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MEETING	DECISION SESSION - CABINET MEMBER FOR HEALTH, HOUSING AND ADULT SOCIAL SERVICES
DATE	25 OCTOBER 2011
PRESENT	COUNCILLOR SIMPSON-LAING

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**18. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

The Cabinet Member was invited to declare at this point in the meeting any personal or prejudicial interests she might have in the business on the agenda.

No interests were declared.

**19. MINUTES**

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the last Decision Session of the Cabinet Member for Health, Housing and Adult Social Services, held on 27 September 2011, be approved and signed as a correct record.

**20. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

It was reported that there had been no registrations to speak at the meeting under the Council's Public Participation Scheme.

**21. PUBLIC CONSULTATION ON A NEW MANDATORY POWER OF POSSESSION FOR ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR**

The Cabinet Member considered a report which set out details of consultations being undertaken by the government on proposals to strengthen the sanction social landlords' had to evict tenants who had committed serious anti-social behaviour (ASB).

It was reported that the main changes proposed were:

- Courts could grant possession where a tenant or member of their household had been convicted of violence against property, violence against persons at a scene of violent disorder or theft linked to violent disorder. There would be no requirement that the offence had been committed within the locality of the dwelling house.
- Power to evict for serious, housing related anti-social behaviour proven by another court.
- Powers limiting the court to suspend a possession order.

Officers confirmed that the most controversial element of the proposals were the widening of existing powers to apply for repossession on issues of ASB and criminality that had not necessarily happened in the locality of the tenants residence. Officers pointed out that, although these powers were a welcome addition, they would only be used as a final resort with less punitive measures being used to try and resolve problems.

The Cabinet Member confirmed that she welcomed the new powers but requested that any action taken should be proportional and take account of its impact on families.

Following further discussion it was

RESOLVED: That the Cabinet Member endorses the response at Annex 1 of the report to the consultation document on the new mandatory power of possession for anti-social behaviour.  
1.

REASON: To offer City of York Council's views on the consultation paper.

Action Required

1. Forward consultation response.

TB

Cllr Simpson-Laing, Cabinet Member  
[The meeting started at 4.30 pm and finished at 4.40 pm].