funded in 2014/15 and 2015/16. Results have been positive and effective in freeing-up family-sized housing for those in need. This is considered to represent good value for money, taking into account the project outcomes to date.

Making best use of the existing housing stock, particularly under-

When completed a copy of this record must be sent to the Democratic Services Section by e-mail and a signed copy by internal mail

(For Democratic Services use)

Decision Number:

occupied stock in the social housing sector, continues to be a housing strategy priority and this theme was supported at the Housing & Health Advisory Committee Workshop on 1/12/15. Funding is therefore sought to extend the post and incentive scheme for a further two year period, ending 31/3/18. The input of Council funding will be dependent on the input of joint funding by WKHA.

**All Documents considered:**

None.

**Details of any alternative options considered and rejected by the Member when making the Decision:**

None.

**Financial implications:**

Funding to extend this strategy objective would continue to be a cost-effective approach.

**Legal Implications and Risk Assessment Statement :**

As per committee report: Strategy for Under-occupation in the Social Sector (13/09/12).

**Equality Impacts** (Consideration of impacts under the Public Sector Equality Duty)

As per committee report: Strategy for Under-occupation in the Social Sector (13/09/12)


**Local Member (s), other Portfolio Holders and/or Directors/Heads of Service Consulted:**

Housing & Health Advisory Committee Workshop 1/12/15, Group B.

When completed a copy of this record must be sent to the Democratic Services Section by e-mail and a signed copy by internal mail

(For Democratic Services use)

Decision Number:

<b>Details of any conflicts of interest</b> a) declared by any executive member who is consulted by the Decision Taker  None  b) and any details of dispensations granted by the Chief Executive in respect of any declared conflict  None.	
<b>Decision taken by:</b>	Portfolio Holder for Housing & Health Portfolio Holder for Planning
<b>Signed by Portfolio Holder</b>	
<b>Date of Decision</b>	4 / 1 / 16
<b>Record made by:</b>	V ETHERIDGE
<b>Date of record:</b>	5.1.16

When completed a copy of this record must be sent to the Democratic Services Section by e-mail and a signed copy by internal mail

