

Meeting: COUNCIL

Agenda Item:

Date: 5 December 2007

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BUDGET AND POLICY FRAMEWORK

Lead Officer - Scott Crudgington Ext No. 2185

1 PURPOSE

To approve the request for additional funding from Stevenage Homes Ltd (SHL) as recommended by Executive on 14 November 2007.

2 RECOMMENDATIONS

The request from SHL for the draw down of £872,000 held in the Housing Revenue Account (HRA) for additional Repairs and Maintenance costs in 2007/08 as recommended by Executive on 14 November 2007 be approved.

3 BACKGROUND

3.1 A detailed report was submitted to Executive on 14 November 2007 (Agenda Item 5). It emphasised that it is vital that the Council continues to work in partnership with SHL in order to achieve a 2 star rating from the Audit Commission. This will release supported borrowing from the Government to assist in delivering the Government's Decent Homes Programme that will bring significant benefits to tenants.

3.2 The Council Meeting on 28 February 2007 approved the 2007/08 HRA budget. One of the recommendations was to approve a contingency sum in the Budget and Policy Framework for 2007/08 of £500,000 for the HRA.

4 REASONS FOR RECOMMENDED COURSE OF ACTIONS AND OTHER OPTIONS

4.1 Following improvements in the repairs and voids service over the last few years SHL have experienced a significant increase in demand of job orders. Additional funding was provided in 2006/07 to cover the resulting increase in expenditure, and consequently for 2007/08 a provision of £922,000 (based on projections at that time) was made in the HRA. The use of this is subject to the approval of Council.

4.2 The Executive on 14 November 2007 recommended that £872,000 of the above provision be released to fund various elements of the repairs and maintenance programme.

5 IMPLICATIONS

5.1 Financial Implications

The approval of the recommendation can be funded from the provision of £922,000 which is included in the HRA.

5.2 Legal Implications

None identified at this time.

5.3 Policy Implications

None identified at this time.