

# A Scrutiny Review into Supported 'Exempt' Accommodation Funding



## Final Report

### What's the review about?

This review was conducted at the suggestion of the Leader of the Council to examine the costs to the Council of supported 'exempt' accommodation.

### Who was on the review team?

- ▶ Councillor Linda Woollard (Chair)
- ▶ Councillor Renee Blow
- ▶ Councillor Mike Nelson
- ▶ Councillor Mary Robinson

### What was the purpose the review?

- ▶ To look at the increasing burden falling on councils from supported exempt accommodation and to make appropriate recommendations

### What has the review done?

- ▶ The review team has met with the Benefits Manager and reviewed the various documents outlining the roles of the various agencies in funding supported 'exempt' accommodation through housing benefit. The review team also looked at the correspondence between Lancashire Leaders and the Local Government Association and Government's Department of Communities and Local Government.

### What is the outcome of the review?

The review team has come up with the following recommendations:

- ▶ That the Scrutiny Committee shares the concern of Lancashire districts at the unfairness and costs involved in passing the responsibility for 'exempt' accommodations in an unfunded way to councils.
- ▶ That the Leader of the Council be congratulated on highlighting this unfairness and leading Lancashire councils in lobbying the Government to rectify this situation.

- ▶ That the Scrutiny Committee supports the Leader's lobbying and writes to South Ribble Members of Parliament, the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions and the Secretary of State of Community and Local Government to encourage appropriate funding be passed to the Council to meet the burden caused by supported 'exempt' accommodation.
- ▶ That the Scrutiny Committee raises this issue with the House of Commons Work and Pensions Select Committee.

## What now?

We very much hope that the Council will agree to take forward our recommendations. The Scrutiny Committee looks forward to the Council's response and will monitor progress on the review in the future.

We would like to thank the employees, councillors and everyone involved in the review for their time and help with the review.

## How do I get more information?

For further information or to see the detailed comprehensive information gathered as part of the review, please contact Darren Cranshaw, Community Engagement Manager on 01772 625512, email: [dcranshaw@southribble.gov.uk](mailto:dcranshaw@southribble.gov.uk), or visit the Scrutiny website at: [www.southribble.gov.uk](http://www.southribble.gov.uk).