

Executive Summary of Business for the Council

Title Sussex

sponsor	Professor Kelly Coate, Pro Vice-Chancellor Education & Students
Authors	Professor Kelly Coate, Pro Vice-Chancellor Education & Students, including members of the sub-group of the Accommodation Rental Charges and Funding Packages Task and Finish Group
Type	Report
Date	March 2022
Summary of paper	This paper sets out the Sussex Affordable Housing policy which has been discussed and designed with student representatives to ensure that any adverse impacts from accommodation rental charge increases are minimised for students from lower income backgrounds. The focus of the policy is to provide some financial support to first year undergraduate students who apply to live in guaranteed university accommodation and meet the eligibility criteria of the scheme. The policy is accompanied by a proposed implementation plan for 2023-24. Student Experience Committee (SEC) discussed the policy at its meeting on 9 March 2022. It welcomed the planned implementation pilot and evaluation; SEC expressed interest in receiving the outcomes of the evaluation. SEC discussed the use of the word 'affordable' but it was assured that this language aligned with the other institutions with a similar policy.
Suggested reading	Update on the Accommodation Rental Charges and Funding Package Task and Finish Group paper for SEC 10 November 2021
Resource implications	The resource to fund the proposed Affordable Housing Policy will come from the Housing Budget.

Value for Money	In setting rents, the University works on the principle that student accommodation provided by the University will be run on a long-term financially sustainable basis which allows for maintenance throughout the life of buildings and, where possible, provides a contribution to the refurbishment of older residences.
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Proposed Implementation Plan for 2023/24

Undergraduate students who qualify for the University's Housing Guarantee from household incomes of below £25k will be able to apply for an 'affordable room' as part of the new policy. These rooms will be charged at £125pw or lower. The rooms offered will be spread across University accommodation.

Process

Students will apply through the housing portal in the normal way (i.e. via the housing portal) and will be charged at the standard rate of £125pw or lower, depending on the room type.

