

## HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT (HRA) BUSINESS PLAN, HRA BUDGET AND RENT INCREASE 2016/17

At its meeting on 13th January 2016, the Cabinet received a joint report of the Executive Directors, Communities and Place and Interim Executive Director, Resources providing the 2016/17 update of the Housing Revenue Account (HRA) Business Plan. The report also presented a 2016/17 revenue budget for the HRA.

Approval of the Housing Revenue Account is a function reserved to full Council.

The Cabinet's minute is set out below, and the Council is asked to approve the recommendations:-

## HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT (HRA) BUSINESS PLAN, HRA BUDGET AND RENT INCREASE 2016/17

- 16.1 The Executive Directors, Place and Communities and the Interim Executive Director, Resources submitted a joint report providing the 2016/17 update of the Housing Revenue Account (HRA) Business Plan, including a number of proposals.
- 16.2 **RESOLVED:** That Cabinet recommends to the meeting of the City Council on 3rd February, 2016 that :-
- (a) the HRA Business Plan report for 2016/17 as set out in Appendix A of the report is approved;
  - (b) the HRA Revenue Budget for 2016/17 as set out in Appendix B of the report is approved;
  - (c) rents for Council dwellings, including Temporary Accommodation, are reduced by 1% from April 2016 in line with the requirements of the anticipated Welfare Reform and Work Act 2016;
  - (d) rents for garages and garage sites remain frozen at 2015/16 levels and not increased from April 2016;
  - (e) community heating charges are not increased from April 2016;
  - (f) authority be delegated to the Director of Housing and Neighbourhoods to amend the burglar alarm charge in 2016/17 in line with the costs incurred under the new contract, and that, until the contract is in place and the charges are known, the burglar alarm charge remains unchanged;
  - (g) the Sheltered Housing service charge which was amended in November 2015 is not increased from April 2016;

- (h) charges for furnished accommodation are not increased from April 2016;
- (i) authority be delegated to the Director of Housing and Neighbourhoods and Director of Finance, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Housing, to authorise prudential borrowing as allowed under current Government guidelines; and
- (j) authority be delegated to the Director of Housing and Neighbourhoods and Director of Finance, in consultation with the Director of Legal and Governance and the Cabinet Member for Housing, to amend rent levels for 2016/17 in the event that the statutory requirements at the relevant time are different to those anticipated.

(NOTE: A copy of the joint report submitted to the Cabinet is attached.)

Eugene Walker  
Interim Executive Director, Resources