

CORPORATE SERVICES AND ECONOMIC GROWTH OSC

REPORT TO CABINET

14 FEBRUARY 2023

Budget 2023-24 and Medium-Term Financial Plan 2023-27 for the Housing Revenue Account

Councillor Glen Sanderson, Leader of the Council and Richard Wearmouth, Deputy Leader and Portfolio Holder for Corporate Services presented the report to the Committee on 13 February 2023. Jan Willis, Executive Director of Finance and Section 151 Officer and Philip Soderquest, Director of Housing and Public Protection were also in attendance to assist with any queries from members.

Members of all the Council's OSCs had been invited to attend the meeting to consider and make comment on the reports.

Members sought clarification on some aspects of the report, the details of which will be set out in the minutes. Members also noted that the proposal to increase rents by 7% was broadly in line with most other councils. However, the proposal to provide a £350,000 Hardship Fund in 2023/24 to support NCC tenants who may, due to their income, not be eligible to receive any financial assistance through existing benefits was welcomed. Members were assured that the fund would be monitored throughout the year.

Following a number of comments regarding the lack of affordable housing in Northumberland, particularly in rural areas, the Leader proposed to circulate a briefing note to all members on progress on the Council's Affordable Housing Programme.

The Committee therefore **RESOLVED** to advise the Cabinet of the comments of members as highlighted above.

COUNCILLOR DAVID BAWN

CHAIRMAN