

OUTDOOR MEETING SPACES AT CATEGORY 2 SHELTERED SCHEMES

Report of the Head of Housing Management

1. SUMMARY

- 1.1 COVID-19 has brought about many changes to the way that we all live and socialise with friends and neighbours.
- 1.2 One of the impacts has been that we have not been able to keep common rooms in Category 2 schemes open as we are unable to manage social distancing requirements or service the cleaning schedules that would be required to ensure the safety of our residents.
- 1.3 It is recognised that meeting outdoors is a lower risk option and this report proposes how we could facilitate a safe, comfortable outdoor space for residents in these schemes to maintain social contact and reduce isolation.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 To approve the provision of sheltered outdoor meeting areas for residents in Category 2 sheltered schemes, subject to consultation and site feasibility.
- 2.2 To approve that this work be budgeted from the Estates Pride budget and reported retrospectively to Operational Board.

3. REASON(S) FOR RECOMMENDATION

- 3.1 To provide, safe sheltered external meeting spaces for our residents in Category 2 Sheltered Schemes.

4. MATTERS FOR CONSIDERATION

- 4.1 We have three Category 2 Sheltered Schemes, Kestrel House, Whitecross House and Rebecca House. These schemes comprise of individual flats with communal facilities which include a common room. Due to COVID-19 residents have not been able to use these common rooms.
- 4.2 During the summer months it has been possible for residents to use the outdoor areas for socialising with friends and neighbours however this will become more difficult as the weather changes and we move into Autumn and Winter.

- 4.3 It is proposed, subject to outdoor space being suitable, that we will consult with residents to provide a covered outdoor area, with fixed seating and heating (similar to that you may find at restaurants/public houses) which would enable year round use.
- 4.4 In order to carry out this work as soon as possible we need to seek Operational Board approval on the proposal and make immediate steps to prepare designs and consult with residents. If residents are in agreement we would complete this work as a priority.
- 4.5 Being able to meet socially is important to our resident who may otherwise suffer from isolation.

5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 Based on initial estimates it is anticipated that cost will not exceed £20,000 to provide facilities at the three named locations. This cost would be contained within the Estates Pride budget.

6. CONSULTATION

- 6.1 Housing Management Teams will undertake consultation with all residents and work will only proceed with a majority being in agreement at each scheme.

7. RISK

- 7.1 During the pandemic all residents would be provided with advice and guidance on the safe use of the facility.

Fixed seating would ensure that social distancing is maintained.

The areas listed below have no implications directly arising from this report:

Council
Equalities
Legal
Environmental
Policy Review

If Board Members or others would like to discuss this report ahead of the meeting please contact:	
Background Information:	None
Supporting Information:	None