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<b>REPORT TO:</b>	<b>Housing and Community Services</b>	<b>AGENDA ITEM:</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>DATE OF MEETING:</b>	<b>9<sup>th</sup> June 2005</b>	<b>CATEGORY:</b>	<b>DELEGATED</b>
<b>REPORT FROM:</b>	<b>Director of Community Services</b>	<b>OPEN:</b>	
<b>MEMBERS' CONTACT POINT:</b>	<b>Dawn Dawson, Housing Operations Manager (ext. 5797)</b>	<b>DOC:</b>	
<b>SUBJECT:</b>	<b>Supporting People Charges – Sheltered Housing</b>	<b>REF:</b>	
<b>WARD(S) AFFECTED:</b>	<b>All</b>	<b>TERMS OF REFERENCE:</b>	<b>HCS01</b>

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### **1.0 Recommendations**

- 1.1 That the proposed increase to the Supporting People Charge for the Sheltered Housing Service is considered and referred to the Finance and Management Committee for approval.

### **2.0 Purpose of Report**

- 2.1 To inform members of an increase to funding proposed by Derbyshire County Council as the Administering Authority for Derbyshire, for Supporting People.

### **3.0 Detail**

- 3.1 Members will recall that under the Supporting People legislation which came into effect on 1<sup>st</sup> April 2003, Housing Benefit can no longer be paid towards support costs associated with a tenancy. For South Derbyshire, this relates to the costs associated with providing the Community Warden and CareLine services. The original costing exercise for Supporting People purposes that was carried out showed that the support cost for the Sheltered Housing Service was £8.60 per week as for the year 2001/2002.
- 3.2 On 6<sup>th</sup> September 2004, the Council was advised that it had been awarded an increase of 2.29%, increasing the charge from £8.60 per week to £8.82, backdated to 1<sup>st</sup> April 2004. However, due to Part IV, Sect 103 (4) of the Housing Act 1985, which states that the increase cannot take effect until a notice of variation giving at least four weeks notice of the increased charge has been served, and the approval required from the Finance and Management Committee, the uprated charge could not be applied until 15<sup>th</sup> November 2004.

- 3.3 On 18<sup>th</sup> April 2005, the Council was advised that an increase of 1.9% had been awarded for the year 2005/2006, increasing the charge from £8.82 per week to £8.99. Actual costings for the service show the real cost to be £10.99 per week. Again, whilst the increase in funding is very much welcomed, and will allow the Sheltered Housing service to continue to improve the service to its customers, taking into account the approval required from Finance and Management Committee and the 4 week variation period as required by the Housing Act 1985, the earliest this uprated charge could be applied is 25<sup>th</sup> July 2005.

#### **4.0 Financial Implications**

- 4.1 The 1.9% increase will give an annual increase in funding of £6,474.
- 4.2 The inability to levy the charge until 25<sup>th</sup> of July 2005 equates to a loss in funding of £3,140.