

OFFICER DECISION – URGENT SCHEME OF DELEGATION

Decision: <i>To defer the HRA rent increase for 3 months</i>			
Date of Decision: 31 st March 2020			
Type of Decision:	Key		Non-Key
Please tick one of the following:			
<u>Reason for this being a Key Decision:</u> ✓			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Involves significant expenditure or saving; • Is significant in terms of its effects on communities (eg will effect one or more Wards); • Decision Maker is acting under emergency powers; • Decision maker is entitled to make a Key Decision as part of delivery of non-contentious operational business 			
<u>Reason for this not being a Key Decision:</u>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Acting under the Officer Scheme of Delegation in accordance with the Constitution 			
Portfolio Area that decision relates to:			
<i>It is assumed that all portfolio areas are affected unless stated otherwise.</i>			
Leader (inc Policy, Strategy and Partnerships)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Health and Adult Social Care	x
Transport	<input type="checkbox"/>	Culture, Leisure & Communities	<input type="checkbox"/>
Finance and Performance	x	Economy and Strategic Planning	<input type="checkbox"/>
Housing and Safer Neighbourhoods	<input type="checkbox"/>	Environment and Climate Change	<input type="checkbox"/>
Children, Young People and Education	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>
Implications: Crime & Disorder	<input type="checkbox"/>	Equalities	<input type="checkbox"/>
Human Resources	<input type="checkbox"/>	Legal	<input type="checkbox"/>
Financial	x	ICT	<input type="checkbox"/>
		Other:	<input type="checkbox"/>
		Highways	<input type="checkbox"/>
		Property	<input type="checkbox"/>

Wards Affected:

[it is assumed that all wards are affected unless stated otherwise below]

All Wards	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Fishergate	<input type="checkbox"/>	Holgate	<input type="checkbox"/>	Rural West York	<input type="checkbox"/>
Acomb	<input type="checkbox"/>	Fulford & Heslington	<input type="checkbox"/>	Hull Road	<input type="checkbox"/>	Strensall	<input type="checkbox"/>
Bishopthorpe	<input type="checkbox"/>	Guildhall	<input type="checkbox"/>	Huntington & New Earswick	<input type="checkbox"/>	Westfield	<input type="checkbox"/>
Clifton	<input type="checkbox"/>	Haxby & Wigginton	<input type="checkbox"/>	Micklegate	<input type="checkbox"/>	Wheldrake	<input type="checkbox"/>
Copmanthorpe	<input type="checkbox"/>	Heworth	<input type="checkbox"/>	Osbalwick & Derwent	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>
Dringhouses & Woodthorpe	<input type="checkbox"/>	Heworth Without	<input type="checkbox"/>	Rawcliffe & Clifton	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>

Comments/Observations:

Consultation:

Prior to making the decision the Deputy Chief Executive will proactively consult with the following:

- Leader of the Council (and in his absence the Deputy Leader of the Council)
- Chief Finance Officer (s151 Officer)
- Chief Legal Officer (Monitoring Officer)
- Head of HR & OD (where relevant and appropriate)
- Director of Public Health (where relevant and appropriate)

Decision:

The council wants to support tenants during this time, but it is too late to prevent the rent increase being implemented. Members therefore have requested that we process the direct debits as normal, but that we refund tenants the equivalent of their rent increase for the next three months in July 2020. This will be credited to their rent account. Tenants who receive Universal Credit and / or Housing Benefit on 6 April will not be asked to pay this extra rent and so will not get this payment.

Those tenants who get work or an increase in their income during the 12-week period and so stop getting Universal Credit and / or Housing Benefit, will be given the appropriate refund.

For those who start to get Universal Credit and / or Housing Benefit at some point during the 12-week period, will be refunded the extra rent they paid before they went on benefits.

Reason for the Decision: To provide financial support tenants during the Covid19 pandemic.

Decision Made by: Deputy Chief Executive
Contact Details:

To be implemented by: Denis Southall, Head of Housing

On Completion: **Date:**

Completed decision noted by Monitoring Officer

PLEASE NOTE: This decision will be reported retrospectively to the relevant committee as and when it is appropriate to do so.

In the meantime, this decision will be reported as a Leader or Officer Decision on the Council's website.