

48/06 - **REVIEW OF PRIVATE SECTOR HOUSING POLICY:** The Director of Community Services submitted a written report in connection with a scheduled review of the Council's Private Sector Housing Policy agreed in June 2003 upon adoption of the then new policy. The commitment to undertake a review at that time was given in order to ensure that the policy remained aligned with local needs and government objectives. The current review had identified that the policy continued to be effective in delivering such objectives, subject to limited amendments to the Repairs Assistance Scheme as detailed in paragraph 2.3 of the report, and editing to take account of the new legislative provisions contained in the Housing Act 2004.

**RECOMMENDED (UNANIMOUSLY):**

That (1) the policy outlined in the report be approved;

(2) the Council's Private Sector Housing Policy document be amended to take account of the legislation prescribed in the Housing Act 2004; and

(3) in respect of the Council's Repair Assistance Scheme, the following changes to eligibility be introduced:

- that a 3 year residency requirement is added to the qualification criteria,

- eligibility is amended to exclude any applicant if they have an owner's interest in another property, and that if the property in question is owned jointly (excludes husband/wife or partners) then all owners must be on qualifying benefits and live at the property.

- where an applicant resides in a flat within a building and the works as requested will benefit other occupants within the building then repairs assistance is limited only to those works which directly benefit the applicants (i.e. within the applicant's individual unit of accommodation). The only exception to this is where prior written agreement has been secured to apportion costs between flat owners deriving benefit from the works.

(5.35 pm – 5.37 pm)