

Motion by Liberal Democrat Group

The City of Edinburgh Council

**Item 4.2: Housing Revenue Account (HRA) Budget
Strategy 2023/2024 – 2032/2033**

Council:

Notes

That tenants and residents organisations are vibrant and necessary in helping shape Council policy, therefore;

That a 2.5% increase would only allow 81% (4/5ths) of the Council's EESSH2 (*Energy Efficiency in Scottish Social Housing 2*) target to be met, while 77% of tenants responding to the consultation have indicated that energy bills are getting harder to pay for, and nearly a quarter are actively reducing their energy usage.

That an additional 0.5% on top of the officer recommendation would allow an extra c.£22.4 million of revenue to be raised over the lifetime of the current business plan, or an average of £747,700 a year, which could be used to support up to an additional funding of c.£11.7m in capital borrowing.

Agrees

In view of the ongoing negative impact of the Cost of Living Crisis, and the last two years of rent-freeze which, if continued, could lead to a deficit within four years of this budget or a reduction in services, agrees to increase Council rent by 3%, comfortably within the COSLA recommendation that rents do not increase by more than 5%.

The additional 0.5% of revenue will be apportioned equally three ways between EESSH2, the New Homes programme and the Council House Repairs programme. Prioritises the establishment of a 'Tenants Hardship Fund' to support those council tenants who are not receiving welfare from either the Department of Work and Pensions or Social Security Scotland.

Moved by

Councillor Pauline Flannery

Seconded by

Councillor Jack Caldwell