

EXECUTIVE DECISION RECORD SHEET

Name of decision maker: Cllr Margaret Griffiths

Portfolio: Housing

Date of Portfolio Holder Decision: 1 August 2012

Title of Decision: Tenant and Leaseholder Compensation Policy

Decision made and reasons: That the Tenant and Leaseholder Compensation Policy is approved to enable operational decisions to be made, ensure equity in the application of compensation payments and maintain DBC properties in good condition.

Reports considered:

The Tenant and Leaseholder Compensation Policy is attached to this decision record sheet.

This policy outlines the approach taken by Dacorum Borough Council to contribute to the efficient and effective maintenance of the Council's housing stock.

Has budget been approved? No changes are requested to existing budgets. No additional budget is requested.

Officers/Councillors/Ward Councillors/Stakeholders Consulted:

A policy working group was established to consider each of the newly developed housing policies.

The policy working group consisted of Ward Councillors from the Housing and Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee and representatives from the Tenant and Leaseholder Committee.

The policy working group met on 29th November 2010 to review the Tenant Compensation Policy.

Deputy Monitoring Officer comments:

The Tenant and Leaseholder Compensation Policy will ensure that a consistent, fair and reasonable approach is taken to tenant and leaseholder compensation claims. The policy also ensures that the Council is complying with the relevant legislation governing compensation claims.

Deputy Section 151 Officer comments:

A clear and unambiguous policy on the Council's responsibilities in respect of tenant compensation is good practice and will support budgeting processes by enabling clear costs to be allocated to anticipated activity and by enabling the Council to calculate more accurately its provisions for potential uninsured losses.

Implications: The development of a Tenant and Leaseholder Compensation Policy ensures the approach taken by Dacorum Borough Council in assessing the circumstances, and the amount payable, for compensation to which tenants and leaseholders are entitled has a consistent approach, the compensation is fair and reasonable and there is a provision to make goodwill or ex-gratia payments where the Council is not at fault. .

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Risk: By developing a policy and ensuring that there is a consistent approach when dealing with tenant and leaseholder compensation issues this will minimise the risk to the Council and Housing Landlord Service. Failure to adhere to this policy could result in tenants and leaseholders not receiving adequate compensation due to them or the Council awarding amounts inconsistently.

Value for Money: Dealing with tenant and leaseholder compensation issues effectively and consistently will ensure that the appropriate level of resource is devoted to ensuring effective service delivery. Without an effective policy and procedure the likelihood of significant additional resources being devoted to tenant compensation problems is possible.

The effective use of resources being devoted to tenant and leaseholder compensation issues ensures value for money for tenants and leaseholders and the Council.

Options Considered and reasons for rejection:

Portfolio Holders Signature:

Date:

Details of any interests declared and any dispensations given by the Standards Committee:

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Date Decision Record Sheet received from portfolio holder: 01/08/12

Date Decision Published: 01/08/12

Decision No: PH/050/12

Date of Expiry of Call-In Period: 08/08/12

Date any Call-In received or decision implemented:

BACKGROUND

The Tenant and Leaseholder Compensation Policy is the background to this executive decision sheet. The policy document is attached to this report.