

# SHEFFIELD CITY COUNCIL

## POLICY COMMITTEE DECISION RECORD

The following decisions were taken on Tuesday 7 February 2023 by the Strategy and Resources Policy Committee.

### Item No

#### **5. HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT (HRA) BUSINESS PLAN AND HRA BUDGET 2023-24**

5.1 The report provided the 2023-24 update of the Housing Revenue Account (HRA) Business Plan, including revised priorities and capital improvement plans for 2023-24. The report also set out the 2023-24 Housing Revenue Account (HRA) revenue budget and revenue contribution to capital for the Council housing stock in Sheffield.

5.2 **RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY:** That the Strategy and Resources Policy Committee approves for submission to the meeting of the City Council on 20 February 2023:-

- (1) the HRA Business Plan report for 2023-24, as set out in the Financial Appendix to the report;
- (2) the HRA Revenue Budget 2023-24, as set out in the Financial Appendix to the report;
- (3) rent increases for council dwellings by 7% from April 2023, in line with the Regulator of Social Housing's Rent Standard;
- (4) rent increases for temporary accommodation by 7% for 2023-24;
- (5) garage rent increases for garage plots and garage sites by 7% from April 2023;
- (6) the sheltered housing charge increase by 7% for 2023-24;
- (7) the burglar alarm charge increase by 7% for 2023-24;
- (8) the furnished accommodation charge increase by 7% for 2023-24;
- (9) the Hardship Fund increase by a further £300,000 for 2023/24, to £450,000; and
- (10) no increase to the community heating charge at this time.

#### **5.3 Reasons for Decision**

5.3.1 This report and its recommendations, set out the scale of the challenge ahead, the limited resources available and the difficult decisions that now need to be taken to deliver a balanced HRA budget for 2023-24. The delivery of a balanced HRA budget is dependent on setting a 7% rent increase for Council tenants as set out in

this report. The proposed recommendations:

- optimise the number of good quality affordable council homes in the city
- maximise the financial resources to deliver key outcomes for tenants and the city in the context of a self-financing funding regime
- ensure that tenants' homes continue to be well maintained and to optimise investment in estates; and
- assure the long-term sustainability of council housing in Sheffield.

#### 5.4 **Alternatives Considered and Rejected**

- 5.4.1 No other options were considered. The Council is required to both set a balanced HRA budget and to ensure that in-year income and expenditure are balanced.

### 6. **FAMILY HUBS AND START FOR LIFE PROGRAMME**

- 6.1 The report provided an overview and sought approval to commence the delivery of the national Department for Education (DfE) Family Hub and Start for Life Programme in Sheffield.

#### 6.2 **RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY:** That Strategy and Resources Policy Committee:-

1. approves the commissioning strategy and grant awards, as set out in this report, which will allow the Council to spend funding in line with the terms of the signed Memorandum of Understanding; and
2. delegates authority to the Director of Public Health to make any otherwise reserved commissioning and grant award decisions in relation to the Delivery Plan.

#### 6.3 **Reasons for Decision**

- 6.3.1 A requirement of the national DfE grant is to ensure adherence to the clinical models to support perinatal mental health and in line with the agreed delivery plan approved by DfE. This requires SCC to contract directly with NHS Trusts at Sheffield place level in order to fulfil these requirements and to meet allocation of the grant spend within appropriate financial year timeframes.

#### 6.4 **Alternatives Considered and Rejected**

- 6.4.1 No alternative options have been considered. The Memorandum of Understanding is prescriptive about how the funding can be spent. The method of commissioning of these services were specified during the grant application process.