

SUMMARY OF MAJOR MOVEMENTS IN HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT BUDGET 2018/19 - 2019/20

Note 1 - Dwelling Rents

The budget for Dwelling Rents reflects the final year of the 1% reduction in social rents announced by the Government in July 2015. The average dwelling rent is proposed to reduce from £101.22 in 2018/19 to £100.08 in 2019/20.

Note 2 - Tenant Service Charges

There is additional income of £54k on this line due to a grant from Herts County Council that was expected to have ceased. An additional £60k is also expected from service charge recovery on new properties.

Note 3 - Interest and Investment Income

There is an increase to the draft budget for 2019/20 due to increase in interest rates.

Note 4 - Contributions to Expenditure

The budget for Contributions to Expenditure has been increased by £70k to reflect an increase in income from minor capital receipts. In addition there is a budgeted increase of £40k from a new policy of charging leaseholders for alterations work. Income to be generated via a new post shown in Supervision and Management.

Note 5 - Repairs & Maintenance

There is a minor amendment to the budget for Repairs and Maintenance budget through investment in a maintenance officer to address disrepair claims at an early stage, which will lead to savings in repairs costs. Savings to be generated via a new post shown in Supervision and Management.

Note 6 - Revenue Contribution to Capital

The Revenue Contribution to Capital has reduced year on year, as a result of operational activities including reduced income from rents due to government policy and additional costs incurred maintaining the current asset portfolio. The capital programme is fully funded over the next 3 years through utilisation of capital receipts, capital grants and revenue contributions.

Note 7 - Supervision and Management

The draft budget includes the following assumptions:

In line with estimates for the General Fund, salaries budgets include pay inflation of 2.4%. Utilities budgets also include inflation of 5%.

Growth of £75k for a specialist Universal Credit income officer and new income analysis technology to improve efficiency in rent collection.

Growth of 2 posts recovered in increased income and reduced repairs (as above).

Growth of £120k in the new build team to contribute to delivery of the revised capital programme.

Increased recharge to the HRA from the General Fund to reflect updated share of central costs.

Note 8 - Provision for Bad Debts

The provision for bad debts has been increased by £300k in 2018/19 to allow for the part year effect of the implementation of Universal Credit. The new income analysis technology is expected to help reduce arrears and therefore have a positive impact on the level of bad debt.

Note 9 - Interest Payable

This line reflects the interest payment due on the HRA self-financing loan taken out in 2012.

Note 10 - Depreciation

The budgets for depreciation have been increased to reflect an increase in capital assets as a result of the new build programme, combined with inflation in house prices.