



AGENDA

RECORD OF OFFICER DECISION MEETING

Date: Friday, 18 October 2019

Time: 10.00am

Venue: Cabinet Room, Swale House, East Street, Sittingbourne, Kent, ME10 3HT

	Pages
1. To agree amendments to the current Housing Assistance Policy	3 - 4
Decision taken by the Head of Housing, Economy and Community Services	

Issued on Wednesday, 30 October 2019

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Chief Executive, Swale Borough Council,
Swale House, East Street, Sittingbourne, Kent, ME10 3HT

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RECORD OF OFFICER DECISION

<p>This form must be completed by or on behalf of the relevant Officer immediately after any decision has been made. Please send to the Proper Officer for publication in accordance with the Council's Constitution.</p>	
<p>NAME OF OFFICER MAKING DECISION (INCLUDING JOB TITLE) AND THE DECISION BEING MADE</p>	<p>Charlotte Hudson Head of Housing, Economy and community Services and Cllr Ben J Martin, Cabinet Member for Housing. To agree amendments to the current Housing Assistance Policy</p>
<p>TITLE OF REPORT</p>	<p>Housing Assistance Policy -Amendments to include discretionary Heating Grant and discretionary assistance for relocation costs in lieu of disabled adaptations in certain circumstances.</p>
<p>DATE THE DECISION WAS TAKEN</p>	<p>18 October 2019</p>
<p>SUMMARY OF REASONS FOR DECISION</p>	<p>Decision made – Approved</p> <p>The amendments to allow discretionary assistance grants relating to heating and relocation costs in lieu of a disabled facilities grant, will allow the improved use of the better care funds and disabled grant monies. It will allow for more options to be considered by allowing people to move to a better suited property, where it is more cost effective than adapting their current home. Increasing the level of heating grant for the most vulnerable owner occupiers, allows for the increased cost of improve heating within a property, It will allow vulnerable occupiers to live safely and independently in their own homes and will help to reduce potential excess winter deaths and other cold related illnesses.</p>
<p>BACKGROUND</p>	<p>DELEGATED DECISION from Cabinet 30 May 2018.</p> <p>The Head of Resident Services, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Housing and Wellbeing, is delegated to make further minor changes to the policy and switch funds between approved categories in the light of demand and expenditure considerations and to make minor changes and revisions to eligibility criteria arising from changes to benefit /tax credit regimes without the need for formal policy re-adoption.</p>

DETAILS OF ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED	Not to amend the housing assistance policy.
DETAILS OF ANY CONSULTATION UNDERTAKEN	An informal review of Kent Local Authority Assistance Policies was undertaken to ensure changes are in line with others within the County.
DETAILS OF ANY CONFLICTS OF INTERESTS	None
CONTACT FOR ENQUIRIES/FURTHER INFORMATION	Glyn Pritchard Private Sector Housing Manager
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