

Consultation responses – Overview and Scrutiny Committees

Comments and Recommendations from Overview and Scrutiny 2

DRAFT HRA BUDGET

The Committee heard that the rent increase proposed at 5.6% is based on Central Government's calculations.

Mr Chris Swinn addressed the Committee commenting that tenants should be consulted on rent increases but this had not happened. He referred to Section 105 of the Housing Act 1985 that states tenants should be involved in the monitoring process of consultation. There is a need to understand as to how these budgets are being implemented.

Mr Swinn was thanked for his address.

The Committee made observations and heard:-

- In respect of the current economic climate, the Committee noted that there are several schemes to help people in these difficult times. Individuals will need to contact the Housing Department. It was also noted that regular workshops are being set up for tenants to come in and discuss their problems.
- In response to a query regarding the suitability of the Maple Buildings, the Committee was advised that it has not as yet been confirmed whether it is feasible to use these buildings, however the Communities for Local Government (CLG) had commented that it will support a town centre location.
- There needs to be full consultation with residents and relevant organisations and bodies, such as the Anti Social Behaviour Panel before there are any firm proposals in place.
- Acorn House is in a poor state.

AGREED: That the HRA budget 2009 / 2012 be noted.