

NOTIFICATION OF KEY DECISION TO BE TAKEN

GENERAL EXCEPTION NOTICE

DETAILS OF DECISION	
Title of Report	Review of Under-occupation Scheme
Description/Nature of matter requiring Key Decision	Changes to the Council's Smart Move scheme in response to likely increase in working age under occupying tenants needing to move as a result of reduction in their housing benefit from April 2013 under the government's welfare reform plans.
Decision taker	Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Housing
Date by which Key Decision must be taken	November 2012
Reason why it was impracticable for decision to be on the Forward Plan	The proposals for the changes to the scheme were discussed and agreed by the lettings policy review group in mid September 2012. The decision missed the forward plan update in September for a decision in October.
Reason why the decision cannot wait for inclusion in the next Forward Plan	<p>The next forward plan update relates to decisions due to be taken in January 2013. The proposed reduction to Housing Benefit will come into effect on 1 April 2013.</p> <p>The decision cannot wait until then as the council needs to consult with various tenant groups in order that large numbers of affected under occupying tenants can be notified and supported in advance of their housing benefit reducing in April 2013.</p> <p>If the decision is not taken until January 2013, then there is a risk that the consultation will not be completed and residents will not be notified in advance thereby increasing the risk of rent arrears and homelessness.</p>
ORIGINATING AUTHOR'S DETAILS	
Name	Carol Smith, Housing initiatives and Advice Manager
Contact Number	0207 5251339
Email	Carol.smith2@southwark.gov.uk
Address	Housing Options Services, 25 Bournemouth Road, Peckham London SE15 4UJ

Ian Millichap
Proper Constitutional Officer
Dated: 9 November 2012