

Report to Resources Select Committee

Date of meeting: 13th October

Portfolio: Housing – Cllr D. Stallan

Subject: Views of the Tenants and Leaseholders Federation – Items 10 and 11

Officer contact for further information:

Alan Hall – Director of Communities (01992 564004)

Committee Secretary: Rebecca Perrin



ADDENDUM REPORT

Items 10 and 11 of the Agenda

Recommendation

To note the views of the Epping Forest Tenants and Leaseholders Federation on the proposed Charging Plan for Housing Related Support Services (Item 10) and the Housing-Related Fees and Charges (Item 11).

Report:

1. At its meeting held on 12th October 2015, the Tenants and Leaseholders Federation were consulted on the following two of the reports to this evening's meeting of the Resources Select Committee that affect Council tenants:

- (a) The Charging Plan for Housing Related Support Services (Item 10); and
- (b) The Housing-Related Fees and Charges (Part of Item 11)

2. The Tenants and Leaseholders Federation comprises representatives from all of the recognised tenants associations within the District.

3. After considering these two reports, the Federation would like the Select Committee and the Finance and Performance Management Cabinet Committee to take into account their following views:

Item 10 - Charging Plan for Housing Related Support Services

“ Having carefully considered the issues, and having asked a number of questions of the Housing Portfolio Holder and Director of Communities, we fully support the recommendations of the Housing Portfolio Holder on the proposed Charging Plan for Housing Related Support Services and the associated methodology.

In particular, we support:

- *The proposal to spread the financial impact on service users of eradicating the current deficit on the Scheme Management Service and any future funding reductions by the County Council over a 10 year period;*
- *The proposal to ensure that the Careline Service is self-funded on an annual basis;*
- *The proposed approach that monetary increases in charges (rather than percentage increases) should be the same for both tenants in receipt of housing benefit and tenants who are not in receipt of housing benefit;*
- *The proposed level of charges for next year (2016/17) - and the fact that only 50% of the reduction in funding from Essex County Council in 2016/17 is to be sought through increased charges to service users, on the basis that the other 50% of the funding reduction is already being recovered in this year's charges; and*
- *The proposed cap of 10% on the maximum level of increase in HRS charges that will be applied to tenants not in receipt of housing benefit in any one year*

We also note the fact that, although not specified, the 10% cap on charges for tenants not in receipt of housing benefit will also result in an appropriate cap on charges for tenants in receipt of housing benefit, in view of the proposal that monetary increases in charges will be the same for both categories of tenants. “

Item 11 - Housing-Related Fees and Charges

“ We support all of the proposed housing-related fees and charges for 2016/17 on the basis that, generally, they be increased by labour inflation rates, for which the latest available figure is 2.8%. ”