



# 2023/24 HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT PROVISIONAL REVENUE CARRY FORWARDS

**To:**

Councillor Gerri Bird, Executive Councillor for Housing and Homelessness

**Report by:**

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**Wards affected:**

Abbey, Arbury, Castle, Cherry Hinton, Coleridge, East Chesterton, King's Hedges, Market, Newnham, Petersfield, Queen Edith's, Romsey, Trumpington, West Chesterton

## Key Decision

### 1. Executive Summary

- 1.1 This report presents details of any anticipated variances from budgets, where resources are requested to be carried forward into the 2024/25 financial year in order to undertake or complete activities anticipated to have taken place in 2023/24.
- 1.2 The position in relation to rephrasing of any investment as part of the Housing Capital Investment Plan will be reported to Housing Scrutiny Committee in the June 2024 committee cycle, alongside final revenue carry forward requests.

## **2. Recommendations**

The Executive Councillor, is recommended, following scrutiny and debate at Housing Scrutiny Committee, to:

- a) To agree the provisional carry forward requests, totalling £731,520 as detailed in Appendix A, are approved, subject to the final outturn position.

## **3. Background**

### **Revenue Outturn**

- 3.1 Approval in principle is sought to carry forward unspent budget from 2023/24 into the next financial year, 2024/25. Provisional carry forward requests are being presented to the March 2024 Housing Scrutiny Committee, to ensure that officers have the appropriate authority to continue uninterrupted to deliver services and projects, from April 2024, that have been delayed for any reason.
- 3.2 Final carry forward requests will be presented in the June 2024 committee cycle, where the sums involved may differ from the estimates provided in March 2024, which have been provided for approval in principle.
- 3.3 Appendix A sets out the provisional list of items, for the Housing Revenue Account, for which approval is sought to carry forward unspent budget from 2023/24 to the next financial year, 2024/25.

## **4. Implications**

### **(a) Financial Implications**

- 4.1 The financial implications of approving the provisional carry forwards of £731,520 budget from the current year into 2024/25, will result in a reduced requirement in the use of Housing Revenue Account reserves for the current financial year, from £2,628,660 to £1,897,140, with a corresponding increase in the use of reserves in 2024/25.
- 4.2 A decision not to approve a carry forward request will impact on officers' ability to deliver the service or scheme in question and this

could have staffing, equal opportunities, environmental and / or community safety implications.

### **(b) Staffing Implications**

Any direct staffing implications arising from the delay in delivery of workstreams, or the carry forward of resource, will be considered and addressed by officers as part of each individual carry forward approval.

### **(c) Equality and Poverty Implications**

There are no direct equality and poverty implications associated with this report.

### **(d) Net Zero Carbon, Climate Change and Environmental Implications**

There are no direct net zero carbon, climate change or environmental implications associated with this report.

### **(e) Procurement Implications**

Any procurement implications arising from the delay in delivery of workstreams will be considered and addressed by officers as part of each individual carry forward approval.

### **(f) Community Safety**

There are no direct community safety implications associated with this report.

## **5. Consultation and communication considerations**

Consultation with tenant and leaseholder representatives is an integral part of the Housing Scrutiny Committee process. committee.

## **6. Background papers**

Background papers used in the preparation of this report:

Background information is held in the Council's financial management system.

## **7. Appendices**

- Appendix A – Provisional HRA Carry Forward Requests

## **8. Inspection of papers**

To inspect the background papers or if you have a query on the report please contact:

Julia Hovells, Head of Finance and Business Manager

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## Housing Committee - Housing Revenue Account

### Revenue Budget 2023/24 - Carry Forward Requests

Provisional Request to Carry Forward Housing Revenue Account Revenue Budgets from 2023/24 into 2024/25

Item		Cost Centre	Contact	Forecast outturn variance position of cost centre (underspend) / overspend at year end prior to carry forward	March 2024 Carry Forward Request £
	<b>Strategic Director - Jane Wilson</b>  <b>Supervision and Management General</b>				
1	HRA Business Overheads - A budget for abortive HRA development fees exists to allow feasibility work to be undertaken on potential new build development sites. This budget was increased in 2023/24 to allow specific feasibility work at Ekin Road and in respect of rooftop (air space) development. Not all of this work will be completed in 2023/24 and the balance of the budget is requested as a carry forward into 2024/25 to facilitate completion of the work.	6007	Julia Hovells	(191,720)	191,720
2	Housing Transformation - The Housing Transformation Fund was increased in 2023/24 to allow the HRA to both prepare for housing regulation and contribute to the costs of corporate transformation. Although work has progressed in both areas, there is still a huge amount to complete. Early work has identified some regulatory concerns and data issues, which will also need significant resource to deliver the improvement required. As a result, a carry forward is requested to supplement the fund already available in 2024/25 to ensure that improvements can be delivered as quickly as possible.	6008	Julia Hovells	(229,200)	229,200
3	City Homes - Welfare Reforms - One-off funding is approved to support the transition between housing benefit and Universal Credit, particularly during the period where all remaining claimants who need to, are required to move between benefits. Although some extra resource has been deployed in 2023/24, this has been funded from existing staffing budgets, leaving the ear-marked sum available to support this task in 2024/25 subject to carry forward approval.	6012	Anna Hill	(61,240)	61,240
	<b>Supervision and Management Special</b>				
4	Independent Living Service - Activity Co-Ordinator - Grant funding of £40,110 was received in 2023/24 to allow the employment of an Activity Co-Ordinator for sheltered and older person's housing on a fixed term contract for 12 months. The postholder was recruited and started during October 2023 and so will be in post until October 2024. Carry forward of the funding will allow the authority to fulfil the grant commitments and honour the fixed term contract.	6104	Laura Adcock	(20,230)	20,230
	<b>Repairs and Maintenance</b>				
5	Citywide Schemes - Smoke Detectors - Orders for the annual programme of smoke detector replacements were issued at the start of 2023/24, but due to access issues, the forecast expenditure is anticipated to be well below budget. The need to replace these smoke detectors still exists, and therefore a carry forward is requested into 2024/25 to make further attempts to complete these works.	6205	John Conroy	(229,130)	229,130
	<b>Appropriations</b>  No carry forward items currently - There is the potential need to re-phase use of revenue financing of capital expenditure depending upon the final capital spend for the HRA for 2023/24				
	<b>Total Revenue Carry Forward Requests for Housing Revenue Account / Housing Scrutiny Committee</b>				<b>731,520</b>