

Statement of Assurance for Cabinet Reports

Financial Services

Report Title	Amendments to the Housing Allocation Policy
Summary/Key Financial Issues	<p>The report recommends four amendments to the housing Allocation Policy.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Introduction of a programme of pre-tenancy workshops and support for all prospective new tenants b) Introduction of pre housing register housing options interviews to give new customers an opportunity to learn about Rotherham Council homes and other affordable housing options. c) Implementation of restrictions on tenants transferring within the first two years of their tenancy. d) Setting rent allowances at a consistent level for existing tenants and new tenants, by either issuing a rent allowance of up to a maximum of 5 working days or stopping the use of rent allowances for new lettings and transfers. <p>A and B aim to improve tenancy sustainment levels. C and D aim to reduce the rent lost by removing rent allowances currently offered to new and transferring tenants.</p>
Responsible Finance Officer's Comments	<p>This sign-off sheet has been provided based on a version of the report provided by Sandra Tolley on 7th September 2016.</p> <p>The cost of providing the pre-tenancy support programme is not identified as this will be based on decisions regarding the level of service to be provided. It is anticipated that any costs would be funded by HRA resources. Any costs would be offset by reduced revenue costs of managing void properties resulting from failed tenancies, which is currently an average of £2k per property.</p> <p>Alternatively, a lower level of service provision to facilitate a workshop for 12 applicants each week could be delivered within existing staffing resources but will impact on workloads. There is potential for additional staff resource, dependent upon the Housing Income Service review which is awaiting final sign off. A comprehensive review of services would be required in order to accommodate this additional task.</p> <p>The removal of rent allowances would save in the region of £158k per annum in lost rent.</p>
Signature of Responsible Finance Officer	K A Oakes
Date	14 September 2016

Statement of Assurance

I hereby confirm that the report highlighted above has been reviewed by relevantly qualified officers within Financial Services, that the financial implications, assumptions and recommendations have been fully considered and confirmed from a financial perspective and recommend that the report be sent forward for consideration by Cabinet

Signed: _____

Date: _____