

# Decision Schedule

## Cabinet Member for Regeneration & Housing

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**TO ALL MEMBERS OF NEWPORT CITY COUNCIL**

**Decision Schedule published on 21 February 2019**

The Cabinet Member took the following decisions on 21 February 2019. They will become effective at Noon on 1 March 2019 with the exception of any particular decision, which is the subject of a valid "call-in".

The deadline for submission of a 'Call-in' request form is 4.00 pm on 28 February 2019.

Information relating to the 'Call-in' process can be found via [Democratic Services](#).

Reports relating to staffing issues/Confidential reports are not circulated to all members of the Council as part of the consultation/call-in processes.

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**R&H 04/19**

### **Housing Improvement Loans Policy**

#### **Options Considered/Reasons for Decision**

In 2012, Welsh Government awarded grant funding for local authorities to set up 'Houses into Homes' schemes offering interest-free loans to help bring empty properties back into use.

In 2015, a further award followed, this time of Repayable Funding (or Fixed-Term Credit), to provide housing improvement loans.

Take-up of the schemes has varied between areas and local authorities have generally found the housing improvement loans challenging to administer.

To address these issues, Welsh Government has combined the two funding streams into one, with revised terms and conditions. Under the revised award, local authorities must offer;

- Landlord loans
- Owner occupier loans
- Owner occupier repayable financial assistance

This report sets out a policy for a new combined scheme designed to respond to these changes.

#### **Decision**

To adopt the Housing Improvement Loans Policy, and implement the combined 'Safe, Warm & Secure' housing loans scheme

#### **Consultation**

Monitoring Officer, Head of Finance and Head of People & Business Change

All members were consulted and provided with an opportunity to comment. Any comments received and responses thereafter are set out in the report.

**Implemented by: Head of Regeneration, Investment & Housing**

**Implementation Timetable: Immediate**

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COUNCILLOR J MUDD, CABINET MEMBER FOR REGENERATION & HOUSING

Date: 21 February 2019

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