

# SHEFFIELD CITY COUNCIL

## POLICY COMMITTEE DECISION RECORD

The following decisions were taken on Thursday 14 December 2023 by the Housing Policy Committee.

### Item No

#### 8. **2023/24 Q2 BUDGET MONITORING REPORT**

8.1 The Head of Accounting introduced the report which brought the Committee up to date with the Council's General Fund Revenue and Housing Revenue Account outturn position for 2023/24 as at Quarter 2.

8.2 **RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY:** That the **Housing** Policy Committee:-

1. Note the updated information and management actions on the 2023/24 Revenue Budget Outturn as described in this report.

#### 8.3 **Reasons for Decision**

8.3.1 To record formally changes to the Revenue Budget.

#### 8.4 **Alternatives Considered and Rejected**

8.4.1 The Council is required to both set a balance budget and to ensure that in-year income and expenditure are balanced. No other alternatives were considered.

#### 9. **CAPITAL FINANCE MONITORING REPORT**

9.1 The Head of Service, Housing Investment and Maintenance introduced the report which explained that the Housing Capital Programme brought together the 5-year Capital Investment and Housing Growth proposals for Council Housing, setting out the priorities for current and future investment.

It outlined that the purpose of the plans was to continue to deliver Decent Homes, tenants' priorities and improving the quality of homes and neighbourhoods. The Housing Capital Programme is split into three distinct areas of activity; Council Housing Investment (existing stock and assets), the Council's Stock Increase Programme, funded from the Council's Housing Revenue Account, as described in the annual HRA Business Plan and the Non-HRA Capital Programme which includes programme management, Homes & Loans to private homes and investment in private homes.

The table at item 2.1 of the report showed the overall Housing Capital Programme split between Council Housing Investment, Stock Increase and Non-HRA areas of the programme.

The purpose of the report was to provide a quarterly update on progress against the approved 2023/24 Housing Capital Programme. The report focussed on providing an update on expenditure and progress against the 2023/24 Housing Capital Programme position at the end of September 2023 (Quarter 2).

The report also provided an update of the 5-year Housing Capital Programme and

the final approval of the 2022/23 Housing Capital Programme outturn.

9.2 **RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY:** That the **Housing** Policy Committee:-

1. Note the 2023-24 Housing Capital Programme forecasting and budget position at the end of quarter.
2. Note the update provided for the 5-year capital programme.

9.3 **Reasons for Decision**

9.3.1 The report was to provide the Housing Policy Committee members with an update on progress against the 5-year approved Capital programme at the end of Q2 2023/24.

9.4 **Alternatives Considered and Rejected**

9.4.1 No alternative options are considered as part of this update report.

## 10. **HNS AND REPAIRS PERFORMANCE REPORTS**

10.1 The Director of Housing and Neighbourhood Services introduced the report which provided the Committee with an overview of housing and repairs performance for a range of services within the remit of the Committee. This report covered the period up to quarter 2 (July – September) of 2023/24. The first part of the report provided an analysis of the performance, setting this within both the national and local context in which services are delivered. A detailed appendix report was included with comparative data against other landlords and regulatory performance. The report allowed the Committee to understand and comment on the performance delivery of housing and repairs services to both tenants and citizens.

10.2 **RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY:** That the **Housing** Policy Committee:-

1. Notes the Performance Report update provided for up to quarter 2 of 2023/24.
2. Highlights any issues of concern that they may wish to receive focussed analysis in future performance report.

10.3 **Reasons for Decision**

10.3.1 The Housing Policy Committee has delegated authority to monitor the performance of Housing and Repairs services to ensure that:

- The service is delivering for tenants, and that tenant satisfaction is closely monitored.
- Limited resources are maximised due to budgetary pressures.
- The Council is delivering on corporate priorities.

Performance information is shared with external organisations such as the Regulator of Social Housing and the Housing Ombudsman for scrutiny

10.4 **Alternatives Considered and Rejected**

10.4.1 The Housing Policy Committee has delegated responsibility for the regular monitoring of data including performance and financial information, and the performance monitoring of Housing (public sector, private sector, and related

functions) services. Therefore, no alternative options to the production of this report have been considered.

## **11. HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT BUSINESS PLAN**

11.1 The Director of Housing and Neighbourhood Services introduced the report which set out the 2024/25 Housing Revenue Account (HRA) Business Plan. Each year the HRA Business Plan is reviewed and updated to set budgets and charges for the year ahead and to provide an updated 5-year plan and 30-year affordability profile. The purpose of this report is to provide the Housing Policy Committee with an update on the current national and local housing context, regulatory requirements, the priorities for Committee action alongside capital and revenue spending plans for 2024/25. The Policy Committee will then be responsible for overseeing the scrutiny and, delivery of those plans on behalf of the Council housing tenants of Sheffield.

11.2 **RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY:** That the **Housing** Policy Committee:-

1. Notes that the HRA Business Plan report for 2024/25, the HRA Business Plan priorities for 2023/24 and HRA Revenue Budget 2023/24 as set out in the Financial Appendix, will go to the Strategy and Resources Policy Committee at its meeting in January 2024, for recommendation to Full Council for approval;
2. Notes that once adopted by Full Council, monitoring delivery of HRA Business Plan priorities will be within the remit of Housing Policy Committee and a regular performance reporting schedule will be approved;
3. Notes the recommendation for the increasing of Council rents for 2024/25 in line with the Government's Rent Standard.

### **11.3 Reasons for Decision**

11.3.1 The report and its recommendations, sets out the scale of the challenge ahead, the limited resources available and the difficult decisions that now need to be taken to deliver a balanced HRA budget for 2024/25 and for the overall 30-year viability. The delivery of a balanced HRA budget is dependent on setting a 7.7% rent increase for Council tenants as set out in this report.

### **11.4 Alternatives Considered and Rejected**

11.4.1 The Council is required to both set a balanced in year HRA budget and to ensure that in-year income and expenditure are balanced over 30 years. No other alternatives were considered.