

# Cabinet – Supplementary agenda No.4

**A meeting of the Cabinet will be held on:**

**Date:** 9 February 2016

**Time:** 4.30pm

**Venue:** Meeting Room 2 - Level 3, Gun Wharf, Dock Road, Chatham ME4 4TR

## Items

- |     |   |                          |
|-----|---|--------------------------|
| 7.  | <b>Housing Revenue Account Capital and Revenue Budgets<br/>2016/2017</b>            | <b>(Pages<br/>3 - 4)</b> |
|     | Addendum Report   |                          |
| 14. | <b>Annual Public Health Report of the Director of Public Health -<br/>2014/2015</b> | <b>(Pages<br/>5 - 6)</b> |
|     | Addendum Report   |                          |

For further information please contact Wayne Hemingway/Anthony Law,  
Democratic Services Officers on Telephone: 01634 332509/332008 or Email:  
[democratic.services@medway.gov.uk](mailto:democratic.services@medway.gov.uk)

**Date: 8 February 2016**



This agenda and reports are available on our website  
[www.medway.gov.uk](http://www.medway.gov.uk)

A summary of this information can be made available in other formats from **01634 333333**

If you have any questions about this meeting and you want to speak to someone in your own language please ring **01634 335577**

বাংলা	331780	ગુજરાતી	331782	ਪੰਜਾਬੀ	331784	كوردی	331841	ارو	331785	Русский	332374
中文	331781	हिंदी	331783	Polski	332373	ଏହ୍‌ଶଂଫଦ	331786	فارسی	331840	Lietuviškai	332372



**CABINET**  
**9 FEBRUARY 2016**  
**HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT**  
**CAPITAL AND REVENUE BUDGETS 2016/17**  
**ADDENDUM REPORT**

Portfolio Holder: Councillor Howard Doe, Deputy Leader and Housing and Community Services

Report from: Richard Hicks, Director of Regeneration, Community and Culture

Authors: Michael Turner, Democratic Services Officer  
Phil Watts, Chief Finance Officer  
Marc Blowers, Head of Housing Management

**Summary**

This addendum report updates Cabinet on the discussions on the above report which took place at the Business Support Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 2 February 2016.

**1. Background**

- 1.1 The Head of Housing Management introduced this report which presented the Housing Revenue Account (HRA) capital and revenue budgets for 2016/17 and also provided details of proposed rent and service charges levels for 2016/17.
- 1.2 Members were referred to paragraph 3.1 of the report which stated that the impact of new rent setting measures introduced by the Government for social housing landlords to reduce weekly rent by 1% in 2016/17 and for the following three years, meant a reduction of income of approximately £6.7m. The Head of Housing Management advised that further evaluation had led to a revised reduction of income of approximately £5.4m, an improvement of some £1.3m. This still presented challenges for the Business Plan which currently assumed annual rent increases. A Member commented that this Government policy would have a detrimental impact on all housing authorities' HRA business plans and ran counter to the principles of localism and devolution.
- 1.3 During the discussion the following points were made:
  - given that Universal Credit would be paid monthly, whether anything could be done to help tenants on those occasions where the rent cycle entailed

5 weeks in a month - in order to avoid them being chased for arrears unnecessarily

- It was queried why non council tenants had to pay VAT on garage rents while council tenants did not.

1.4 The Head of Housing Management replied that, with regard to the first point, officers were looking at this issue before Universal Credit was fully introduced. He undertook to provide clarification on the second point.

1.5 The Committee agreed to recommend to Cabinet:

- a) that the rent cycle move from a 50 week rent payment year to a 52 week rent payment year for both the housing stock and garages.
- b) a proposed rent decrease of 1% for the housing stock as set out in Appendix A to the report (based upon 52 collection weeks).
- c) a rent increase of 2% for garages.
- d) that the service charges and increases as set out in Appendix B of the report for 2016/17 be approved.
- e) that the revenue budget for the HRA Service for 2016/17 as per Appendix C of the report be approved.
- f) that the provision for the repayment debt continues to be based on a minimum revenue payment of 2% on the 2016/17 HRA opening outstanding debt.
- g) to increase the 2016/17 HRA housing building development programme amount by the available RTB 1-4-1 capital receipts and remaining from 2015/16 MRP payment as set out in paragraph 9.5 of the report.

### **Lead officer contacts**

Michael Turner, Democratic Services Offer

Telephone 01634 332817 Email: [michael.turner@medway.gov.uk](mailto:michael.turner@medway.gov.uk)

Phil Watts, Chief Finance Officer

Telephone 01634 332220 Email: [phil.watts@medway.gov.uk](mailto:phil.watts@medway.gov.uk)

Stephen Gaimster, Assistant Director, Housing and Regeneration

Telephone (01634) 331192 E-mail: [stephen.gaimster@medway.gov.uk](mailto:stephen.gaimster@medway.gov.uk)

Marc Blowers, Head of Housing Management

Telephone (01634) 334382 E-mail: [marc.blowers@medway.gov.uk](mailto:marc.blowers@medway.gov.uk)



## CABINET

**9 FEBRUARY 2016**

# **ANNUAL PUBLIC HEALTH REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC HEALTH 2014/2015**

## **ADDENDUM REPORT**

Portfolio Holders: Councillor David Brake, Adult Services  
Councillor Mike O'Brien, Children's Services

Report from: Dr Alison Barnett, Director of Public Health

Author: Steve Platt, Democratic Services Officer

### **Summary**

To present the comments of the Health and Wellbeing Board following its consideration of the Annual Public Health Report on 4 February 2016.

### **1. Background**

- 1.1 The Director of Public Health introduced her Annual Public Health report for 2014/15 stating that it had been inspired by the transfer of responsibility for commissioning the Healthy Child Programme for children aged 0-5 from the NHS to Local Authorities from October 2015.
- 1.2 During the discussion, members of the Board praised the report and raised a number of points and questions, which included:
  - 1.2.1 Embedding the report into the Council. The report highlighted important current issues and challenges set in a historical context and should be used to inform action across the Council. The Board asked that all officers should read the plan. The Director of Public Health advised that one example of embedding public health was the Directorate's work with colleagues in Planning on the development of the Local Plan.
  - 1.2.2 Availability of the report to GPs. The Director of Public Health confirmed that the report would be sent to all GP practices and was available on-line.
  - 1.2.3 Immunisation rates. The Director of Public Health confirmed that data accuracy remained an issue and must be addressed in order to focus action on increasing uptake.
- 1.3 The Board noted the Annual Public Health Report and the priorities identified for improving the health and wellbeing of children.

**Lead officer contact:**

Dr Alison Barnett, Director of Public Health  
[alison.barnett@medway.gov.uk](mailto:alison.barnett@medway.gov.uk)