

## **DESCRIPTION OF OPTION**

This option proposes to cease delivery of the councils Black, Minority and Ethnic (BME) floating support service, currently provided by the Department of Regeneration Housing and Planning.

## **RATIONALE FOR SAVINGS**

Whilst the service is not statutory the support is designed to help vulnerable people from the BME community to live independently in accommodation and prevent problems that can often lead to hospitalisation, institutional care, custody, tenancy breakdown and homelessness.

A number of other community based organisations have been developed in Wirral who provide services to the BME Community. As a result there is increased capacity to assist clients in accessing services.

If the service is decommissioned this would result in an annual saving of £100,000 from the Supporting People Budget.

## **IMPACT**

In the event that the other services are unable to absorb the additional workload then this could impact on the individuals and on corporate priorities of

- Reduced service to vulnerable adults and children
- Tackling poverty and inequalities in health.

In ceasing delivery of this service, consultation will be required with existing service users and partner agencies, including contracted services and the community and faith services.

There may also be a potential increase in demand for the services that the voluntary, community and faith groups offer.

## **MITIGATION**

A further option to service delivery would include retaining the service in house; however this would not achieve any savings.