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## **EXCERPT FROM THE MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE HELD ON 20 DECEMBER 2021**

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### **EX.159/21    REGULATORY REFORM (HOUSING ASSISTANCE) (ENGLAND AND WALES) ORDER 2002 - CHANGES TO EXISTING HOUSING ASSISTANCE POLICY** (Key Decision KD.20/21)

**\*\***(In accordance with Paragraph 15(i) of the Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rules, the Mayor had agreed that call-in procedures should not be applied to this item)

**Portfolio**     Communities, Health and Wellbeing

**Relevant Scrutiny Panel**     Health and Wellbeing

#### **Subject Matter**

The Communities, Health and Wellbeing Portfolio Holder presented a review of the existing Regulatory Reform Order (RRO) Housing Renewal Assistance Policy which was last updated in 2018 and approved by Council in January 2019. Revisions had been necessary to ensure the Housing Renewal Assistance Policy was fit for purpose as an offer for residents and reflected the current demands on the service. The revised Policy had been attached to report GD.70/21 as an appendix.

The Communities, Health and Wellbeing Portfolio Holder highlighted that the recommendation would allow specific DFG funding to be used for grants to assist the elderly, disabled or other vulnerable groups to live independently and to improve their living conditions and well-being. Specifically, minor works that supported ill health prevention, promote independence and delay transfer into care. She clarified that the Disabled Facilities Grants were not means tested.

The Health and Wellbeing Scrutiny Panel had considered the report on 25 November 2021 (HWSP.83/21 referred) and received the report.

The Chair of the Health and Wellbeing Scrutiny Panel had been invited to attend to speak but was not in attendance today.

The Communities Health and Wellbeing Portfolio Holder moved the recommendations and the Economy, Enterprise and Housing Portfolio Holder seconded them.

**Summary of options rejected**     None

#### **DECISION**

That the Executive:

1. Had considered the proposed revised Housing Renewal Assistance Policy 2022 at Appendix 1 of report GD.70/21.
2. Referred the Housing Renewal Assistance Policy 2022 to Council in accordance with the Council's Budget and Policy Framework.

## **Reasons for Decision**

The revised Housing Renewal Assistance Policy 2022 will assist in ensuring that best use is made of the DFG capital funding making use of existing capacity and expertise within the Housing and Pollution and Homelife teams.

The introduction of flexibility into the assistance process is being promoted as good practice nationally and in line with government and local policies.