

**Appendix 1 to the Minutes of Housing Overview & Scrutiny Committee meeting 22/01/13**

**OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY**

**Housing Council Fund - Initial Budget Proposals 2013/14**

No.	Comments and Questions:	Responses:
1.0	<b><u>Corporate Comments / Issues</u></b>	
1.1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The overall picture given is too optimistic. Why does it appear to be so healthy in a time of reduced grant funding?</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Council is encountering reduced grant levels in some areas which are being dealt with, but grant applications have been maximised in order to protect the Council's position as much as possible.</li> </ul>
2.0	<b><u>Housing Council Fund Comments / Issues</u></b>	
2.1	<b><u>General Comments/Issues</u></b>	
2.1.1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Have we budgeted sufficiently for our Homelessness responsibilities, and is there also a potential for problems with private sector rents due to the impact of benefit reductions?</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Adequate provision has been made for potential increased demand on the Homelessness service as we recognise that this is an emerging pressure as a consequence of Welfare Reforms. There is a potential for problems with private sector rents and the Council will need to be flexible in dealing with both the public and private sector.</li> </ul>
2.2	<b><u>Efficiencies</u></b>	
2.2.1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Information was sought on the efficiency of £0.018m arising from the Service Review on the Resident Wardens service.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The proposal to delete one of the current vacant posts will leave sufficient resources for ongoing service delivery.</li> </ul>