

Report to Cabinet

Report Reference: C-001a-2015/16
Date of Meeting: 11 June 2015



**Epping Forest
District Council**

Portfolio: Housing
Subject: Housing Related Support Charges
Responsible Officer: Alan Hall (01992 564004).
Democratic Services: Gary Woodhall (01992 564470).

Supplementary Report

Recommendation:

(1) That the views of the Epping Forest Tenants and Leaseholders Federation on the Housing Portfolio Holder's report to the Cabinet on Housing Related Support Charges be considered and taken into account when considering the Housing Portfolio Holder's recommendations.

Report:

1. The Epping Forest Tenants and Leaseholders Federation held a Special Meeting on Tuesday 9th June 2015 to consider the report and recommendations of the Housing Portfolio Holder to the Cabinet on Housing Related Support (HRS) Charges.
2. The Federation considered all the issues set out in the report and, after long discussion, agreed to provide the following comments to the Cabinet, which it asked the Cabinet to take into account:

"1. We are concerned that Essex County Council, having notified the District Council that it would be making a significant cut in its HRS funding, made a very late decision not to implement the expected funding cut, and of the difficult position in which this late decision has placed the District Council and its tenants.

2. Although our natural reaction would be to support Option 1 in the Housing Portfolio Holder's report to the Cabinet, we understand and accept the operational difficulties involved and, particularly, the confusion that could be caused to vulnerable older tenants if the 2015/16 HRS charges were rescinded or reduced mid-year.

3. As a principle, we feel that, if possible, the cost of the Council's Scheme Management Service should be self-funded over time.

4. Accordingly, and with reluctance, based on the information currently available to us and the Council, we unanimously support Option 5 in the Housing Portfolio Holder's report, but would ask the Cabinet to:

- (a) Increase future HRS charges over as long a period as reasonably possible; and*
- (b) Consult the Federation on the Plan referred to in Recommendations 1(b) of the Cabinet Report, in advance of the decision being made."*