

Written response to: Scrutiny Panel

Resolution: 2) That the Corporate Director of Governance and Regulatory Services provide the Panel with a breakdown of the eligible and ineligible charges and the impact of the 3% increase to the Homeless Accommodation rental charges

Written response from: Corporate Director of Governance and Regulatory Services

Response:

The total rental charges for the homeless accommodation schemes are set to reflect actual costs and are broken down into three elements in line with eligible Housing Benefit regulations:

1. **Core rent** – all eligible core costs such as staffing costs related to housing management only, repairs, maintenance, redecoration, lease charges, council tax, cleaning materials, refuse sacks / bins / skips, fire and premises insurance, keys and locks, uniforms / protective clothing, stationary and office materials, furnishings, bedding, child safety equipment, night security cover, IT hardware, back office support etc.
2. **Service charges** – all eligible service costs such as gardening, CCTV, security door servicing, communal laundry facilities, health and safety, firefighting equipment, personal alarms, communal TV provision, communal lighting / fuel and heating costs, refuse collection, cleaning of communal areas
3. **Personal charges** – ineligible charges including lighting / fuel and heating of rooms of sole occupancy / usage, all water charges, sewerage and environmental, TV licence

Note: not all costs are recoverable for example `support` costs are ineligible.