

## **SOCIAL INCLUSION SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

**21<sup>st</sup> January 2005 at 6.00p.m.**

**PRESENT:** Councillor Shaw (Chair); Councillors McGarvie, Timoney, and Yasin

### **1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE (REF: 1)**

Apologies for absence from the meeting were received from Councillors Iqbal and Skepelhorn.

### **2 HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT ESTIMATES AND RENTS 2005/06 (REF: 7.1)**

The Director of Housing and Social Services was represented by the Head of Performance and Resources who reported to the Committee on the draft estimates of the Housing Revenue Account for 2005-06 and the provisional forecasts for the two subsequent years. He used a Powerpoint presentation to illustrate his presentation.

He referred to the report to the Executive that was to be considered at the meeting on Monday 24<sup>th</sup> January when recommendations would be made to the Council meeting to be held the following day. The report to the Executive set out the estimates of expenditure and the basis on which they had been arrived at and the estimates of income and the rent levels and charges on which they were based.

He explained the way in which it was intended that rents would be varied to converge with Formula rents by 20011/12 and the guidance given by the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister. He also explained the basis on which the calculation of subsidy results in a net payment from the HRA to the Government. He advised that the perennial issue of the apportionment of costs between the HRA and the General Fund would best be addressed as a consequence of the outcome of the Stock Options Appraisal.

The level of the HRA balance would reduce if the proposed budget was approved but the level of the balance at the end of next year and for the following two years would remain well above the minimum recommended level.

The Acting Head of Housing (Landlord) reported the outcome of the consultation with the Tenants Consultative Committee.

Members of the Committee asked questions relating to the minimum balance, rent levels, service charges, the Gypsy caravan site and the procedure for asking questions on this matter at the Council meeting on 25<sup>th</sup> January and officers responded.

**Resolved:** (i) That if in the event it proves necessary, the following recommendation be submitted to the Council: That the Executive Portfolio Holder be asked to respond to questions asked at the meeting by all or any Members of the Council.

**(Note: The meeting ended at 6.45 p.m.)**