

# **Report to Housing Scrutiny Panel**

**Date of meeting: 9 February 2015**

**Portfolio: Housing – Cllr D. Stallan**

**Subject: Proposed Council Rent Increase 2015/16 and Charges to Older Tenants in Sheltered and Area Schemes**



**Officer contact for further information:**

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**Committee Secretary: Mark Jenkins (01992 56 4607)**

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## **Recommendations:**

**(1) That the Summary of the proposed HRA Budget 2015/16, and associated recommendations on the Council rent increase and charges to older tenants in sheltered and area schemes for 2015/16, be noted; and**

**(2) That the Scrutiny Panel receives an oral presentation on the main issues relating to the HRA Budget 2015/16 and associated rent increase and increased charges from the Director of Communities.**

## **Report:**

1. At its meeting held on 19 January 2015, the Finance and Performance Management Cabinet Committee considered the HRA Budget 2015/16 and a number of associated recommendations on the Council rent increase and charges to older tenants in sheltered and area schemes.

2. As a result, the Cabinet Committee agreed to make a number of recommendations to the Cabinet on these issues, which will be considered at the Cabinet meeting on 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2015.

3. It has become customary for the Housing Scrutiny Panel to be briefed each year by the Director of Communities on the key issues relating to the HRA Budget and, in particular, the proposed Council rent increase.

4. Attached as an Appendix are the following documents:

- The Cabinet Committee's recommendations to the Cabinet
- The commentary provided to the Cabinet Committee on the HRA Budget 2015/16
- The Summary of the HRA Budget 2015/16

5. At the meeting, the Director of Communities will brief members of the Scrutiny Panel on the key issues which, this year, includes a number of increased charges, and changes to the charges, made to older tenants in sheltered and area housing schemes, as a result of a significant cut in funding from Essex County Council for the provision of housing related support.