

## APPEALS PANEL

Meeting: 11 February 2002

At: 6.00 pm

PRESENT

Councillors Colin Fielder, David Goddard, Hazel Lees and Mary Loftus.

### 1. ELECTION OF CHAIR

RESOLVED - That Councillor Hazel Lees be elected Chair of the Appeals Panel for this meeting.

### 2. ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIR

RESOLVED - That Councillor David Goddard be elected Vice-Chair of the Appeals Panel for this meeting..

### 3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest were made.

### 4. EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC

That in order to prevent the disclosure of information not for publication relating to a particular applicant for services provided by the Council the public were excluded from the meeting during consideration of Item 5.

Item not for publication

### 5. STAGE 3 APPEAL - CHARGES FOR CARE IN THE COMMUNITY

The claimant attended the meeting together with his parents.

The appeal was based on an assertion that the £10 Home Expenses amount within the Council's current non-residential charging policy had remained unchanged since its introduction in 1996 and that no allowances were made for the service user's ineligibility for Housing Benefit and for the payment of very costly items of equipment/aids necessary to support his physical needs. The accuracy of the £7.90 per week (assessed charge) was not contested.

RESOLVED - That the appeal be dismissed on the following grounds:-

- (1) That the £7.90 per week assessed charge was reasonable and affordable given the individual circumstances of the appellant.
- (2) That the Council's non-residential charging policy had been fairly applied in this case.
- (3) That it be noted that the terms of the non-residential charging policy should not be changed unilaterally by this Panel, but that as the policy is being reviewed the claimant's views be fed into the policy review process.

### 6. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

RESOLVED - That the next meeting of the Appeals Panel be held at 6.00pm on 21 March 2002.

The meeting closed at 7.05 pm