



## **Report to Council**

**Date: 27 February 2008**

**Author: S M Sale Head of Democratic and Community Services**

**Subject: Waiver of Contract Standing Orders**

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### **1. Purpose of Report**

To seek a waiver of Contract Standing Orders.

### **2. Background**

- (i) The Council retained the services of Lawrence Graham, solicitors, to provide specialist legal advice on the process of applying to transfer the housing stock and the pre-ballot process. The Council is currently in the process of balloting tenants on the transfer.
- (ii) It is now necessary to obtain the services of further legal consultancy advice in the areas relating to the post ballot work on the transfer of the properties, warranties and transfer documentation.

### **3. Proposal**

It is, therefore, proposed that Lawrence Graham be offered a further contract to provide such advice. Lawrence Graham have satisfactorily completed the current contract and have knowledge of the Council's processes, staffing and properties. They have been involved in all the negotiations concerning transfer and have experience of dealing with other transfers. It is, therefore, considered be in the interests of the Council to retain their services as this will facilitate a smoother and more efficient transition.

### **4. Recommendation**

It is, therefore, recommended that Contract Standing Orders be waived so that a further contract be offered to Lawrence Graham for consultancy services without the requirement for a tendering exercise.