

Title of Report	2020/21 HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT (HRA) BUDGET PROPOSALS	
Presented by	Councillor Nicholas Rushton Corporate Portfolio Holder	
Background Papers	Corporate Scrutiny Committee Draft Minutes – 7 November 2019	Public Report: Yes
		Key Decision: Yes
Financial Implications	The report in appendix 1 sets out the budget for the Housing Revenue Account in 2020/21, and plans to deliver a surplus of £2.5m over the course of the year.	
	Signed off by the Section 151 Officer: Yes	
Legal Implications		
	Signed off by the Monitoring Officer: Yes	
Staffing and Corporate Implications	None	
	Signed off by the Head of Paid Service: Yes	
Purpose of Report	To receive comments on the draft Housing Revenue Account (HRA) budget proposals for 2020/21.	
Recommendations	THAT CORPORATE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE PROVIDE ANY COMMENTS IT MAY HAVE FOR CONSIDERATION BY CABINET WHEN IT MEETS ON 4 FEBRUARY 2020 TO CONSIDER THE BUDGET REPORT AND RECOMMEND ITS PROPOSALS TO COUNCIL ON 25 FEBRUARY 2020.	

1. BACKGROUND

- 1.1 The Housing Revenue Account (HRA) Budget Proposals for 2020/21 were presented to the Cabinet for approval for consultation at its meeting on 10 December 2019. The consultation will commence on 18 December and include resident involvement groups and wider public consultation via our website and social media platforms. The consultation will end on 4 February with results being fed back to Cabinet on the same day.
- 1.2 The Corporate Scrutiny Committee (the Committee) is invited to consider the proposals and provide any comments to Cabinet to take into account when it agrees its final recommendations on 4 February 2020. Separate reports appear on this agenda covering the General Fund and Special Expenses revenue budget proposals, the Capital Programmes and the Medium Term Financial Plans.
- 1.3 The Committee had early sight of the larger proposed changes to budgets on 7 November 2019. The budget report, attached in Appendix 1, presents the complete draft HRA budget, including changes to staff costs, the revenue contribution to capital outlay required to fund the capital programme and all de minimis changes. Section 7 of the budget report explains how the views of the Committee have been reflected. Any additional budget proposals not previously seen by the Committee in November have been marked with an asterisk in appendix B of the HRA budget report. All are budget savings that have been identified as we have finalised the draft budget.

Policies and other considerations, as appropriate	
Council Priorities:	The HRA budget mainly assists the “local people live in high quality, affordable homes” priority. There are also links to the value for money priority.
Policy Considerations:	This budget sets out our rent policy for 2020/21, in line with the proposed national rent increase formula.
Safeguarding:	No issues
Equalities/Diversity:	No issues
Customer Impact:	<p>The majority of our tenants will be impacted by the increase in rents set out within the report in appendix A.</p> <p>The budget also ensures that our Housing service is sufficiently resourced to be a good landlord.</p>
Economic and Social Impact:	No issues
Environment and Climate Change:	<p>The budgets set out in appendix A do not reflect the climate emergency declared by the Council in May 2019. This is because officers are still building up an understanding of how we can respond most effectively.</p> <p>We consider the HRA budgets to have sufficient flexibility to absorb additional costs during the year to start this work when completed.</p>
Consultation/Community Engagement:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Corporate Leadership Team (CLT). • Housing and Property Services Portfolio Holder • Corporate Scrutiny Committee.
Risks:	The Council sets a HRA budget, which is regularly monitored throughout the year to ensure services are delivered within budget. Risks are managed through the corporate risk management process.
Officer Contact	<p>Tracy Bingham Head of Finance and Section 151 Officer Tracy.bingham@nwleicestershire.gov.uk</p>