

**COUNCIL**

13th February, 2007

**PRESENT** – The Mayor; Councillors Baldwin, Bristow, Copeland, Dixon, Flowers, Francis, Harker, Mrs. Hart, Hartley, Haszeldine, Heaney, Holmes, Hughes, Johnson, Lawton, Lewis, Long, D.A. Lyonette, J.M. Lyonette, Maddison, McEwan, Newall, Nutt, Richmond, Ruck, A.J. Scott, Mrs. Scott, Stenson, Mrs. Swift, Thistlethwaite, L. Vasey, G.B. Walker and Williams. (34)

**APOLOGIES** – Councillors Armstrong, Mrs. Brown, Foster, Hutchinson, B. Jones, Mrs. D. Jones, S. Jones, Lee, Maybrey, Dr. Reynolds, Roberts, F.S. Robson, S. Robson, Swainston, Vasey-Smith, J.C. Vasey, Wallis and Wilson. (18)

**ABSENT** – Councillor Galletley. (1)

**73. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST** – Councillors Francis and Williams each declared personal and non-prejudicial interests in minute 75 below. Councillor Haszeldine declared a personal and prejudicial interest in Minute 75 below and left the meeting during consideration of that item and took no part in the discussion and voting thereon.

**74. ANNOUNCEMENT - DEATH IN SERVICE** – The Mayor reported the death in service of Mr. Jim O’Hara, who died following a tragic road traffic accident whilst at work, on 30th January 2007. Mr. O’Hara was employed by the Council as part of the Environmental Services Street Scene Team.

**RESOLVED** - That the deepest sympathy of the Council be conveyed to the family of Mr. O’Hara for the sad loss they have sustained.

**75. HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT – REVENUE BUDGET 2007/08** – The Director of Community Services submitted a report (previously circulated) requesting approval of the draft revenue budget, rent levels and service charges for the Council’s Housing Revenue Account (HRA) for the financial year 2007/08.

The submitted report outlined the principal factors and key elements taken into account in the draft budget; the Government’s policy on rent restructuring; the Housing Subsidy determination; a review of garage rents and service charges; and an assessment of the housing services from a value for money point of view.

**RESOLVED** – That the following, as detailed in the submitted report, be agreed :-

- (a) the implementation of rent restructuring and formula rents be continued;
- (b) an average weekly rent increase of 5% (£2.43) be implemented in line with the Government rent re-structuring model;
- (c) the Ground Maintenance and Building Cleaning service charges for Extra Care and Sheltered Housing Schemes be increased as shown in Table 3 of the submitted report;

- (d) All other service charges, with the exception of resident warden charges and garage rents, be increased as detailed in Table 4;
- (e) Resident Warden Charges increase to £8.51 per week, in accordance with Option (iv) in Paragraph 8;
- (f) Garage rents increase to £5.43 per week, in accordance with Option (iv) in Paragraph 13; and
- (g) The budget at Appendix 1 of the submitted report, be approved.

**REASONS** – (a) To enable the Council to deliver an appropriate level of service to Housing tenants.

(b) To reflect changing circumstances and conditions in the housing market.