

Report to: EXECUTIVE BOARD - 8th July 2002

MINOR AMENDEMENT TO GARAGE RENTS

Report of: <i>Housing Management Business Unit</i>	WARDS AFFECTED ALL
Report Author: <i>Karen Turner Housing Management Business Manager - Ext 2329 kturner@oxford.gov.uk</i>	
Lead Member Responsible: <i>Cllr Val Smith</i>	
Overview and Scrutiny Committee Responsibility: <i>Housing Scrutiny Committee</i>	
Key Decision <i>Yes</i>	

SUMMARY AND RECOMMENDATIONS

This report asks Executive Board:

- **to agree a minor amendment to the garage discount scheme for those who pay £1pw**
- **to agree that the amendment be backdated to 8th April 2002**
- **to confirm what further changes are to be investigated by officers pending the budget setting for 03/04.**

1. Introduction

- 1.1 The previous administration introduced a scheme which enabled those in receipt of the Higher Mobility Element of Disability Living Allowance (DLA), who had leased a vehicle through the Motability Scheme, to only pay £1 per week for rent of a council garage. This has been in place since 8th April 2002.
- 1.2 OFTA representatives have asked that those who are in receipt of DLA with the Higher Mobility Element but have either bought their vehicle through the scheme or privately, also be allowed to benefit from the £1 per week scheme.
- 1.3 Those buying privately would be expected to be in receipt of the DLA and the Higher Mobility Component for a minimum 3 year period which is the same terms prescribed by the Motability Scheme.

2. Impact

2.1 It is anticipated that this minor change will not impact on expected income heavily as there are so few garage users that would be affected. There are currently 5 private renters and 15 council tenants renters who pay just £1pw. This reduction, in effect, reduces the income to the HRA by £6,918 per year. It is not possible to calculate the additional loss of revenue to the HRA until the additional number of garage renters eligible for the discount is known.

2.2 It will add to the costs of administration of garage rents that are dealt with by officers but this is expected to be minimal bearing in mind the very few garage users that are affected.

3. Practicalities

3.1 If Executive Board agree to the change we will arrange for a notice to be placed in the next edition of the Tenant's Newsletter and a flyer to be placed in the next quarterly rent statement.

3.2 In the interests of fairness, it is suggested that those that were found to be eligible for £1per week scheme due to this minor change be refunded the excess they have paid since 8th April 2002 or have the amount credited to their account.

4. The Future

4.1 Executive Board are asked to confirm what further changes to the garage rent process officers should begin to investigate pending the setting of the HRA budget for 03/04.

THIS REPORT HAS BEEN SEEN AND APPROVED BY: The Strategic Director, the Portfolio Holder & the Group Accountant.

Background Papers: Information from:
Motability Scheme Enquiries Tel: 01279 635666