

**9 December 2015**

**Environment and Housing Management Committee**

**Private Sector Housing Renewal Policy Update**

**Report of:** *Head of Borough Health, Safety and Localism*

**Wards Affected:** *All*

**This report is:** *Public*

**1. Executive Summary**

- 1.1 The Council agreed and adopted the Private Sector Renewal Policy at the meeting of Environment, Health and Housing Board on 8<sup>th</sup> June 2011.
- 1.2 At the meeting of the Environment and Housing Management Committee on 17<sup>th</sup> June 2015 Members agreed to consult on the proposal to consolidate the existing range of discretionary housing loans into two loans, Discretionary Disabled Facilities Loans and Emergency Home Repair Loans.
- 1.3 The consultation has been running on the Council website from 8<sup>th</sup> July 2015 and stakeholders including voluntary groups and Papworth Home Improvement Agency were invited to respond.
- 1.4 The consultation response was in support of the proposal to revise the range of discretionary housing loans.

**2. Recommendation(s)**

- 2.1 **That Members agree to adopt the proposed revised Private Sector Renewal Policy at Appendix A.**

**3. Introduction and Background**

- 3.1 The Private Sector Renewal Policy was revised and adopted in 2011 to reflect housing priorities and target financial assistance to residents in private sector housing in the Borough. The proposals contained in the previous report were to consolidate the range of loans such that funding

was provided to deal with the most important works and targeted to the most vulnerable residents.

#### **4. Issue, Options and Analysis of Options**

- 4.1 The favoured proposal is to revise the scheme of discretionary financial assistance and target resources to those most in need of assistance.
- 4.2 The two remaining forms of discretionary financial assistance would be discretionary disabled facilities loan and emergency home repair loans.

#### **5. Reasons for Recommendation**

- 5.1 To better target Council financial resources to provide housing assistance to those most in need.

#### **6. References to Corporate Plan**

- 6.1 Housing, Health & Wellbeing  
We will develop different ways of working, both in the way we deliver services and with the voluntary sector, to make sure that the more vulnerable residents in Brentwood are protected, and help goes to those most in need of it.

#### **7. Implications**

##### **Financial Implications**

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- 7.1 There are no direct financial implications arising from this report. The proposal to revise the scheme of discretionary financial assistance, for which there is already a budget provision, will ensure that resources are targeted to those most in need of assistance.

##### **Legal Implications**

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- 7.2 This report does not give rise to any significant legal implications.

**Other Implications** (where significant) – i.e. Health and Safety, Asset Management, Equality and Diversity, Risk Management, Section 17 – Crime & Disorder, Sustainability, ICT.

- 7.3 Equality and Diversity – targeting financial resources to help the most vulnerable residents most in need of assistance.

**8. Background Papers** (include their location and identify whether any are exempt or protected by copyright)

- 8.1 Private Sector Housing Renewal Policy 2011  
Department for Communities and Local Government – A Decent Home:  
Definition and guidance for implementation June 2006 - Update

**9. Appendices to this report**

Appendix A – Revised Private Sector Renewal Policy 2015

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