

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

POLICY AND RESOURCES – 30 NOVEMBER 2000

HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT TO 20 OCTOBER 2000 (PERIOD 7)

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

1 PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To advise Members of the current budgetary control position of the Housing Revenue Account for the period ended 20 October 2000 (Period 7).

2 OVERALL POSITION

- 2.1 The budgetary position summarised at Period 7 is detailed in Appendix A which, highlights an under-spend of £0.612m at Period 7 and a projected out-turn overspend of £0.619m for the financial year 2000/2001. This together with the decreased deficit of £0.334m brought forward from 1999/00 gives a projected deficit carried forward of £0.285m. The budget to 20 October 2000 is based on standard phasing for each period of income and expenditure, except where the Director of Homes and Technical Services has indicated otherwise.

3 SUBJECTIVE ANALYSIS

3.1 Employee Costs

Employee Costs are underspent as a result of some vacancies with the department.

3.2 Property Costs

Repairs expenditure includes the cost of work recharged and also the cost of work completed but still to be recharged. Work is in hand by the Director of Homes and Technical Services to seek to align estimated commitment values with actual recharges received in order to refine these figures.

3.3 Administration Costs

Voids - As previously reported expenditure on Void Properties is running significantly ahead of budget. The out-turn figure in the previous financial year was £1.178m. The budget for Voids was reduced in this financial year to take account of improved re-letting efficiencies arising from the introduction of the Orchard system.

Latest figures indicate that there were 888 void properties against 474 estimated for in the budget. These figures illustrate an overspend which, if the trend continues, will out-turn at £1.609m against a budget of £0.830m which is £0.779m over budget. Stock turnover continues at high levels particularly in areas of little or no demand. This is aggravated by changing economic and demographic trends within

our communities. The Director of Homes and Technical Services is currently reviewing a range of measures to tackle the problem of surplus housing and a separate report has been submitted to the Housing Committee.

Central Support Charges - These charges are under review and may be subject to variation due to the implementation of the Best Value Accounting Code of Practice from 1 April 2000.

3.4 Decoration Vouchers

Expenditure on New Tenant Decoration Vouchers is demand led and reflects a reduced requirement for the service.

3.5 Payments to Other Bodies

This budget includes a provision of £0.233m for the East Ayrshire Housing Partnership. To date the Council has agreed to pay £0.105m of which £0.041m was provided in last year's accounts. This leaves balance on the budget line of £0.168m.

3.6 Debt Charges

Some of the budgeted expenditure relates to Homeless Persons and will be recovered directly from Central Government.

4 GENERAL

4.1 The department is currently examining a range of measures to try to reduce expenditure further in the current financial year without cutting across council policies within which services are delivered. The Director of Homes and Technical Services will continue to monitor this closely and progress will be reported to the Housing Committee and the Policy and Resources Committee through regular Budget Monitoring Reports.

5 RECOMMENDATIONS

5.1 It is recommended that Members note the contents of this report.

Alex McPhee
Director of Finance

James Lavery
Director of Homes and Technical Services

10 November 2000

**LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS
NIL**

For further information please contact James Lavery, Director of Homes and Technical Services on 01563 554875.

AGENDA