



## AGENDA ITEM: 6

### SUMMARY

Report for:	<b>Housing &amp; Communities Overview &amp; Scrutiny Committee</b>
Date of meeting:	<b>28 January 2015</b>
PART:	<b>1</b>
If Part II, reason:	

<b>Title of report:</b>	<b>Mobility Scooter Policy</b>
Contact:	Cllr M Griffiths, Portfolio Holder for Housing  Simon Smith, Asset Team Leader, Property & Place, Housing and Regeneration
Purpose of report:	1. To update the Committee on the draft revised Policy and method of review
Recommendations	1. That the Committee provide feedback on the draft revised Mobility Scooter Policy
Corporate objectives:	Affordable Housing
Implications:	<u>Financial</u>  Provision of purpose built, safety compliant scooter storage will be met from the Aids and Adaptations capital budget
'Value For Money Implications'	<u>Value for Money</u> Dealing with Mobility Scooter issues effectively and consistently will ensure that the appropriate level of resource is devoted to ensuring effective service delivery. Without an effective policy and procedure the likelihood of significant additional resources being devoted to Mobility Scooter problems is possible.  The effective use of resources being devoted to Mobility Scooter issues ensures value for money for tenants.
Risk Implications	By developing a policy and ensuring that there is a consistent approach when dealing with Mobility Scooter issues will

	<p>minimise the risk to the Council and Housing Landlord Service. Failure to adhere to this policy could result in Tenants, Staff and visitors to HRA assets being at risk of Health &amp; Safety breaches including fire, trip hazards and damage to HRA assets</p> <p>Risk Assessments were completed during the Sheltered Housing review project in 2013/2013</p>
Equalities Implications	The Policy enables those in need of a mobility scooter living in Council accommodation the ability to store it safely and enhance the quality of life of the user at no risk to others.
Health And Safety Implications	Mobility Scooters can combust without warning. They need to be stored in areas that are compliant with fire risk precautions and must be easily accessible to the users of the stores.
Consultees:	<p>Compliance/Risk and Health and Safety Officer, Housing and Regeneration</p> <p>Hertfordshire Fire and Rescue Service</p> <p>DBC' Fire Safety Consultant</p> <p>Supported Housing Forum</p> <p>Portfolio Holder for Housing</p> <p>Chair of Housing and Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee</p> <p>Councillor McKay</p> <p>Chair of Tenants and Leaseholders Committee</p> <p>Director of Housing and Regeneration</p> <p>Assistant Director of Housing</p> <p>Group Manager, Property and Place</p> <p>Group Manager, Tenancy and Leasehold</p> <p>Supported Housing Manager, Housing &amp; Regeneration</p> <p>Asset Team Leader, Housing and Regeneration</p> <p>Team Leader Tenant and Leasehold</p>
Background papers:	Mobility Scooter Policy
Glossary of acronyms and any other abbreviations used in this report:	HRA – Housing Revenue Account

## **1.0 Background**

The Sheltered Housing Review and the adoption of a clear landings policy in Sheltered Housing highlighted the growing issue of Mobility Scooter storage in both Sheltered Housing and General Needs Housing.

Mobility Scooters are becoming more popular with tenants and residents of HRA stock and where to store them safely in compliance with Fire Risk assessments and Health and Safety matters has become a major concern.

The development of a Mobility Scooter Policy ensures the approach taken by Dacorum Borough Council in assessing the individual requests from tenants for Mobility Scooter storage is consistent and fair. The aim of this policy is to protect the safety of all residents, visitors, staff and contractors in DBC Housing premises whilst not restricting a person's independence.

## **2.0 Amendments to the Mobility Scooter Policy**

The original Mobility Scooter policy discussed at the 11 September 2013 Housing and Communities Overview and Scrutiny meeting has been amended to reflect the concerns from tenants, members and officers that the original policy was too rigid in its tone and interpretation. The revised draft policy is designed to make every effort to provide safe and suitable storage at every location that is feasible for such storage.

Following consultation with tenants, members and staff it is acknowledged that the original policy did not allow enough scope for installing mobility scooter storage at every site. Officers have since revisited each of the Supported Housing Schemes and will produce a program to install communal stores where feasible.

Financial provisions have been made in the 2015/16 HRA Budget for this program, there is also a budget for individual stores where communal stores are not feasible to install.

The annex on the original policy has been removed. The intention in the revised policy is to put in storage wherever it is possible both physically and financially. Some sites may only be suitable for one or two individual storage solutions; others will be suitable for communal storage facilities.

The revised policy no longer has the proficiency test criteria although it does strongly recommend any mobility scooters purchased are done so from a reputable company and that thorough instructions are given to the purchaser on the use of the mobility scooter.

## **3.0 Methodology in producing the amended policy**

Following the adoption of the original policy further consultation was conducted with Supported Housing Officers and Housing Officers Tenancy who were concerned with elements of the Mobility Scooter Policy.

Consultation was then extended to the Supported Housing Forum and three members of the forum were invited to a meeting with Housing Officers to seek their views on the policy and any amendments they felt were required.

The new draft policy containing amendments was then consulted on with senior Housing Managers, Councillors and members of this committee. The policy was revised and amended following this consultation to be presented to this committee for further feedback.