

Councillor Question

**2.3 2011/12 REVISED BUDGET
86A1 Revenue Collection/Benefits**

I am pleased that Housing Services have cut back on the use of Bed & Breakfast for emergency accommodation and increased the use of private sector leasing. What would have the overspend been if we hadn't transferred to PLS and continued to use B&B?

I know this is really a question for Scrutiny - Community, but are we experiencing increased demand for use of emergency accommodation? If we are, is enough PLS coming on-stream to cope?

Officer Response

We have seen an increase in the use of Temporary Accommodation since Christmas (we have about 20 more households, mostly single people) in Temp Acc than we did at the end of last year.

As an example of the potential overspend PSLs are cost neutral to the council whereas B&Bs will usually lose us at least £250 a week in subsidy.

Therefore if the additional 20 people were accommodated in B&B's rather than PSLs we would stand to lose at least £5,000 a week in subsidy.

At the current increased rate of homelessness presentations we would not have sufficient PSLs to keep up (at the current rate of PSL procurement). However the Development Team are seeking to address this and are making a number of promising contacts with landlords of HMOs.

Please contact Chris Hancock, Housing Need Manager - 265722 if you any more queries on this matter