

# Item no. 9

**Report to:** Management Team  
**Date:** 14 March 2006  
**Report of:** Executive Member for Housing  
**Subject:** Transitional Protection for Council Tenants in Receipt of the Warden Service  
**Ward:** All

## **1.0 Purpose of the Report**

1.1 The purpose of the report is for members to approve the continuation of transitional protection for Council tenants in receipt of the Wardens Service prior to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2003

## **2.0 Consultation**

2.1 Consultation has taken place with: -

- Care Services Manager
- Director of Housing and Community Services (E.D.H)
- Head of Housing Strategy
- Principal Accountant – Financial Management Unit

## **3.0 Background**

3.1 The 'Charging Report' which introduced "transitional protection" was approved by members in January 2003. The report set out three options for members to consider including:

- a) transitionally protect existing tenants from the windfall monies
- b) transitionally protect with a phased implementation of the full supporting people charge
- c) charge tenants the full costs of the service from the 1<sup>st</sup> April 2003

3.2 Members agreed that the Housing Revenue Account "Windfall" (i.e. unpooled money from the H.R.A.) money be used to transitionally protect Council tenants from the full increase in the Warden Service charge up to April 2004.

3.3 The figure for the 'Windfall' to the Council was £850,000 and £300,000 was utilised for the transitional protection with the remainder being used to help with meeting the Governments Decent Homes Targets.

# Item no. 9

- 3.4 Transitional protection only applies to Council Tenants who were in receipt of the Wardens Service on 31<sup>st</sup> March 2003 (the supporting people legislation was implemented from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2003).
- 3.5 Members will recall that those tenants in receipt of housing benefits continue to have their Warden Service Charge paid for by the Supporting People Grant.
- 3.6 New clients joining the service from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2003 who are not in receipt of housing benefit and who are not traditionally protected are subject to the full Warden Service charge.
- 3.7 There are now client choices regarding levels of services required and these are reflected in the charge i.e.:-

Contract	1	Sheltered Housing	£11.59
	2.	Weekly Visit	£4.68
	3	Monthly Visit	£3.24

## **4.0 Position Statement and Option Appraisal**

- 4.1 The decision regarding continuation of transitional protection needs to be addressed to comply with the budget setting process.
- 4.2 If members decide not to agree to the continuation of the transitional protection then the Council will need to give tenants four weeks notice of any increase in the Wardens Service Charge.
- 4.3 As the cost of transitional protection is decreasing annually, it is considered that the preferred option would be to continue with it to protect our existing clients from increased charges.

## **5.0 Implications**

### Financial Implications

- 5.1 The costs of providing transitional protection for the financial year 2006/07 is set out as follows £105,261.60, the council currently has £120,000 as part of its 2006/07 base budget therefore no increase in budget is required.

# Item no. 9

Contract	Estimated No. of clients for 2006/7	Contract Price	T.P.	Annual cost of TP
1	149	11.59	9.75	£69,732.00
2	235	4.68	2.84	£32,035.20
3	52	3.24	1.4	£3,494.40
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>436</b>			<b>£105,261.60</b>

Total cost of transitional protection for the financial year 2006/07 is £105,261.60, which has been included in the budgets.

(Members should note that all clients in receipt of transitional protection are required to make a financial contribution of £1.84 per week).

## 5.2 Legal Implications

The Council are obliged to give tenants four weeks notice to any increase in charges should transitional protection be refused.

## 5.3 Policy Implications

There are no policy implications however it is intended to review transitional protection for Warden Services on an annual basis.

## 5.4 Risk Assessment

A full risk assessment has been carried out and the necessary actions required to manage the risks will be implemented.

## 5.5 Communications

All clients in receipt of Transitional Protection will be advised of the Councils decision by letter. (hand delivered)

## 5.6 Corporate Plan and Prioritise

## 6.0 Corporate Plan/Priorities

6.1 If agreed the recommendations in the report will help meet Corporate Objective I Quality services for our people.

6.2 Equality and Diversity

# Item no. 9

If agreed the recommendations in the report will benefit some elderly residents in receipt of Warden Services.

6.3 E-Government

There are no E-Government implications.

6.4 Procurement

There are no procurement issues.

6.5 Service Plan

The proposal will not divert activity from the Service Plan.

6.6 Performance Management and Scrutiny

The report will be presented to a scrutiny committee if necessary.

6.7 Expenditure related to 'well-being powers'

There are no implications related to 'well-being powers'.

6.8 Human Resource Implications

There are no human resource implications.

6.9 Crime and Disorder

There are no crime and disorder implications.

6.10 Social Inclusion

If agreed the recommendations in the report will ensure some elderly tenants will continue to receive warden services and are therefore socially included.

**7.0 Recommendations**

7.1 Members are requested to agree to transitionally protect those clients in receipt of Wardens Services from the 31<sup>st</sup> March 2003 at a cost of £105,261.60 for 2006/7.

7.2 Members are also requested to agree to receive a further report in 12 months time relating to Transitional Protection.

**8.0 Background Papers referred to:**

# Item no. 9

Previous reports

Previous committee decisions

*keLoÉççêê=OMMRLMRPMO-bñÉAi íáÉ=NR-j -èÁÜLæ=*