

<b>DECISION-MAKER:</b>	CABINET COUNCIL
<b>SUBJECT:</b>	MEETING THE CARE QUALITY COMMISSIONS STANDARDS IN COUNCIL CARE HOMES
<b>DATE OF DECISION:</b>	5 SEPTEMBER 2011 14 SEPTEMBER 2011
<b>REPORT OF:</b>	CABINET MEMBER FOR ADULT SOCIAL CARE AND HEALTH

#### **STATEMENT OF CONFIDENTIALITY**

Confidential appendices 1 and 2 are attached to this report, the confidentiality of which is based on category 3 of paragraph 10.4 of the Council's access to Information Procedure Rules. It is not considered to be in the public interest to disclose this information because the Appendices contain confidential and commercially sensitive information which would impact on the integrity of a commercial procurement process and the Council's ability to achieve 'Best value' in line with its statutory duties.

#### **BRIEF SUMMARY**

Due to the age of the Council owned residential homes and the limited availability of capital, and despite structural work still planned, the homes are now identified as not meeting the standards with respect to decor, furnishings and fittings to comply with the Governments' newly outlined intention that Councils purchase only residential care that is graded as 'excellent'. It is therefore recommended that a programme of work is undertaken to refresh the decoration, furnishing and fittings of the five homes and that a plan is enabled to support ongoing decoration as regular activity.

#### **RECOMMENDATIONS:**

##### **CABINET**

- (i) Subject to the addition by Council of the sum detailed in Appendix 1 for improvements to the fabric and furnishings of the Council owned residential homes, to approve capital expenditure, in accordance with the Financial Procedure Rules as described in this report.

##### **COUNCIL**

- (i) To add the sum detailed in Appendix 1 to the Adult Social Care and Health Capital Programme for expenditure on improvements to the fabric and furnishings of the Council owned residential homes, to be funded from Council resources made available through the Department of Health Personal Social Services Capital Grant allocation for 2011/12.

#### **REASONS FOR REPORT RECOMMENDATIONS**

1. The state of furnishings, decoration and the fabric of the homes does not value and respect the dignity of the people who reside in these homes who, in the majority of cases, will actually end their lives in this environment.
2. The national care agenda is expected to require Councils to have a plan to support residential placements only in homes regarded as 'Excellent' by the Care Quality Commission. None of the Council run homes are graded as excellent.

## **ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED**

3. The option of taking no further action beyond that planned in the existing capital programme of external and structural work is not considered a reasonable alternative due to the potential for continued deterioration of the internal fabric and furnishings of the buildings and because of the potential requirement for the Council to be seen to be taking action to place residential care customers only in excellent homes.
4. It is also the case that due to the age of some of the existing furnishings, it is important that the Council ensures that current Fire Safety regulations apply to all furnishings which may necessitate the replacement of those that cannot be verified. Although no residents are permitted to smoke in the homes the customer group, which consists of some people who do not have the mental capacity to understand the implications of their behaviour, means that there remains the potential for accidental fire risk.
5. The option of undertaking a piecemeal approach, decorating and replacing furnishings only as people leave the home and vacate their room has been considered but the scale and poor state of the current furnishings would therefore remain for an unreasonable length of time in the majority of the environment preventing the homes achieving an 'Excellent' grade. This option would also be less efficient due to the increased cost of purchasing with an ad hoc approach rather than gaining the economies of scale and procurement power available in mass purchase.

## **DETAIL (Including consultation carried out)**

6. The five residential homes in the City consist of three older peoples' homes providing long term care to people with dementia, one home providing rehab and respite to older people with physical disabilities and one home providing respite to people who have learning disabilities. These homes were all purpose built in the early 1980s and have received very limited capital input for furnishings and decoration. Although occasionally relatives have paid for a room to be decorated and the homes' revenue budgets have been used to make very limited changes to decoration, the paintwork is poor, curtains have not been renewed, furnishing is, in most cases, elderly and in poor state and carpets have suffered from domestic and bodily accidents. The domestic staff work hard to maintain cleanliness and steam clean where possible but the fabric is now in very poor state.
7. The residents who use these homes are vulnerable and have limited choice but the Council has a responsibility to support the provision of care arrangements that are fit for purpose. Due to the nature of the people who use these homes, meaningful consultation is limited but residents' meetings are held regularly and, as much as possible, residents have been consulted and express a desire to have better surroundings. As decoration is progressed, individual family members will also be consulted to ensure that known preferences are met where possible. Each of the homes' managers has been consulted and has been involved in identifying the requirements to bring the internal state of the building up to an acceptable standard.
8. In addition, the personalisation agenda within social care, whereby all people who are financially supported by the Local Authority in their care arrangements will be given a personal budget; people will be expected to have a greater level of choice in planning their care. The Council's homes

currently compare unfavourably with external provision. However, the market for care provision is limited in the local area meaning that the continued use of these buildings for residential care is inevitable in the short and medium term. In these circumstances, Councillors may consider it unacceptable to continue to provide residential care that is below the standard of excellent.

9. Without timely input into the furnishing and fabric of the homes, continued deterioration will take place reducing the potential to maintain standards to meet the Care Quality Commission's requirements even to a lower level than excellent.

## **RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS**

### **Capital**

10. In order to bring the five remaining Council run homes up to a reasonable standard expenditure on decoration and furnishings the sum detailed in Appendix 1 is required.
11. A detailed spending plan for each residential home is supplied within Appendix 2. A summary spending plan for the proposed scheme is included at Appendix 1.
12. In accordance with details contained in Appendix 1, the sum required for this scheme will be funded entirely from Council resources made available through the DOH Personal Social Services Capital Grant allocation for 2011/12. This is subject to approval by Council.
13. It is proposed that the expenditure for this scheme will be incurred within 2011/12 only. If approved, it is anticipated that the scheme will commence in September 2011.

### **Revenue**

14. There are no revenue implications to this report for Adult Social Care and Health Portfolio.

### **Property/Other**

15. The capital sum required is proposed to be spent on the fabric and furnishings within the residential homes. There are no structural improvements included that are not already programmed or planned for in separate capital schemes or repairs and maintenance programmes.

## **LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

### **Statutory power to undertake proposals in the report:**

16. National Assistance Act 1948 Part three re the provision of residential accommodation
17. Health and Social Care Act 2008 (Regulated Activities) Regulations 2010

### **Other Legal Implications:**

18. Care Quality Commission (Registration) Regulations 2009

## **POLICY FRAMEWORK IMPLICATIONS**

19. This proposal complies with the policy direction of the Council to support older people and to maximise independence.

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**KEY DECISION?** Yes

<b>WARDS/COMMUNITIES AFFECTED:</b>	none
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**SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION**

**Appendices**

1.	Table of Costs detailed by Residential Home - CONFIDENTIAL
2.	Summary of decoration and furnishing - CONFIDENTIAL

**Documents In Members' Rooms**

1.	None
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**Integrated Impact Assessment**

Do the implications/subject of the report require an Integrated Impact Assessment (IIA) to be carried out.	Yes
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**Other Background Documents**

**Integrated Impact Assessment and Other Background documents available for inspection at:**

Title of Background Paper(s)	Relevant Paragraph of the Access to Information Procedure Rules / Schedule 12A allowing document to be Exempt/Confidential (if applicable)
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1.	None
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