

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

HOUSING COMMITTEE – 12 SEPTEMBER 2001

REPORT ON DECORATION VOUCHERS

Report by the Director of Homes and Technical Services

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to up-date members on the outcome of changes from the decoration voucher scheme to payment of decoration allowances by cheque.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The tenants' decoration voucher scheme was introduced by the Housing Committee on 20 November 1996 as a method of offering ex-gratia payments to tenants after the disruption of capital works such as re-wiring, installation of central heating etc. In addition vouchers were issued to new tenants as an assistance towards the decoration costs they would face in taking over a new tenancy.
- 2.2 At its meeting on 23 May 2001 the Committee agreed to the payment of decoration allowances by way of cheque posted direct to the tenant's home. The Committee also instructed that provision be made for those tenant who do not have a bank account and that the changes in procedure be monitored and reported back to the next committee.

3. CURRENT SITUATION

- 3.1 The change from vouchers to cheques was advertised through the local press. This informed tenants of the changes and that if any tenants had any uncashed vouchers they could return these to offices located at Kilmarnock, Hurlford, Cumnock and Dalmellington where a replacement cheque would be ordered.
- 3.2 All local firms who had participated in the scheme were written to, advising them of the changes and thanking them for their participation.
- 3.3 All Members were notified of the changes put in place.
- 3.4 Local offices were informed of the new procedures which allowed them to encash any decoration allowance cheque from a tenant who did not have a bank account on production of two forms of identification.

4. OUTCOME

4.1 The new system has been monitored and there have been no reported difficulties.

5. FINANCIAL AND LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

5.1 None

6. RECOMMENDATIONS

6.1 Members are asked to note the contents of this update report.

James Lavery
Director of Homes and Technical Services
August 2001

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

Nil

For further information please contact Joseph Cassidy, Policy Manager on 01563 576617

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AGENDA