# **London Borough of Hammersmith & Fulham**

#### **CABINET**

10 July 2017



#### **UPDATE ON WATER ARRANGEMENTS**

## Report of the Cabinet Member for Housing - Councillor Lisa Homan

#### Open report

A separate report on the exempt part of the Cabinet agenda provides financial and legal information.

**Classification - For Decision** 

**Key Decision: Yes** 

Wards Affected: All

Accountable Director: Kathleen Corbett, Director of Finance & Resources,

Regeneration, Planning and Housing Services

Report Author: Kathleen Corbett, Director of Finance & Resources,

Regeneration, Planning and Housing

Services

# **Contact Details:**

Tel: 020 8753 3031

E-mail: kathleen.corbett@lbhf.gov.uk

#### 1. **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

- 1.1. We are working with tenants to reduce their water costs by:
  - Promoting Watersure plus to tenants. This is a Thames Water initiative which enables some residents on low incomes<sup>1</sup> to halve their water bills. We promote this each year when we write to tenants about their water charges<sup>2</sup> and are rolling out a more intensive estate based promotion starting with Viking Court to increase take up.
  - Ensuring all tenants who are charged on a rateable value basis know how to ask Thames Water for an individual water meter. If an individual water meter cannot be fitted some residents can reduce their bills by opting for Thames Water's Assessed Household Charge.
  - Working with Thames Water to promote water saving devices to residents who are on bulk meters to keep costs down.

<sup>2</sup> This is when we write to tenants to tell them if we have over or under charged them for water in the year and refund or charge them the difference as appropriate

Applies only to residents who are billed based on rateable value.

 Thames Water currently will not put smart meters on bulk metered accounts. So we are looking at putting on monitoring devices which allow us to remotely monitor meters so we can quickly identify and resolve spikes in water consumption because of leaks etc.

#### 2. RECOMMENDATIONS

2.1. To note the measures being taken to reduce water costs for tenants.

#### 3. REASONS FOR DECISION

3.1 These are set out in the exempt part of the Cabinet agenda

#### 4. PROPOSAL AND ISSUES

4.1 These are set out in the exempt part of the Cabinet agenda

#### 5. OPTIONS AND ANALYSIS OF OPTIONS

5.1 These are set out in the exempt part of the Cabinet agenda

#### 6. CONSULTATION

6.1. The Council has however been talking to tenants about water at various forums.

#### 7. EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS

7.1. None.

#### 8. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

8.1 Legal implications are set out in the exempt part of the Cabinet agenda

#### 9. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

9.1. Financial implications are set out in the exempt part of the Cabinet agenda

#### 10. IMPLICATIONS FOR BUSINESS

10.1. Currently we are not able to choose who supplies water to homes, the market is only open for the commercial supply of water. Therefore there are no implications for business.

### 11. OTHER IMPLICATION PARAGRAPHS

11.1. None.

# 12. BACKGROUND PAPERS USED IN PREPARING THIS REPORT None.