

Report of the Chief Executive

REVIEW OF THE CONCESSIONARY TV LICENSING SCHEME1. Purpose of the report

To seek Committee approval that the Council applies for protected rights for tenants currently covered by the concessionary TV licence, and this cost is paid by the Council.

2. Background

Television Licensing regulations allow for tenants who meet certain criteria to apply for an Accommodation for Residential Care (ARC) concessionary TV licence. Residents aged over 75 years or over receive a free TV licence. The council has participated in the ARC scheme for several years and covered the cost of the licence.

3. Detail

To receive an Accommodation for Residential Care (ARC) concessionary licence scheme, tenants need to be:

- Aged 60 years or over and not working for over 15 hours a week, or
- Aged under 60 and mentally or physically disabled, and
- Live in “sheltered” housing and receive 30 hours of care per week.

Having reviewed the ARC criteria, it is apparent that the ILS schemes are not eligible for ARC concessionary licensing. New tenants (under 75 years old) will be required to purchase a full TV licence.

Current tenants can have their ARC protected by applying for preserved rights which they will remain eligible for whilst they retain their tenancy or reach 75 years old.

The current policy of providing free TV licences for over 75s is being reviewed by the BBC. The policy review runs until 12 February 2019.

4. Financial implications

The council pays £7.50 per annum to TV Licensing for each ARC licence, and is not currently charged to tenants. The annual cost of providing ARC licences is approximately £2,850.00. Further detail is available in Appendix 1.

Recommendation

The Committee is asked to RESOLVE that the Council applies for protected rights for tenants currently covered by the ARC Licence, and this cost is paid by the Council.

Background papers

Nil

APPENDIX 1

Breakdown of Financial ImplicationsCurrent ARC costs

377 tenants are currently entitled to an annual ARC Concessionary TV Licence at £7.50 each.

Tenant Age as at 31/12/2018	Units	Cost to BBC (£)
ARC licence	377	2,827.50
Total	<u>377</u>	<u>2,827.50</u>

Projected Future Costs

Of the current tenants who would potentially be transferred onto “preserved rights”, their age-profile is as follows:

Under 60	60-65	66-69	70-74
64	68	88	157

This age-profile shows that the number of tenants with preserved rights will reduce each year as tenants reach 75 years old and become eligible for a free TV licence (subject to the outcome of the BBC review of free TV Licences for the over 75s).

Licensing Administration Costs

The cost to administer this scheme is currently included within the existing staffing establishment.