

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

SPECIAL HOUSING COMMITTEE – 5 FEBRUARY 2003

DRAFT ESTIMATES 2003/2004 HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT

Joint Report by the Director of Homes and Technical Services and the Director of Finance

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To report to Members on the outcome of the consultation exercise for the Housing Revenue Account on the draft estimates for 2003/2004 as considered by the Special Housing Committee on 16 January 2003, and on the associated possible rent levels for 2003/2004.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The Housing Committee at a special meeting on 16 January 2003 agreed the draft estimates for the 2003/2004 Housing Revenue Account as a basis for consultation. Subsequently the Special Policy and Resources Committee of 16 January 2003 also approved the draft estimates noting that there is a shortfall amounting to £1.135M of income which will require to be funded from increased rent. Over 48 weeks the sum would equate to £1.50 per week (or £1.38 for 52 weeks).

3. CONSULTATION

- 3.1 In line with the Councils practice in previous years, there have now been a series of consultations meetings with members of the Trade Unions, Local Committees, and the public. The public meetings were held at Cumnock in Cumnock Academy and at the Council Headquarters in Kilmarnock. Both meetings were modestly attended. There are a number of questions asked about housing policy but no adverse comment was made upon the proposed rent increase. Indeed the only comment which was made, indicated that they felt that the councils rent increase of £1.50 was justified.

4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 Taking account of the consultation there are no changes proposed to the budget which was considered by Members at the Special Housing Committee on 16 January 2003 and the Special Policy and Resources Committee of the same date.

5. POLICY / LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 The Council has a statutory requirement to give 4 weeks notice of any change in rent.

6. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 6.1 It is recommended that the Committee:
- a) Remit to the Policy and Resources Committee the draft estimates as submitted to the Special Housing Committee on 16 January 2003;
 - b) Consider a rent increase of £1.50 per week over a 48 week period, in order to balance the Housing Revenue Account; and
 - c) Otherwise note the contents of the report.

James Lavery
Director of Homes and Technical Services

Alex McPhee
Director of Finance

JL/DMcL
30th January 2003

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

1. Special Housing Committee – 16 January 2003
2. Special Policy and Resources Committee – 16 January 2003

For further information please contact James Lavery, Director of Homes and Technical Services on 01563 – 554875 or Alex McPhee, Director of Finance on 01563 –576306.

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