

Audit Committee – 25th February 2010

8. Homeless Prevention Fund Policy

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Purpose of the Report

The purpose of the report is for members to review and agree the proposed Homeless Prevention Fund policy.

Recommendations

The Committee is asked to approve the Homeless Prevention Fund Policy.

Background

In March 2007 South West Audit partnership (SWAP) carried out a review of the homeless service, and an action plan was produced. During the last three years significant progress has been in made completing the action plan.

As part of the action plan we were required to produce a report to members demonstrating the Homeless Prevention Fund (Spend to Save) offers value for money and seek formal member approval for the continuation of the Scheme.

District Executive approved the report in October 2009. At District Executive the Assistant Director (Finance & Corporate Services) advised members it would be prudent to consider a policy framework for the operation and future of the Homeless Prevention Fund. It was suggested that the Council Audit Committee could approve the policy framework.

Report Detail

In conjunction with finance a Homeless Prevention Fund Policy (see appendix A at pages 14-16) has been produced to ensure the fund continues to provide value for money and is administered in a consistent way by Housing.

Financial Implications

The proposed budget for the Homeless Prevention fund for the coming year is £26,410 for non-rechargeable items and £240,400 for rechargeable items. The policy is covered by the budget.

Background Papers: *District Executive Minutes from October 2009*
District Executive Homeless Prevention Fund Review and
Demonstration of Value for Money October 2009
Internal Audit Report of Homelessness Service June 2009
Internal Audit Report of Homelessness Service March 2007