

CABINET

17 February 2022

Minute Extract

1. **HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT (HRA) BUDGET 2022/23**
(CAB3334)

Councillor Learney introduced the report and stated that it was considered by the Scrutiny Committee at its meeting on the 15 February 2022 where a number of questions were responded to. Members raised concerns regarding the importance of homelessness prevention and queried why this item did not specifically feature in this or the General Fund report (CAB3335). It was confirmed that the detailed spending proposals to support homelessness prevention, which did not form part of the HRA, would be considered by the Business and Housing Policy Committee on 1 March 2022.

Cabinet noted that representatives from TACT had sent their apologies for Cabinet as they had no further queries in relation to this item following their opportunity to ask questions at the Scrutiny Committee meeting.

At the invitation of the Leader, Councillor Horrill addressed Cabinet as summarised briefly below.

Welcomed the opportunity for a full discussion of the report at Scrutiny Committee and the assurances provided in relation to homelessness prevention. Welcomed the recommendation to limit the rent increase to 3.1% and in general supported the contents of the report, including the continued commitment to the new homes programme. Highlighted that the approach to void turnaround should be discussed further to minimise the period properties remained unoccupied.

The Leader and Councillor Learney thanked Councillor Horrill for her support and responded to the point relating to void property turnaround.

Cabinet agreed the following for the reasons set out above and outlined in the report.

RECOMMENDED (TO COUNCIL):

1. **That the 2022/23 Housing Revenue Account budget be approved, as detailed in Appendices 1 and 2 to report CAB3334.**
2. **That the 10 Year indicative HRA capital programme be approved as set out in appendices 3 and 4 of the report.**
3. **That capital expenditure in 2022/23 of £9.289m be approved for the Maintenance, Improvement and Renewal**

programme as detailed in Appendix 3 of the report in accordance with Financial Procedure Rule 7.4

4. That the proposed indicative funding for the HRA Capital Programme be approved, as detailed in Appendix 5.

5. That the HRA Financial Plan operating account extract, including annual working balances be noted, as detailed in Appendix 6 of the report.

6. That the proposal to fund £0.300m new initiatives around the Housing White Paper – “The charter for social housing residents” be supported and additional resources be invested in the capacity of the new homes delivery team, the decent homes team and Neighbourhood/Estate Management.

7. That the proposal to increase the revenue funding for planned and reactive repairs by £0.500m to reflect both increased budget pressures and the cost of delivering an improved void standard to properties prior to letting be supported.

8. That a rent increase of 3.1% from April 4th 2022 for Social and Affordable housing within the HRA be approved.

9. That a cap on service charges for 2022/23 for all tenants at £5.00 per week be approved.