

Meeting: Housing Sub-Committee

Date: 25 January 2016

Title: Update on Housing Revenue Account (HRA) Business Plan

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Service: Finance

Wards affected: All Wards

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 To provide background information on the presentation to the Sub-committee which will provide an update on the Housing Revenue Account (HRA) Business Plan.

2. Recommendations

The Housing Sub-Committee is recommended to note the contents of this report and the presentation to be received at the meeting.

3. Details

- 3.1 Members will be aware that Cabinet issued its draft proposals for the HRA Budget for 2016-17 on 7th December 2016 (see link below). Those proposals were formalised and taken to Cabinet for final approval on 14th January 2016. Once again 2016-17 continues the seemingly never-ending focus on change in Housing, with a whole new set of Government policy changes being proposed, which are currently progressing through Parliament within the:

- Welfare Reform and Work Bill; & the
- Housing and Planning Bill.

- 3.2 The intention is that some of the proposed changes will come into effect from April 2016, whilst others will follow on via statutory instruments over the next year, but whether it is rent reductions, pay to stay, the sale of “high value” vacant council housing, stricter limits on Housing Benefit payments or maintaining rent collection levels under Universal Credit and direct payments, the challenges ahead for the housing service are huge.

3.3 To keep Members of the Sub-Committee informed as to how these changes are likely to impact on the HRA Business Plan there will be a presentation to the Committee at the meeting. This presentation will outline the impacts that have already been provided for, and touch upon issues where we have still to establish the full details, and hence the implications for the service operationally and in terms of the budget and business plan.

4. Appendices

N/A

5. Background Information

The following documents have been used in the compilation of this report and may be inspected at the offices of the author:

- Report to Cabinet – 7 and 14 January 2016