

HOUSING AND COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE

6th January 2022

PRESENT:

Labour Group

Councillor Rhind (Chair) and Councillor Mulgrew (Vice-Chair) and Councillors Pegg, Richards and Shepherd.

Conservative Group

Councillors Ackroyd, Churchill, Ford, Haines, Smith and Watson (substitute for Councillor Corbin).

Independent Group

Councillors Dawson and Angliss.

In Attendance

Councillor Wheelton

HCS/57 **APOLOGIES**

The Committee was informed that apologies had been received from Councillor Roberts (Independent Group)

HCS/58 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

The Committee noted that no Declarations of Interest had been received

HCS/59 **QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC PURSUANT TO COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULE NO 10**

The Committee was informed that no questions from members of the public had been received.

HCS/60 **QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF COUNCIL PURSUANT TO COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULE NO 11**

The Committee was informed that no questions from Members of the Council had been received.

MATTERS DELEGATED TO COMMITTEE

HCS/61 **SERVICE BASED BUDGETS 2022/23**

The Head of Finance presented the report the Committee and outlined the proposed fees and charges, the increase in grants for voluntary bodies along with the earmarked reserves. The overall Council position and the pay award

position were highlighted. The Committee was informed of a correction at 3.10 which should have read 'increase' and not decrease.

Councillor Ford raised a query regarding the reduction for Defence Flooding. The Head of Finance informed the Committee that there were a number of reasons for the reduction which would be reported to the Committee at a later date.

Councillor Richards enquired as to why Chestnut Avenue had been highlighted. The Head of Finance confirmed that clarification would be sought from the Head of Service.

RESOLVED:

- 1.1 That the proposed income and expenditure revenue budget for the Committee's services for 2022/23 as detailed in Appendix 1 of the report was considered and recommended to the Finance and Management Committee for approval.***
- 1.2 That the proposed fees and charges for 2022/23 as detailed in Appendix 2 of the report were considered and approved.***
- 1.3 The Committee gave consideration to the level of any increases in Grants to Voluntary Bodies in 2022/23 and recommended a 2% increase to Finance and Management Committee.***

HCS/62 **HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT BUDGET, FINANCIAL PLAN AND PROPOSED RENT 2022/23**

The Head of Finance delivered the report to the Committee and noted that deficits at point 4.7 of the report were due to debt repayments. The rent increase, the overall budget position and the expected number of Right to Buy applications were outlined. The Committee was informed how the repayment of loans and rental income increase would assist with the long-term financial picture.

Councillor Churchill enquired about the expected number of Right to Buy Applications. The Head of Finance clarified that it was because the number of applications had increased during the last financial year.

RESOLVED:

- 1.1 The Committee approved that the Council House Rents be increased by CPI plus 1% (4.1%) for Tenants with effect from 1 April 2022 in accordance with the Welfare Reform and Work Act 2016 and after conclusion of the Rents for Social Housing from 2020 consultation.***
- 1.2 That the proposed revenue income and expenditure for 2021/22, together with the 10-year Financial Plan for the Housing Revenue Account (HRA) as detailed in Appendix 1 of the report were***

considered and referred to the Finance and Management Committee for approval.

1.3 The Committee approved that the HRA be kept under review and measures identified to mitigate the financial risks detailed in the report and to maintain a sustainable financial position.

HCS/63 **COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME**

The Committee Work Programme was presented to Members by the Strategic Director (Service Delivery).

RESOLVED:

That the Committee considered and approved the updated work programme.

HCS/64 **LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972 (AS AMENDED BY THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT [ACCESS TO INFORMATION] ACT 1985)**

RESOLVED:

That, in accordance with Section 100(A)(4) of the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended), the press and public be excluded from the remainder of the Meeting as it is likely, in view of the nature of the business to be transacted or the nature of the proceedings, that there would be disclosed exempt information as defined in the paragraphs of Part 1 of the Schedule 12A of the Act indicated in brackets after each item.

HCS/65 **TO RECEIVE QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL PURSUANT TO COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULE NO. 11**

The Committee was informed that no questions had been received.

The Meeting terminated at hours. 18:18hrs

COUNCILLOR G RHIND

CHAIR