

Tenant Views on Balancing the Budget 2016/17

Tenants have scrutinised the Budget Proposals and feel that all the Growth Items in Appendix C should be funded, based on the information within the report to Cabinet dated 12th January 2016.

This means that the budget gap identified in Appendix B needs to be increased by £172K for 2016/17. Tenants accepted the principle of the savings identified in Appendix E but would like to see the final details prior to implementation.

Tenants suggested that the savings should be achieved by re-profiling the Capital Budget and “slipping” investment into next year. This would allow a comprehensive assessment of all savings to be conducted and a major consultation exercise undertaken to establish views before savings of around £10M were recommended for the following 3 years. Tenants also indicated that they consider that the Beechtrees Revival should be started, although the pace of improvement may need to be considered.

Tenants were not in favour of painting rendering to improve the look of areas, particularly the "no fines" buildings, as they believe this would only be cosmetic. They would want any re-rendering to concentrate on improving energy efficiency rather than simply being cosmetic.

Tenants were supportive of Environmental Improvements generally, but would like more detail on how this is to be spent and may prefer this to be spent on energy efficiency to homes.

Additionally, areas that tenants wished to be explored for possible savings as part of the Policy Option Proposals in July 2016 are as follows:

- Raise additional income by letting more garages, particularly for commercial storage.
- Review high spending/high performance areas of housing with a view to reducing costs.
- Review administration costs of the service and support costs to deliver efficiencies and consider other options for delivery of the service e.g. Housing Co-Operative or ALMO etc.
- Review the specification for grounds maintenance.