

**THE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE****10 December 2012****Minute Extract****434. HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT – 2013/14 RENT SETTING AND BUDGET/BUSINESS PLAN OPTIONS**

(Report CAB2423 HSG refers)

The Head of Housing Services explained that the Report had been considered by the Cabinet (Housing) Committee earlier that day and that the recommendations had been agreed as set out.

In response to questions regarding the Government's welfare reform policies, the Committee noted that approximately 300 of the Council's tenants would be affected from April 2013, as under the new procedures, they were under occupying properties. Others would be affected by the new maximum payable in benefits and Members noted the Council's proposal to provide additional resources within Housing Services to help advise tenants on their personal budgets and minimise the effect on rent collection.

In response to concerns regarding the proposed increase in the rents, the Head of Housing Services explained that the increases were necessary to support the business plan set out in the Report and that the Council's social rents would remain less than the rents charged by other social housing providers in the District.

**RECOMMENDED:**

**THAT THE REPORT BE NOTED.**