

Appendix D

Notes from the meeting of the Budget Scrutiny Panel Phase 2 - Adults, Health Partnerships, Housing - 19th January 2024

Present

Budget Scrutiny Panel Members

Cllr Lyn Buckingham (Chair)
Cllr Lora Lawman (Vice-Chair)
Cllr Anne Lee
Cllr Paul Marks
Cllr Steven North
Cllr Russell Roberts

Apologies were received from Councillor Hakewill, Councillor Levell and Councillor Zoe McGhee (Cllr Lee substituting).

Adults, Communities and Health Officers

David Watts (Executive Director of Adult Social Care)
Sam Fitzgerald (Assistant Director of Adult Services)
Matthew Jenkins (Assistant Director of Commissioning and Performance)
Zakia Loughhead (Assistant Director of Safeguarding and Wellbeing)
Evonne Coleman-Thomas (Assistant Director of Housing)

Executive Members

Cllr Lloyd Bunday (Finance and Transformation)
Cllr Mark Rowley (Housing, Communities and Levelling Up)

Observers

Cllr John McGhee and Cllr Keli Watts

Finance Officers

Janice Gotts (Executive Director for Finance and Performance)
Mark Dickenson (Assistant Director for Finance and Strategy)
Claire Edwards (Assistant Director for Finance Accountancy)
Maria Idione (Strategic Finance Business Partner)

The Committee considered a presentation by the officers of Adults, Health Partnerships and Housing, which outlined the proposed 2024/25 directorate budget and the key risks relating to services the directorate delivered.

During discussion, the principal points in relation to the Housing Revenue Account (HRA) were noted:

- (i) Members queried how many accommodation properties the local authority owned across North Northamptonshire.
- (ii) Members queried the rates of bad debt provision.
- (iii) Members queried whether energy efficiency measures had been established for Council properties.

In response, officers clarified that:

- (iv) The local authority owned around 8,000 properties across North Northamptonshire.
- (v) Bad debts provision were maintained at the same rates and would be re-assessed on an annual basis.
- (vi) Energy efficiencies were determined when contracts with energy providers were secured, and regular reviews of these contracts were undertaken.