

EAST DEVON DISTRICT COUNCIL

Notes of a meeting of the Handy Persons Scheme Task and Finish Forum held at Knowle, Sidmouth on 19 February 2015

*8 **Welcome**

The Chairman, Councillor Christine Drew welcomed all members of the Forum to the meeting.

*9 **Minutes of meeting held on 6 February 2015**

The minutes of the meeting held on 6 February 2015 were noted.

*10 **Declarations of interest**

Board Member	Minute number	Type of interest	Nature of interest
Susie Bond		Personal	Mother is a Home Safeguard user.
Joyce Ebborn		Personal	She is a sheltered housing tenant.
Harry Roberts		Personal	He is a sheltered housing tenant.

11 **Handy Persons Scheme – proposals from Housing Needs and Strategy Manager**

The Forum discussed the proposals from Dennis Boobier, Housing Needs and Strategy Manager for the Handy Person Service.

A Tenant member raised the issue of provision of access to the scheme for those tenants who did not have access to IT facilities. Dennis Boobier, Housing Needs and Strategy Manager reported that the housing service would help tenants as best it could, but the business premise should be for doing things on line. There was the possibility of helping tenants fill in forms on line in their homes, telephone calls or providing IT facilities in sheltered housing scheme day centres.

During discussions the following points were noted:

- The general principle would be to make the pilot scheme a free service to eligible tenants of EDDC. But charging could be introduced if the service was introduced on a full time basis;
- To remove the words Minor fence repairs “such as replacing one panel” in the What works are covered? section ;
- Obtaining feedback from the Handyperson doing the work during the course of the pilot was crucial;
- The estimated cost for the scheme from Skippers for a man, van, fuel and insurance to cover one area would be £53,000 per annum;
- There would be a possible saving to the Council as the handyman could do a number of jobs which were currently the Council’s responsibility and booked to the Repairs Team. It was estimated that there was currently £90,000 of works

which was the Council's responsibility and the Handyman Service could theoretically provide a saving;

- All tenants should be written to in the area chosen to notify them of the scheme and whether they met the criteria for the scheme;
- A fully substantive scheme would be produced on completion of the pilot for consideration of a meeting of the Handypersons Scheme Task and Finish Forum in November 2015;
- The full revised details of the Handyperson Service would be attached to the minutes of the meeting.

RECOMMENDED: that the pilot scheme for the Handyman service be undertaken for a 6 month trial period to test the viability and usefulness of the scheme and it be left to the Housing Needs and Strategy Manager to determine which pilot area is used for the scheme.

*12 **Next Meeting**

RESOLVED: that the next meeting of the Taff be held at a date to be agreed in November 2015, once the pilot scheme had finished its trial.

Present:

Councillors:

Christine Drew(Chairman)
Susie Bond
Pauline Stott

Tenants:

Joyce Ebborn
Harry Roberts
Pat Rous

Officers:

Dennis Boobier – Housing Needs & Strategy Manager
Mark Dale – Senior Technical Officer - Day to Day Repairs
Chris Lane - Democratic Services Officer

Contractors:

Andrew Sturgess
Sarah Walton

Apologies:

John Powley
Laurence Hughes

The meeting started at 9.30am and ended at 10.55am.