

Enterprise and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee

Scrutiny Project Group on Water Rates Arrears Evictions

Group Members :	Councillors Gordon Simmons (Lead Member), Helen Elliott, Anthony Hill, Jenny Flood, Keith Miles, David Stone, Denise Hawksworth
Subject to be reviewed: (the issue)	Water Rates Arrears Evictions
Reason for the Review / Terms of Reference: (why are we doing this)	To review the Council's contract with the Water Authority to collect water rates payments from housing tenants, and related matters.
How the review aligns with the Council's priorities and vision:	Corporate Plan Aim 3: A place where everyone has fair access to a decent and affordable home.
Aims and Objectives of the Review: (what do we want to achieve / what will success look like) - consider Equalities issues)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - To help provide affordable homes. - To avoid unnecessary evictions for the non-payment of water rates. - To review contract with Severn Trent Water Authority to establish whether it is financially viable to continue collecting payments on its behalf, and to identify costs incurred for collecting. - Identify what support the Council has for people in difficulty. - Consider whether water meters should be advised for any properties. - Consider issues around charging for sewage and surface water. - To re-examine some decisions made by Scrutiny on this issue.
Method of Review: (how the work will be undertaken)	Interviews Meetings Desk top research Housing Officers/Tenant support Executive Member for Housing interview Representative from Severn-Trent Water interview

Research & Evidence: (information that needs to be gathered)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Existing contract agreement with Severn Trent Water - Statistics/figures regarding cost and benefit of contract / service received. - Statistics regarding the number of evictions due to water rates only - Web research - Appeals and Regulatory Committee documents
Witnesses : (who to invite, information and answers needed)	Executive Member for Housing Executive Member for Customers and Communities Housing Service Managers / Officers Revenues Service Head of Finance Head of Business Transformation Citizens Advice Bureau Law Centre Interim Business Transformation Manager, Scott Webster Housing Tenant support staff
Group Meetings & Site Visits:	Not applicable
Resource Requirements: (what resources will be used)	Councillor and officer time
Project Start Date:	27th June, 2013
Scrutiny Project / Report Completion Date (Group to agree final report)	Spring 2014
Scrutiny Report to Scrutiny Committee on : <i>(allow for public notice period)</i>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Progress update to Enterprise and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee 7th November, 2013 2. Report to Enterprise and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee 16th January, 2014.
Cabinet Reporting Deadlines <i>(allow for WBR / Executive Member)</i>	To be confirmed.
Scrutiny Report to Cabinet on : <i>(allow for Public notice period)</i>	To be confirmed.