

Call-in Request

Name: R.Anderson

Date:24/10/16

Decision taken by Cabinet

Delegated decision by –

Date of decision:17/10/16

Title of agenda item/report: Housing revenue Account Business Plan 2016-2046

Reasons for Call-in:

The business plan is a draft out for consultation till March 2017. However item (f)of the recommendation is for immediate implementation. This would be a policy that fundamentally changes the relationship of SBC to its tenants and as such it is not acceptable that it is being proposed to implement it without it being consulted upon, considered properly along with the rest of the draft plan, and it has not been through Scrutiny in any shape or form.

It is illogical that a plan which rests on so many assumptions to project 30 years hence requires an immediate implementation of an element that will only affect 23 new properties (as confirmed by the Interim Director when questioned at Cabinet) between now and the final plan. Waiting until the WHOLE plan has been through proper scrutiny and consultation will have negligible financial impact over a plan designed to last 30 years.

In summary this decision has been made contrary to the normal requirements for decision making of transparency, forward notification or proper scrutiny. It is potentially outside the Councils agreed Budget And Policy framework set at the last Budget Council and should only be amended at the next. The Cabinet did not provide any information as to why this policy needed immediate implementation or give any indication they had considered alternatives. Lack of clarity and rigorous examination of this was highlighted when the Cabinet member could not answer a simple question as how the policy would affect current stock scheduled for demolition and replacement but instead demurred and offered a written explanation at a later date (yet to be received).

Proposed alternative course of action (optional):

This change to charging 80% Market rent or LHA should be considered in a holistic way along with the rest of the Business Plan. This would allow effective scrutiny to take place, residents and tenants to be consulted and evidence gathered as to the implications for our tenants.

Therefore this decision, as it was not flagged as urgent anyway, should be only a proposal to be decided upon in March when the full Business plan will be finalised.

Proposed documentation and/or witnesses for the call-in (optional)

Signed: Councillor R.Anderson

Signed: Councillor J.Swindlehurst

Signed: Councillor N.Pantellic