

Ref:

Called in

Yes/No

THE THANET DISTRICT COUNCIL

RECORD OF DECISION OF CABINET

Cabinet Member

Councillor Jill Bayford

Relevant Portfolio:

Cabinet Member for Housing

Date of Decision:

16 December 2021

Subject:

Increase provision of Housing Response Officers at the tower blocks

Key Decision

In Forward Plan

Brief summary of matter:

Cabinet considered a report recommending the introduction of a new service charge to cover the cost of two full time, dedicated Housing Response Officer's to enhance the service to the 6 tower blocks. For 2022/23 this charge is proposed to be £2.56 per week.

Decision made:

Cabinet agreed the following:

1. To approve the introduction of an additional service charge to the tenants and leaseholders of the 6 tower blocks in the district, to enable the provision of 2 x HRO's dedicated solely to the tower block estates;
2. To recommend to full council that the necessary budget is approved for this service, funded from the new service charge.

Reasons for decision:

More resources are required to improve the cleanliness and appearance of our tower blocks. This can be achieved by creating two new HRO roles within the TLS structure. To finance the two new roles, it was recommended that the council introduce an additional service charge to the tenants and leaseholders of these blocks.

Alternatives considered and why rejected:

Not providing the proposed dedicated service was considered. This was rejected as cleanliness and appearance of the council's tower blocks is an issue regularly raised by residents. These cannot be approved without the proposed additional resources.

Not introducing a new charge was considered. This was rejected as without an additional service charge there would be insufficient resources within the council's Housing Revenue Account to fund the new service, without making corresponding cuts in the level of resources elsewhere.

Details of any conflict of interest declared by any executive Member who has been consulted and of any dispensation granted by the Standards Committee:

None

Author of Officer report:

Sally O'Sullivan, Tenant and Leaseholder Services Manager

Background papers

Increase provision of HRO - Cabinet report
Annex 1 - HRO Cabinet report

Statement if decision is an urgent one and therefore not subject to call-in:

None

Last date for call in:

4 January 2022