



# Media Release

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## **COUNCIL TO CONSULT ON HOUSING OPTIONS**

**COUNCIL** tenants are to be consulted on the future management of their homes. Although tenants voted three years ago to stay with the council, new government guidelines mean that the council must look again at the future management and ownership of its homes.

This could range from the council continuing to own and manage its homes as it does now; to possibly setting up an independent company to undertake that role; or transferring the housing stock to a housing association.

Councillor Jean Butterfield, Cabinet Member for Housing, said: “We know from previous surveys that tenants are generally very satisfied with their homes and the service they receive. However, the government is once again asking us to carry out this housing stock options appraisal.

“This will be used to identify the option which will enable every property to meet the government's minimum standard for repair and improvement, known as the decent home standard. It also aims to ensure that the tenants' wishes can best be met. In addition, for this council, there is also a need to consider the wider issues of demand and supply and to optimise opportunities for providing additional units of affordable housing across the borough.”

An independent tenant advisor has also been appointed to provide tenants with advice about each of the options being considered by the council and will make sure the work is being done in a fair and objective way.

The council has already done a postal survey of all its tenants earlier this year, which provided some very useful information. However, the council now needs to build on the findings of this survey and from 20 September will be undertaking face-to-face consultation with tenants to find out more about what they want and to make sure they understand the options.

Council tenants may be visited in their home over the next few weeks by council staff who will be carrying identification cards which should be shown before being invited into a tenant's home. The two members of staff involved are Sue Hitchcock and Jill McClaren.

Anyone who is unsure about whether or not the caller is genuine should call the police or the local housing office. The numbers are detailed below:

Jennyfield Housing Office	01423 556838
Kennion Road	01423 556878
Bilton	01423 556818
Knaresborough	01423 869499
Ripon	01765 605481

There is also the council switchboard on 01423 500600 and emergency out-of-hours telephone number which is 0845 708 9190.

**FURTHER INFORMATION: Councillor Jean Butterfield is available for comment on 01423 770381. Further technical information is available from Sally Houghton, Tenancy Services Development Officer on 01423 556946**