

# **CABINET MINUTES**

## **10 FEBRUARY 2011**

**Chairman:** \* Councillor Bill Stephenson

**Councillors:**

* Bob Currie	* Graham Henson
* Margaret Davine	* Thaya Idaikkadar
* Keith Ferry	* Phillip O'Dell
* Brian Gate	* Mrs Rekha Shah
* Mitzi Green	

<b>In attendance:</b>	James Bond	Minute 146
<b>(Councillors)</b>	Susan Hall	Minute 141 and 146
	Barry Macleod-Cullinane	Minute 146
	Ben Wealthy	Minute 146

\* Denotes Member present

### **RECOMMENDED ITEMS**

#### **152. Key Decision - Housing Revenue Account Budget 2011/12 to 2015/16**

Cabinet received a joint report of the Corporate Director Finance and the Interim Divisional Director Housing, which set out the Housing Revenue Account (HRA) Budget for 2011/12 to 2015/16.

The Corporate Director Finance stated that the Council had a statutory obligation to agree and publish the HRA Budget for 2011/12. The Medium Term Financial Strategy set out the planned income and expenditure for the HRA over the coming five years and how income collected would be spent in the management and the maintenance of the Council's housing stock and in meeting its obligations as a landlord. The HRA showed how much money the Council intended to raise from rents and service charges and how much was intended to be spent on the management and maintenance of the housing stock.

The Corporate Director added that the HRA balances would increase from 2012/13 and would become sustainable. She referred to the proposed increase in rents, and the improvements made to the quality of housing stock in moving towards the Decent Homes standards.

The Corporate Director Adults and Housing added that together with the Housing Ambition Plan, a drastic change in the finances and performance of the housing service had been achieved and the levels of satisfaction had increased, all of which had been reflected into a 'healthier' HRA.

The Leader of the Council stated that the HRA budget had been dysfunctional over a number of years with deficits being funded from reserves. This budget would put matters right and there would be a surplus in the following year.

Members noted the feedback received from the Tenants' and Leaseholders' Consultative Forum and the Harrow Federation of Tenants' and Residents' Association (HFTRA).

The Leader of the Council congratulated staff for their hard work. He added that the HRA was due to be abolished in April 2012 and he hoped that any new regime which replaced the HRA would bring benefits to local authorities.

**Resolved to RECOMMEND:** (to Council)

That the Housing Revenue Account (HRA) for 2011/12 and the HRA Capital Programme at Appendices 2 and 3 to the minutes be approved.

**Reason for Decision:** To publish the final HRA proposals and set Council rents and other charges for 2011/12.