

Response to Buckinghamshire Select Committee Inquiry

Select Committee Inquiry Title: Rent-in-Advance

Committee Chairman: Brian Roberts (Committee Chairman), Steven Lambert (Inquiry Chairman)

Date report submitted for response: 15 October 2015

Lead BCC Cabinet Member (where response required from BCC Cabinet) and Lead Officers: Martin Phillips (Cabinet Member), Phil Dart, Richard Ambrose, Lloyd Jeffries

Select Committee Support Officer / Advisor (Extension): Liz Wheaton (ext. 3856)

Suggested frequency of future updates (e.g. 6 & 12 months): 6 months & 12 months

Recommendation	Agreed Yes/No	BCC Cabinet / Partner Agency Response including proposed action	Responsible Cabinet Member (for BCC recs)	Responsible Officer	Action by date
<i>1: For the County Council to lead in developing a collaborative solution with relevant partner agencies and District Councils along similar lines to the Response model to meet the housing needs of people in Buckinghamshire who have high-level complex needs.</i>	Yes	<p>The Communities team is exploring piloting the Response style model with five housing units for repeat offenders on probation or court order, linked to an integrated offender management scheme.</p> <p>This group have high level complex needs, including barriers to accessing appropriate housing.</p> <p>Communities' intention is to let a two year contract in April 2016 to test the model, during which time the roll out of a larger scheme covering a wider range of CHASC service users with complex needs will be investigated.</p> <p>The project is dependent on securing part funding from the Police and Crime Commissioner.</p>	Martin Phillips	Lee Scrafton (DAAT Commissioner)	April 16
<i>2: That the County Council runs its own pilot scheme with the Credit Unions (M4Money and Swan Credit Union) to provide a rent-in-advance loan scheme. A suggested sum of at</i>	Yes	<p>BCC takes forward discussions with M4Money and Swan Credit Union to establish a countywide emergency loan fund of £50k through a subordinated loan from BCC.</p>	Martin Phillips	Richard Ambrose (Director of Assurance)	April 16

<p><i>least £30k evenly split between M4Money and Swan Credit Union would help approximately 60 people to secure a private tenancy across the county with the potential to help more people as the loan is repaid and the money is recycled. This would be delivered through a Service Level Agreement and only for people who have been referred to them by the nominated partner agencies following a successful financial assessment. This would enable the partner agencies to support more people who are eligible for assistance with securing a privately rented property.</i></p>		<p>The fund will include provision for borrowing money for rent-in-advance.</p>			
<p>3: <i>That the current model for administering local emergency support is reviewed to explore different ways of commissioning the services so that the maximum amount of money is made available to help those most vulnerable people, thereby reducing the costs associated with administering the scheme.</i></p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>Feasibility report to explore key issues and to develop recommendations for the most effective way to provide the service. Issues include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The distribution of funds, to ensure equitable access to the scheme across Buckinghamshire; - The overheads associated with managing the scheme, and how these will be met in a cost effective and sustainable way; - The criteria informing the financial assessment, how assessments will be carried and by who; <p>The feasibility study will be completed by end March 2016.</p>	<p>Martin Phillips</p>	<p>Lloyd Jeffries (Director of Operations, BSP)</p>	<p>April 16</p>