

CAMBRIDGE CITY COUNCIL
Record of Executive Decision

**Housing Revenue Account - Service Plan 2007/08 & Revenue and
Capital budgets revised 2006/07 and draft 2007/08.
Services Plan General Fund (HRA aspects only)**

Decision of: Catherine Smart, Executive Councillor for Housing

Reference: HMB/070108/A01

Date of decision: 8 January 2007 (recorded on 9 January 2007)

Decision Type: Key Decision

Matter for Decision: to consider whether service priorities and resources should be refocused, to enable objectives and targets for the coming year to be met and approve overall base revenue budget position for the Housing Revenue Account

Why the decision had to be made (and any alternative options): Service Plans and draft budgets are key elements of the Council's budgetary and policy framework

The Executive Councillor agreed to:

- 1) Approve with any amendments, the current year funding requests and savings, (shown in Appendix A).
- 2) Approve the revised revenue budget for 2006/07, as shown in Appendix D, which results in a reduced use of reserves of £45,740.
- 3) Agree proposals for revenue savings and bids, as set out in Appendix C, which have been incorporated into the budgets presented for this portfolio.
- 4) Approve the budget for 2007/08 as shown in Appendix D.

Review of Charges:

- 5) Approve the proposed charges for Housing Revenue Account services and facilities, as shown in Appendix B to this report.
- 6) Approve that council dwellings rents be increased by no more than 5% on average, with a maximum in individual increases of inflation (3.6%) plus half percent (0.5%) plus £2.00 per week with effect from 2 April 2007, in accordance with revised government guidelines for rent restructuring. This will be achieved for 2007/08 by applying a 5% rent increase to all properties, where allowable.
- 7) Approve inflationary increases of 4.3% in garage rents in line with an average of employee and building cost inflation and inflationary increases of a maximum of 4.1% (3.6% inflation plus 0.5%) in service charges for door entry systems, lifts, and stair lifts, using the retail price index (RPI) at September 2006.
- 8) Approve that caretaking and communal cleaning charges, temporary housing premises and utilities charges, and sheltered scheme premises and utilities charges continue to be recovered at full cost.

Performance Targets:

- 9) Agree the service objectives and proposals for 2007/08 and future years for services contained within the Housing Revenue Account, as set out in Appendix 1 of the service plan, and the performance indicators and targets as set out in Appendix 2 of the plan.
- 10) to ensure that a formal consultation process is established with tenant and leaseholder representatives and organisations on the proposals within the customer access strategy that will impact on tenants and leaseholders.

- 11) to comment to the Area Joint Committee that the new traffic restriction outside Mandela House and Hobson House had had an impact on the elderly and disabled tenants using those offices as the bus stop and taxi rank had been moved further away.

Reasons for the decision:

These are set out in the report.

Scrutiny consideration:

Two further recommendations were made to the Executive Councillor (nos 9 and 10 above). The scrutiny committee considered and approved the recommendations as amended for the Executive Councillor by 11 votes to 0.

Report: Agenda Item 5 of Housing Management Board, 8 January 2007

Conflicts of interest: No conflicts of interest were declared by the Executive Councillor.

Comments:

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Record of Executive Decision

**Resident Involvement Report, incl. Annual Grant Application from
Tenant Federation**

Decision of: Catherine Smart, Executive Councillor for Housing

Reference: HMB/070108/A02

Date of decision: 8 January 2007 (recorded on January 2007)

Decision Type: Non-Key Decision

Matter for Decision:

The next stage of the Resident Involvement development and the Tenant Federation grant.

Why the decision had to be made (and any alternative options):

Detailed in the officer report.

The Executive Councillor agreed:

- a) To approve the report's proposals for the next phase of RI development
- b) To approve the Tenant Federation grant of £89,880 for 2007/08, subject to a performance monitoring of the Federation's Grant Agreement throughout the year ahead

Reasons for the decision:

Detailed in the officer report.

Scrutiny consideration:

The scrutiny committee considered and approved the recommendations by 14 votes to 0.

Report: Agenda Item 6 of Housing Management Board, 8 January 2007

Conflicts of interest:

No conflicts of interest were declared by the Executive Councillor.

Comments: