

Member Decision Record

Decision Title
RENT POLICY OPTIONS IN RESPONSE TO COVID-19
Decision Details
<p>The Portfolio Holder for Housing, Property and Customer Services made this decision after considering the above report and taking advice from the Head of Housing. Councillor Sean Sheahan advised that he had no comments on the proposal.</p> <p>To provide a policy framework within which officers can work with tenants to minimise the impact of the Covid 19 restrictions with respect to rent payments.</p> <p>The decisions were as follows</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. ADOPT OPTION D (MANAGED NON-COLLECTION) AS AN APPROACH TO THE ISSUE OF RENT COLLECTION AND COVID 19 FOR AN INITIAL PERIOD OF THREE MONTHS, AND FURTHER EXAMINE OPTION F WITH A SUBSEQUENT REPORT AS THE SITUATION DEVELOPS. 2. DELEGATE AUTHORITY TO THE STRATEGIC DIRECTOR IN CONSULTATION WITH THE HOUSING AND CUSTOMER SERVICES, AND CORPORATE PORTFOLIOHOLDERS, AND THE SECTION 151 OFFICER, TO EXTEND THIS POLICY BEYOND 3 MONTHS FOLLOWING COMPLETION OF A REVIEW OF ITS EFFECTIVENESS. 3. AGREE THAT IF THIS POLICY IS NOT EXTENDED USING THE DELEGATED AUTHORITY AT 2, THE PREVIOUS POLICIES WITH RESPECT TO RENTS WILL BECOME EFFECTIVE AGAIN AFTER A PERIOD OF 6 MONTHS FROM THIS DECISION. <p>In consultation with the Chairman of the Council it was agreed that these decisions were to be considered an urgent item for Portfolio Holder approval and to waive call in requirements.</p>
Reason for Decision
To provide a supportive policy environment to help tenants deal with the financial impact of the Covid 19 situation in line with constitutional requirements.
Source of Delegation
<p><i>At a meeting with the Chief Executive on Thursday 19 March 2020, the Leader of the Council made a decision to postpone scheduled committee meetings and he delegated his executive decision powers to his Cabinet members.</i></p> <p><i>A record of the decision by the Leader can be found here.</i></p>
Type of Decision
<input checked="checked" type="checkbox"/> Key Decision <input type="checkbox"/> Non-Key Decision
List of Background Papers
None
What alternative options were considered when making the decision?
<p>Not to make a decision or delay the decision till the next Cabinet meeting.</p> <p>Both were discounted as they did not provide a supportive environment to react to the Covid 19 situation for tenants in financial difficulty.</p>

What conflicts of interest were declared by any executive members consulted which relates to the decision?	
None	
Decision Made By	Councillor Roger Bayliss – Portfolio Holder for Housing, Property and Customer Services Signature.....
Officer consulted prior to making the decision	Chris Lambert – Head of Housing Signature.....
Date Decision Made	31 March 2020
Date Decision Published	02 April 2020