

STROUD DISTRICT COUNCIL

AGENDA

HOUSING COMMITTEE

ITEM NO

28 MARCH 2017

10

Report Title	TENANCY FRAUD POLICY
Purpose of Report	To present the revised tenancy fraud policy to committee.
Decisions	The Committee RESOLVES to adopt the revised tenancy fraud policy.
Financial Implications and Risk Assessment	<p>The update of this Policy will assist in the protection from fraud of the Council's income stream from its properties. It will enable the Council to continue to provide its services that are required.</p> <p>Simon Merrett – Interim Principal Accountant Tel: 01453 754 344 Email: simon.merrett@stroud.gov.uk</p> <p>The Policy is a guiding principle which will allow the Council to manage its tenancies based on housing legislation and statute. Adoption of the Policy ensures the Council has a robust approach to reducing the risk of challenge in this area. By not having clear policy can lead to Council having a greater risk of incurring financial loss and reputational damage.</p>
Legal Implications	<p>In line with advice to relevant officers, it is recommended that further work is undertaken to improve the draft policy before it is adopted, to ensure that it supports a clear and robust approach to discourage, identify and action cases of fraud.</p> <p>Karen Trickey Legal Services Manager and Monitoring Officer Email karen.trickey@stroud.gov.uk</p>
Report Author	<p>Patricia Andrade Tel: 01453 754163 Email: patricia.andrade@stroud.gov.uk</p>
Performance Management Follow Up	The detection and actions taken against cases of tenancy fraud will be reported to the performance sub group of the housing committee.
Background Papers/ Appendices	<p>Tenancy Fraud Policy – February 2013 Appendix 1 – Tenancy Fraud Policy – February 2017</p>

1.0. Introduction

- 1.1. The council has a duty to make the best use of its housing stock in order to maximise its ability to meet housing need. This means that we must ensure that occupation of its homes is by the legally entitled and rightful person(s).
- 1.2. Presently Stroud has some 5131 homes of which approximately 17% are classified as sheltered accommodation.
- 1.3. The revised tenancy fraud policy ensures SDC keeps pace with the requirements in minimise wrongful occupation of our stock. This is attached as Appendix 1.

2.0. Background

- 2.1. The current tenancy fraud policy was written in February 2013 with the expectation that it will be reviewed after 3 years. A copy of this has been provided to members through their citrix account.

3.0. Revisions

- 3.1. The Tenancy Fraud Policy has been revised and now includes and expansion within the areas of:
 - Fuller explanation of Tenancy Fraud
 - The Financial and risk Implications
 - Further explanation of prevention
 - More details on detection
 - Identifying the legal actions which can be considered
- 3.2. It is proposed now that this policy will be reviewed annually with future referral to committee only made if the review requires a significant amendment or change in policy direction.