

Item 7 - The future of the 'Sevenoaks Switch and Save' Scheme

The attached report was considered by the Housing & Health Advisory Committee on 29 September 2020. The relevant Minute extract is below.

Housing & Health Advisory Committee (29 September 2020 - Minute 48)

The Private Sector Housing Manager presented the report which set out options for the future delivery of energy comparison services. This included continuing to provide the Sevenoaks Switch and Save Scheme or supporting residents in accessing other existing nationally recognised services, set out as Options A or B at paragraph 21 of the report.

Members debated the options before them, discussing the benefits of the current scheme and expressing some concern that those currently benefitting could be the least digitally literate and could therefore lose out. It was noted if Option B were adopted, promotional improvements would be required to ensure an increased use of national energy switching services seen in the present scheme.

Public Sector Equality Duty

Members noted that consideration had been given to impacts under the Public Sector Equality Duty.

Resolved: That it be recommended to Cabinet that the preferred choice is Option B, to no longer fund or provide the Council's dedicated 'Sevenoaks Switch and Save' Scheme and instead promote existing nationally recognised energy switching comparison services and support local residents to access them at no cost to the Council.