

To: Cabinet

Date: 6 February 2025

Report/Comments of: Scrutiny Committee

Title: Scrutiny feedback to Cabinet – Revenue Budget  
Proposals 2025/26 for Housing Revenue Account

<b>SUMMARY OF REPORT CONSIDERED</b>	
<b>Report Title:</b>	Revenue Budget Proposals 2025/26 for Housing Revenue Account
<b>Purpose/Description of Report:</b>	To update Members on the financial position of the Housing Revenue Account (HRA) and, in line with the parameters set by government, to set the rents of the Council dwellings with an increase of 2.70%, approve the HRA budget estimates for 2025/26 and continue to set the working balance for 2025/26 at £1m.
<b>Key Decision:</b>	No
<b>Scrutiny Lead Member:</b>	Cllr M Brown, Scrutiny Committee Chairman
<b>Relevant Portfolio Holder:</b>	Cllr P Allnatt, Portfolio Holder for Housing and Landlord Services  Cllr S Cox, Portfolio Holder for Corporate Finance, Property and Resources

## 1. Introduction and Overview

The Scrutiny Committee met on 23 January 2025 to consider a report on Revenue Budget Proposals 2025/26 for Housing Revenue Account.

The purpose of this report is to update on the financial position of the Housing Revenue Account (HRA) and, in line with the parameters set by government, to set the rents of the Council dwellings with an increase of 2.70%, approve the HRA budget estimates for 2025/26 and continue to set the working balance for 2025/26 at £1m.

## 2. Summary of Feedback/Recommendations for Cabinet Consideration

- A concern was raised that Independent Living Charge would be increased by 5%, however the decision hasn't been justified and the report refers to a Council policy. Members asked that clarity be provided outside of the meeting.
- Concerns were raised regarding errors in billing for extra charges and the possibility that there are other errors yet to be uncovered. Members were reassured that there are checks and balances and steps have been taken to mitigate the errors.
- A discussion ensued regarding the energy efficiency scheme that the Council have put in a bid for funding. The comment was raised that flats require insulation too, however it was explained that the funding, if the bid is successful, would address issues in 80 of the worst properties in the housing stock. If the flats are one of the 80 worst, then they would be improved with the funding.

**Written by: Scrutiny Committee Chairman in consultation with Members of the Scrutiny Committee**