

**ANGLIA REVENUES AND BENEFITS PARTNERSHIP**  
**JOINT COMMITTEE: 11<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2010**  
**REPORT OF THE OPERATIONAL BOARD**  
**(Authors: Kate Dann)**

**REPORT ON CHANGES TO THE HOUSING BENEFIT SUBSIDY RULES FOR THOSE IN**  
**TEMPORARY ACCOMMODATION**

This report seeks approval from members of the Joint committee to release the funds awarded from the DWP to each member authority of the ARP to enable the implementation of the changes to the subsidy rules for those living in temporary accommodation.

**1. Introduction / Background**

- 1.1 HB subsidy is currently restricted for those living in temporary accommodation by a series of thresholds and caps.
- 1.2 Temporary accommodation is traditionally much more expensive to rent and there needs to remain a method by which the amount paid inspect of this can be limited.
- 1.3 With effect from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2010, the restrictions will depend upon whether the accommodation is considered as non-self contained (board and lodging or licensed), or self contained/ short-term lease.
- 1.4 For both types of accommodation there is a rule to be applied to determine the restriction the rent and this is a departure from the simple 'one size fit all' approach to the existing thresholds and caps.
- 1.5 The DWP have allocated funds to each Local Authority to help them with the additional costs for software and resourcing to ensure that all affected cases are identified and recalculated to obtain the correct subsidy.

**2. KEY DECISION**

- 2.1 This is not a key decision

**3. Current Position**

- 3.1 The partnering authorities have now received their funding allocations.
- 3.2 Some work has already been undertaken throughout the course of the current financial year to prepare for this change and as yet no charges have been made by the software supplier.
- 3.3 The software supplier has yet to advise of the charges in respect of the detailed enhancements supplied in the next release of software required to provide the correct subsidy calculation.
- 3.4 The funding is one-off and therefore does not cater for annual revenue costs. Any such costs would be met through the 2008/09 Housing Benefit budgets for all three Partners.

**4. Options Available**

- Release the allocated funding from all three Partners to enable this project to be commenced and completed.

**5. Reasons for Recommendations**

To comply with the requirements to identify and adjust the affected cases appropriately.

**6. Recommendation(s)**

It is recommended that members approve the release of the funds to enable payment of the relevant costs to be made.