

## **FC71. HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT AND COUNCIL HOUSE RENTS 2015/16 – 2017/18**

Council considered a report by the Director of Corporate and Neighbourhood Services and the Chief Finance Officer presenting a draft Housing Revenue Account for the financial year 2015/16; making recommendations on the level of council house and other rents for 2015/16, and proposing indicative rent levels for the years 2016/17 to 2017/18.

Councillor G Goldie, seconded by Councillor D Goldie, moved that Council agrees the draft Housing Revenue Account budget for 2015/16 as set out in appendix 2 of the report, with the following specific recommendations:-

- (1) a rent increase of 3.6% to be applied from 1 April 2015. The average fortnightly charge would therefore increase from £124.73 to £129.22, based on the 24 fortnightly periods with no rent being charged during the fortnightly periods commencing 29 June 2015 and 28 December 2015;
- (2) lock-up garage rentals to increase from an average of £5.72 per week to £5.93 per week;
- (3) garage site rentals to increase from £77 per annum to £78 per annum;
- (4) Castings Hostel rentals to increase from £147.78 per room per week to £153.10 per week (excluding fuel charges);
- (5) homeless property rentals to increase from an average of £171.32 per week to £177.49 per week, and
- (6) noted the indicative budgets and rent increases for 2016/17 and 2017/18 as representing the best information available at this time.

As an amendment, Councillor Carleschi, seconded by Councillor Meiklejohn, moved the terms of the motion with clause (1) substituted with the following:-

- (1) a rent increase of 1.5%, in line with inflation, be applied from 1 April 2015 helping those hard pressed working families who are being hit hardest by the current Westminster's austerity agenda. The average fortnightly charges to be adjusted accordingly with the balance of circa £1m to be drawn from reserves and efficiency savings.

In terms of Standing Order 22.4(i), a vote was taken by roll call, there being 31 members present with voting as undernoted:-

For the motion (17) – Provost Reid; Depute Provost Patrick; Baillies Buchanan and Paterson; Councillors Black, Blackwood, D Goldie, G Goldie, Gow, MacDonald, McLuckie, Mahoney, C Martin, Dr C R Martin, Murray, Nicol and Nimmo.

For the amendment (14) – Councillors Alexander, Balfour, Bird, Carleschi, Chalmers, Coleman, Hughes, Jackson, McCabe, McNally, Meiklejohn, Oliver, Ritchie and Spears.

## Decision

Council agreed the draft Housing Revenue Account budget for 2015/16 as set out in appendix 2 of the report, with the following specific recommendations:-

- (1) a rent increase of 3.6% to be applied from 1 April 2015. The average fortnightly charge would therefore increase from £124.73 to £129.22, based on the 24 fortnightly periods with no rent being charged during the fortnightly periods commencing 29 June 2015 and 28 December 2015;
- (2) lock-up garage rentals to increase from an average of £5.72 per week to £5.93 per week;
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- (4) Castings Hostel rentals to increase from £147.78 per room per week to £153.10 per week (excluding fuel charges);
- (5) homeless property rentals to increase from an average of £171.32 per week to £177.49 per week, and
- (6) noted the indicative budgets and rent increases for 2016/17 and 2017/18 as representing the best information available at this time.