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HOUSING AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

10 May, 2011

HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT BUDGET SAVINGS (H&E/11/053)

Reference was made to article 3 of the minute of the Budget meeting of Council of 10 February, 2011 at which time officers were instructed to identify £600,000 of efficiency savings within the management and administration budget. The Committee had before it on this day, a report by the Director of Housing and Environment which (1) advised as to the implications on service delivery of implementing the £600,000 saving; (2) presented information on the modernisation of the housing service that was being undertaken; (3) detailed the back office staff in employment within the Housing and Community Safety team; (4) provided information on the establishment of a Limited Liability Partnership; (5) reminded members that officers were developing a thirty year business plan for the Housing Revenue Account; and (6) presented £413,000 of savings that could be achieved to mitigate the requirement for the £600,000 saving within the management and administration budget.

The Committee resolved:-

- (i) to note that meeting the £600,000 budget saving solely from the management administration budget would require a staff reduction in the region of 25%, and that this would have a major impact on service delivery;
- (ii) to agree to the following savings (a total of £413,000), which could be delivered without compromising service delivery:
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| • Closure of Logie and Cornhill Offices | £ 50k |
| • Reducing cleaning payments to internal contractors | £ 13k |
| • Reducing legal expenses | £ 100k |
| • Reducing Tenant Participation costs | £ 50k |
| • Integrated Housing System | £ 50k |
| • Void Rent Loss (Houses and Garages) | £ 100k |
| • ASBIT (anti social behaviour investigation team) | £ 50k |
- (iii) to agree to await the outcome of the work on the Housing Revenue Account thirty year business plan, which is to be reported to this Committee at its next meeting of 25 August, 2011, and which would indicate a number of options where significant savings could be made; and
- (iv) to refer this report to the Finance and Resources Committee, as the budget monitoring committee of Council.