

SHEFFIELD CITY COUNCIL

OFFICER EXECUTIVE DECISION RECORD (Non Key)

The following decision was taken on 12 September 2019 by the Director of Housing and Neighbourhoods Service.

Date notified to all members:

Officer Non-Key decisions are not subject to call-in.

1. **TITLE**

Request from Sanctuary Housing to Stop Collection of Water Charges from their Stock Transfer Tenants

2. **DECISION TAKEN**

To agree not to exercise the Council's power to enforce upon Sanctuary Housing the covenant relating to water charge collection, provided that the right to enforce the covenant in future may be exercised in the future should the Council receive complaints from qualifying tenants.

3. **Reasons For Decision**

The principal reason to recommend a decision not to enforce the covenant to require Sanctuary Housing to continue to collect water rates on behalf of Yorkshire Water is that the comprehensive consultation exercise carried out by Sanctuary Housing has evidenced very little opposition to the proposal, only eight households out of 2,432 contacted stating that they would prefer arrangements to remain as they are.

The water rates collected from Sanctuary Housing tenants is based on the rateable value of tenants' homes which would not change.

As customers of Yorkshire Water, tenants would be able to access a range of budgeting and support schemes that they cannot access currently.

Given the outcome of the consultation evidencing very little opposition and the neutral impact on Sanctuary Housing tenants, the Council would want to act as a positive partner and not seek to enforce the covenant, a position which is without prejudice to enforcing the covenant in future if significant objection is received.

4. **Alternatives Considered And Rejected**

The alternative to permitting Sanctuary Housing to stop collecting water charges on behalf of Yorkshire Water is to enforce the covenant and require Sanctuary Housing to continue to collect water charges, as they do currently.

5. **Documents used in making decision:**

- a) Consultation letters to Shiregreen and Hyde Park Walk and Terrace tenants

- b) Summary of consultation outcomes from Sanctuary Housing
- c) Summary of Schemes and Tariffs for Yorkshire Water customers

6.1 **Any conflict of interest declared by any Executive Member who is consulted by the Officer when making the decision**

None

6.2 **Any dispensation granted by the Head of Paid Service**

None

7. **Respective Director Responsible for Implementation**

Executive Director, Place