

Report to: Executive Board - Monday 11th November 2002.

ELDERLY AND DISABLED PERSONS DECORATION SCHEME

<p>Report of: <i>Business Manager, Building / Technical Services.</i></p> <p>Report Author: <i>Chris Pyle Technical Services Unit Tel no. 01865 335411 Email: cpyle@oxford.gov.uk</i></p> <p>Lead Member Responsible: <i>Housing Portfolio Member</i></p> <p>Overview and Scrutiny Committee Responsibility: <i>Housing Overview and Scrutiny Committee</i></p> <p>Key Decision: <i>No</i></p>	<p>WARDS AFFECTED All</p>
<p>SUMMARY AND RECOMMENDATIONS</p> <p>This report is to seek approval for the proposed changes to the elderly and disabled persons decoration scheme. The approved total budget for which is £150,000 for 2002/03, reduced from £250,000 in 2001/02.</p> <p>Staffing implications - the reduced budget is likely to result in the painting workforce need within Oxford Building Solutions being reduced by at least one full time equivalent. Alternative work is being sought in order to avoid the need for any redundancies.</p> <p>Executive Board is asked to approve the lengthening of time between decorations from one year to two years, for this year only, as an interim measure until a policy review for future years has taken place.</p>	

1. The current policy is to redecorate one room per year for elderly persons and disabled who are unable to decorate their rooms themselves. As an alternative to this, tenants may claim a decoration voucher of up to £100 which can be redeemed for decorating materials at Council approved retailers.
2. The budget for this redecoration work in 2001/02 was £250,000 and was fully committed. In addition, decoration grants are available and are funded from a specific budget of £55,800 within the overall day to day repairs budget. Last years budget (2001/02) was also fully committed.
3. Members have agreed a reduced budget of £150,000 for the financial year 2002/03 and in order to restrict spend to this reduced figure, officers have looked at ways in which this can be achieved.
4. During the financial year 2001/02, orders were issued for 521 redecoration jobs at an average cost of £481.87.
5. It is thought that there is only one way of achieving the reduced spend this year and that is to lengthen the time period between re-decorations to two years. This will be easy to administer and clearer for the tenants to understand.
6. It is proposed that a policy review should be undertaken by the end of December 2002 to evaluate the viability of the scheme for future years.

THIS REPORT HAS BEEN SEEN AND APPROVED BY: The Housing Portfolio Member, The Business Manager, Oxford Building Solutions.

Background papers: