

**A MEETING OF THE HOUSING BOARD
WAS HELD ON 20 JANUARY 2021**

Councillor Hook

Councillors Mrs Huggins, Mrs Batty, Beavis, Burgess, Mrs Cully, Foster-Reed, Hammond, Hutchison, Mrs Jones, Mitchell, Mrs Morgan, Murphy, Pepper, Philpott, Scard and Westerby

PART II

20. DFG POLICY 2020

Consideration was given to a report by the Head of Environmental Health requesting that the Board adopts the Policy on Assistance with Home Adaptations, Repairs and Improvements.

Members were advised that the seconded Occupational Therapist is purely for private housing, GBC sorts out its own and Housing Associations will generally do the right thing and be a good landlord. Lockdowns during the year had caused there to be periods where no applications were being processed, and the new system needs time to see if it has an effect, but wouldn't impact Council or HA tenants.

Officers advised that contact has been made with the OT manager and if there were any particular cases that Members were aware of, they should advise the officer accordingly.

Members hoped there could be a way to secure more OT time to help clear any backlog.

Members were advised that this policy would allow the flexibility to get work completed quicker.

Members were advised that although the Council had delayed in producing the RRO policy, lessons had been learnt from other authorities, and therefore the new policy had benefitted from these lessons and was the better for it.

RESOLVED: That the Board agrees that the Council adopts the Policy on Assistance with Home Adaptations, Repairs and Improvements.

21. PROCUREMENT OF MOBEYSOFT RENTSSENSE SOFTWARE

Consideration was given to a report by the Head of Housing requesting that the Board approves the procurement of the Mobeysoft Rentsense Software for an initial 12 month contract with the option to extend.

Members were advised that although the company had increased their prices in January 2021, they were honouring their 2020 prices as quoted for GBC.

Members showed concern that the existing team may not be able to manage the demand of an increase in applicants for Universal Credit etc, and were advised that the situation was being monitored and the new system would help free up capacity for early intervention and those needing more support.

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Members agreed that this system would help to reduce the workload and should free up 2.4 persons equivalent.

RESOLVED: That the Board approves the procurement of Rentsense for an initial 12 month contract with the option to extend.

22. ANY OTHER ITEMS

There were none

CHAIRMAN

Concluded at 6.29 pm