

APPENDIX

Meeting: Executive
Portfolio Area: Housing and Resources
Date: 25 January 2010

Agenda Item: 2 A

HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT – RENT SETTING – 2010 / 2011 COMMENTS OF SCRUTINY OVERVIEW COMMITTEE ON DRAFT PROPOSALS

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This report was not circulated five clear days before the meeting, nor was it available for public inspection for that time. The Chair is therefore requested to accept the report as urgent business as it directly relates to other business it is considering on this occasion.

1. PURPOSE

- 1.1 To report to Executive the comments of the Scrutiny Overview Committee (21 January 2010) on the draft proposals for the 2010 / 2011 rent setting.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 That the Executive considers the comments of the Scrutiny Overview Committee (21 January 2010), as detailed below, when determining its recommendations to Council on the 2010 / 2011 HRA Rent Setting.

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 At its meeting on 21 January 2010 the Committee considered the officer report 'Housing Revenue Account (HRA) Rent Increase and Budget proposals for 2010/2011', together with the decisions of the Executive thereon. It was noted that detailed scrutiny of the HRA was to be undertaken by a Strategic Topic Group on 26 January. However on this occasion, particular consideration was given to the rent setting element of the report as the Executive on 25 January was considering its final recommendations on this matter to Council on 27 January.

4. COMMENTS OF THE SCRUTINY OVERVIEW COMMITTEE (21 JANUARY 2010)

- 4.1 The Committee asked a number of questions of the Strategic Director regarding technical aspects of the rent setting.
- 4.2 The Committee was concerned that despite the Committees' comments in 2008/09 for SHL to align their strategic financial planning and reporting processes with SBC, this had not been implemented. However, it was noted that the delay in the rent setting proposals was due to the deadline for consultation set by the Department of Communities and Local Government.
- 4.3 Members noted the additional recommendations made by the Executive concerning a further request for SHL to align their strategic financial planning and reporting processes to that of the Council and the Committee welcomed the decision that the Council work jointly with SHL to ensure that the communication of the rent increase to tenants includes an explanation of the part year reduction in rents for 2009-2010 in order that there is not a false perception that the increase for 2010-2011 is higher than it is and, that if necessary, public meetings be arranged to explain the rent increase directly to tenants.
- 4.4 In conclusion the Committee were content with the Executive's decisions in respect of the draft rent setting proposals 2010/2011 for recommendation to Council

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

See original report - Housing Revenue Account (HRA) Rent Increase and Budget proposals for 2010/2011

APPENDICES

None