

SHEFFIELD CITY COUNCIL

POLICY COMMITTEE DECISION RECORD

The following decisions were taken on Thursday 9 June 2022 by the Housing Policy Committee.

Item No

8. MONTH 1 MONITORING, FINANCIAL POSITION AND BUDGET TIMETABLE REVENUE AND MONITORING REPORT

8.1 The report brought the Committee up to date with the Council's financial position as at Month 1 2022/23. The report also reported the proposed budget timetable for the development of the 2023/24 budget

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

1. Note the Council's challenging financial position and the Month 1 position.
2. Note the budget timetable set out in this report including the requirement for the Committee to plan to develop budget proposals over the course of the summer.
3. Note that the Strategy and Resources Committee was recommended at its 31 May 2022 meeting to "require any Policy Committee that is forecasting an overspend on their budget to develop an action plan to address the overspend in-year and ask the Finance Sub-Committee to monitor both the development of any required action plans and delivery against them"
4. Commission work from Officers to develop and implement plans to mitigate the overspend in the Housing Revenue Account and deliver stalled savings plans to bring forecast outturn back in line with budget

8.3 Reasons for Decision

8.3.1 By the law the Council must set and deliver a balanced budget, which is a financial plan based on sound assumptions which shows how income will equal spend over the short- and medium-term. This can take into account deliverable cost savings and/or local income growth strategies as well as useable reserves.

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. RENT RECOVERY POLICY

9.1 To seek authority to update the Rent Arrears Recovery Policy. The changes to the policy will ensure that the Council's Housing Revenue Account (HRA) monies continue to be collected in a timely manner, with a bigger emphasis on prevention and support, trying to stop people falling into arrears in the first place. This income is used to provide comprehensive tenancy and estate management services for all

Council tenancies, Council housing repairs, regulatory compliance and delivery of capital investment programmes to improve the quality of homes and assets held in the HRA account. It enables Sheffield City Council to meet its statutory and regulatory responsibilities to continue the provision of providing decent homes to council tenants and equality of opportunity for people to have affordable housing to live in.

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

1. Consider the results of the consultation and have due regard to the feedback in reaching their decision.
2. Approves the changes to the current Rent Arrears Recovery Policy.

9.3 **Reasons for Decision**

- 9.3.1 The changes to the Rent Arrears Recovery Policy will ensure that the Council's Housing Revenue Account monies continue to be collected in a timely manner. They will enable Sheffield City Council to continue the provision of providing a good quality home to council tenants, and equality of opportunity for people to access a suitable affordable home to meet their needs.

9.4 **Alternatives Considered and Rejected**

- 9.4.1 Not updating the policy could result in a reduction of service and support to tenants to maximise their income and sustain their tenancies. This could ultimately result in increased arrears and reduced income to the Housing Revenue Account.