

**CANNOCK CHASE COUNCIL**  
**NOTES OF THE**  
**SCRUTINY WORKING GROUP -**  
**REVIEW OF VULNERABLE PERSONS DECORATING AND GRASS CUTTING**  
**SCHEME (ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA)**

**WEDNESDAY 10 OCTOBER, 2018 AT 4.00P.M.**

**HELD IN THE DATTELN ROOM, CIVIC CENTRE,**

**BEECROFT ROAD, CANNOCK**

Present:

Councillor C.I. Lea  
Councillor Mrs. P.Z. Stretton (Chairman)  
Councillor Ms. C. Wilkinson

Officers: N. Samrai, Head of Housing, Partnership and  
Interim Property

J. Broadhurst, Housing Maintenance Manager

**1. Apologies**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Mrs. L. Tait and J. Baldasera, Strategic Housing and Tenancy Services Manager.

**2. Declarations of Interests from Members**

Nothing declared.

**3. Review of Vulnerable Persons Decorating and Grass Cutting Scheme – Eligibility Criteria**

The Chairman provided feedback from the Members informal meeting on 29 August, 2018. Members had unanimously agreed that the Grass Cutting Scheme did not require any amendment. The service was operating well and all eligible tenants who had requested the service were having their grass cut.

With regards to the Internal Decorating Scheme the Group had put forward the following suggestions:-

- Reduce the offer from 2 rooms to 1 room;
- Charging a nominal fee; similar to the scheme offered by Wolverhampton Homes (spread the fee over 52 weekly payments);
- Should tenants wish to have a specific paint or wallpaper they should supply this themselves;

- Tenants in rent arrears should not be allowed on the list;
- Imposing a penalty for refusals – unless the reason was bereavement or medical

The Chairman advised that the Group had agreed that the most important thing was the inclusion of all residents on the waiting list. It was unfair that some residents were receiving the service and others were not able to even if they met the criteria. The Group therefore recommended the following:-

- To reduce the offer to 1 room being decorated once every 5 years. The Group considered that this would enable all tenants to be included on the list. Consideration could be given to reducing the 5 years period once the waiting list had been reduced and the back log cleared;
- Clarification on how the new scheme (should it be approved) would be applied should a tenant request the hall, stairs and landing to be decorated as this was currently classed as 2 rooms;
- Further discussion and clarification regarding the issue of refusals;
- All tenants to be notified of the new scheme (should this be approved) and that the scheme be reviewed after 2 years.

Further discussion took place with regard to the recommendations put forward. In respect of the issue of the hall, stairs and landing currently being classed as 2 rooms Councillor Lea suggested that, should tenants request that their hall, stairs and landing be decorated, they could be asked for a material or financial contribution towards the cost of this. The Group discussed this suggestion and noted that asking for a contribution towards materials would come with the risk of tenants supplying poor quality products. Therefore the Group considered that it should be a financial contribution of £100 towards the cost of decorating the hall, stairs and landing. This would need to be paid in full in advance.

The Group then discussed the suggestion of excluding tenants from the list who were in rent arrears. It was agreed that tenants must have a clear rent account for 3-6 months to be able to be included on the list. Additionally, no other sundry debtor payments, owing to Housing, should be outstanding.

Further consideration was given to the matter of tenants who refused the date offered to them. The Group agreed that where a tenant refused the date offered they should go on the reserve list for a cancellation, unless the reason for the refusal was for a medical reason or due to bereavement.

**AGREED:**

That the Promoting Prosperity Scrutiny Committee be asked to consider the following amendments to the Vulnerable Persons Decorating and Grass Cutting Scheme – Eligibility Criteria:-

- (A) To reduce the offer to 1 room being decorated once every 5 years thereby

enabling all tenants to be included on the list. Consideration could be given to reducing the 5 year period once the waiting list had been reduced and the back log cleared.

- (B) That a financial contribution of £100 towards the cost of decorating the hall, stairs and landing be applied. This should be paid in full in advance.
- (C) That tenants should have a clear rent account for 3-6 months to be able to be included on the list. Additionally, no other sundry debtor payments, owing to Housing, should be outstanding.
- (D) That, where a tenant refused the date offered to them, they should go on the reserve list for a cancellation, unless the reason for the refusal was for a medical reason or due to bereavement.
- (E) That the scheme be reviewed after 2 years.

The meeting finished at 4.35pm.