

4 WELFARE REFORM (AN143-2014)

Reference is made to Article VII of the minute of meeting of this Committee of 11th March, 2013 wherein Committee agreed that "The City Council resolves that for a transitional period of one year, where the Director of Housing is satisfied that tenants who are subject to the under occupancy charge are doing all they reasonably can to avoid falling into arrears, it will use all legitimate means to collect rent due, except eviction."

A recent announcement by the Scottish Government will increase the money available through Discretionary Housing Payments (DHP) to the limit imposed by the DWP, and if the DWP refuse the request to lift the cap on DHP's, the Scottish Government will make a further £15 million available to social landlords to prevent evictions solely due to bedroom to the Under Occupancy Charge.

Committee is therefore requested to continue with the current arrangements as agreed on the 11th March, 2013, until such time as the Council has assessed the Scottish Government guidance on how this funding will be allocated and awarded.