

Mayor and Cabinet			
Title	Comments of the Housing Select Committee on the outcome of the consultation on the proposed saving to the handyperson service		
Key decision	Yes	Item no	
Wards	All		
Contributors	Executive Director for Customer Services		
Class	Part 1	22 March 2017	

1 Summary

- 1.1 On 7 December Mayor and Cabinet received a referral from the Housing Select Committee held on 16 November 2016 in respect of the proposed saving associated with the handyperson service. The proposed saving is £150k as part of the £1.5m savings from Housing Services up to 2019/20.

2 The referral

- 2.1 The Housing Select Committee referral is set out below:
- 2.2 The committee notes that many Lewisham residents turn to the Council as a source of reliable and trustworthy services. The committee is concerned that some people may find it difficult without this or a similar service to turn to. With this in mind, the committee notes that while Lewisham Homes doesn't provide this exact service, it does provide day-to-day repair and maintenance services, which require many of the same skills. The committee therefore recommends that officers ask Lewisham Homes to provide the handypersons service at a reasonable price that will cover costs. The Committee recommend trialling any arrangement for a year – keeping the revenue and expenses separate from the Housing Revenue Account.

3 Mayor & Cabinet Decision on 7 December 2016

- 3.1 The Mayor and Cabinet received the referral and officers subsequently approached Lewisham Homes in order to move the request forward.

4 Current Position

- 4.1 Lewisham Homes has since agreed to advertise the service on their website. Where homeowners request a particular service Lewisham Homes will charge an hourly rate to simply cover costs. This would ensure that rents paid by Lewisham tenants would not be subsidising homeowners.

- 4.2 There is a separate report on this agenda setting out the results of the consultation, including the rates to be charged by Lewisham Homes which seeks approval from Mayor and Cabinet for Lewisham Homes to advertise a handypersons service.

5 Financial Implications

- 5.1 Although this report has no direct financial implications, it is expected that the action proposed by the committee will contribute to achieving a saving of £151k.

6 Legal implications

- 6.1 The Constitution provides for select committees to refer reports to the Mayor and Cabinet. The Mayor and Cabinet are obliged to consider the report and the proposed response from the relevant Executive Director and report back to the Committee within two months.

7 Further implications

- 7.1 At this stage there are no specific environmental, equalities or crime and disorder implications to consider. However, there may be implications arising from the implementation of the committee's recommendations.

8 Recommendation

- 8.1 It is recommended that the Mayor approves the proposed response and reports it to the Housing Select Committee.

9 Background papers

- 9.1 Lewisham Future Programme, 2017/18 Revenue Budget Savings Report
- 9.2 If you require further information about this report please contact Antoinette Stasaitis on 0208 314 9340.