

DECISION TAKER: Councillor Neil Cutler, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Finance and Performance

REPORT TITLE: EXTRACT OF DRAFT MINUTE FROM THE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE HELD ON 22 NOVEMBER 2023

4 DECEMBER 2023

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WARD(S): ALL

PURPOSE

To receive an extract of the draft minutes of The Scrutiny Committee held on 22 November 2023 in relation to the Housing Revenue Account (HRA) Business Plan and Budget Options and General Fund Budget Options & Medium-Term Financial Strategy.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. That the extract of the draft minutes from The Scrutiny Committee held on 22 November 2023 in respect of the Housing Revenue Account (HRA) Business Plan and Budget Options (CAB3432) and General Fund Budget Options and Medium-Term Financial Strategy (CAB3430), be noted.

Extract from Minutes of Scrutiny Committee 22 November 2023**1. Report Title: Housing Revenue Account (HRA) Business Plan and Budget Options, Reference CAB3432**

RESOLVED:

That officers and the Cabinet Member are requested to consider the following matters.

1. To review the recommendations from the 2015 “New Build Rents Informal Policy Group Review”, to understand any potential impact with the proposals within this report.
2. To consider how to provide clear and comprehensive communication for new residents of newly constructed homes, explaining not only the rental costs but also the breakdown of overall living expenses and home running costs.
3. To review the assumptions and projections outlined in the report following the Autumn statement.
4. To evaluate the individual recharge implications for private owners who use the HRA water treatment works and the management of these costs in the future.
5. To clarify the “type of average” being presented in the tables within the report, particularly those presenting weighted average rents in section 14.
6. To provide clarification in the report that the 80% of market rent policy would apply to new homes, while tenants in existing homes would continue under the current basis.
7. To consider how the proposals for full cost recovery in tenant service charges in 2024-25 and for private connections of the council’s sewage treatment works could take into account appropriate resident/tenant consultation.
8. To amend page 22 of the report pack that contains 2 paragraphs, both numbered 7.1

2. Report Title: General Fund Budget Options and Medium-Term Financial Strategy, Reference CAB3430

RESOLVED:

That officers and the Cabinet Member are requested to consider the following matters.

1. To consider options for further communication to Councillors of the TC25 programme and opportunities for member involvement and engagement.
2. That with reference to paragraph 16.10 of the report, and in relation to the impact of the cost of borrowing and inflation, officers were asked to confirm which projects had been removed from the programme in February 2023.