

**DECISION SESSION - EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR HOUSING AND SAFER  
NEIGHBOURHOODS**

**TUESDAY, 25 AUGUST 2015**

**DECISIONS**

Set out below is a summary of the decisions taken at the meeting of the Decision Session Executive Member for Housing and Safer Neighbourhoods held on Tuesday, 25 August 2015. The wording used does not necessarily reflect the actual wording that will appear in the minutes.

Members are reminded that, should they wish to call in a key decision, notice must be given to Democracy Support Group no later than 4pm on the second working day after this meeting.

If you have any queries about any matters referred to in this decision sheet please contact Louise Cook/Catherine Clarke on (01904) 551031 or [louise.cook@york.gov.uk](mailto:louise.cook@york.gov.uk)/[catherine.clarke@york.gov.uk](mailto:catherine.clarke@york.gov.uk).

**4. LEGAL ACTIONS - 1 OCTOBER 2014 TO 31 MARCH 2015**

Resolved: That the report be approved.

Reason: So that the Executive Member reviews formal enforcement activity undertaken by Environmental Health, Trading Standards, Licensing Services, the Regional Scambuster Team, the National Trading Standards eCrime Centre and Housing Services.

**5. NEW LEGISLATION AFFECTING THE PRIVATE RENTED SECTOR**

Resolved:

a) That the new legislation be noted.

b) That the maximum £5,000 penalty for all three pieces of legislation be imposed and that the Housing Services Manager be delegated the discretion to impose a lower penalty when there are extenuating circumstances.

c) That the new policy be adopted:-

- (i) To have a targeted and balanced approach by actively enforcing the new legislation relating to letting agents and management agents.
- (ii) To improve the professionalism of the sector.
- (iii) To provide support to smaller landlords, to help them understand the requirements of the regulations regarding smoke and carbon detectors by providing information/advice and work with North Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Services to provide free detectors to landlords on first come first serve basis.

d) That the operational process of the scheme, as set out in Appendix A of the report, be agreed.

e) That an update report be received in 12 months time.

Reason: Imposing the maximum monetary penalty will send out the right message to agents/landlords who need to improve their management/safety and will provide a sufficient threat to agents/landlords who may be undecided as to whether they should comply.

## **6. ALTERATIONS TO THE TEMPORARY ACCOMMODATION AGREEMENT**

Resolved: That option 2 be approved:-

To make the changes to the temporary accommodation agreement for existing and future residents.

Reason: This will enable the service to manage temporary accommodation well and efficiently, to the benefit of the customers and the staff in the service. This will reduce wasteful use of staff time in contesting legal arguments in situations where customers should have left the site.