

Dear Councillor.

I refer to my e-mail dated 4 October 2013 relating to the Draft Decisions of the Cabinet at its meeting held on 30 September 2013.

I am writing to you as a member of the Scrutiny Committee to advise that I have received a joint request from Councillors Page and Osborne that the decision set out in Draft Cabinet Minute No 45.1 relating to the Introduction of Test of Resources for Lewes District Council Housing Tenants Requiring Disabled Adaptations, be called-in for consideration by a panel of the Scrutiny Committee for the reasons set out below.

Members of the Scrutiny Committee must decide by 5.00pm on Wednesday, 9 October 2013 whether they support the joint request for the decision to be reviewed and, if they do so, respond to me accordingly. A meeting of a Panel of the Committee would be held if at least six members of the Committee were in favour of calling in the decision.

Therefore, would you please either e-mail me at [trevor.hayward@lewes.gov.uk](mailto:trevor.hayward@lewes.gov.uk) or fax me at 01273 484146 accordingly by 5.00pm on Wednesday, 9 October 2013:

"The officer report recommended the introduction of a test of resources for Lewes District Council housing tenants requiring disabled adaptation works of a value of £1,000 or more. Cabinet agreed the officer recommendation.

Cabinet members were minded to follow the officer recommendation because it was based on the findings of an Internal Audit report dating from 2010 and the proposal has been in the public domain for some considerable time with apparent cross party support.

Cabinet members were also influenced by the fact that the Council's tenant representative group (TOLD) supported the introduction of a test of resources.

However, in light of the debate at Cabinet, including comments made by Cllr Ian Eiloart and the summary of relevant issues as set out by the Chief Executive, we would like to call this item in for reconsideration and in particular to assess whether this is properly an equality matter, which seems to us to be doubtful.

We note that there is no impediment to the Council continuing its current practice of supporting its tenants in that the legal implications in the Report make clear that the Council is properly able to make funding available for this purpose. We also note that in real terms, the financial impact of choosing to assist our tenants will be modest in that, as was confirmed by TOLD at the meeting, many will be in receipt of benefits and therefore entitled to grant assistance under any test of resources".