



CABINET – 4TH FEBRUARY 2015

SUBJECT: REVIEW OF WHQS INVESTMENT STRATEGY AND HRA CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2015/16

REPORT BY: ACTING DIRECTOR OF CORPORATE SERVICES AND SECTION 151 OFFICER

- 1.1 The attached report was considered by the Policy and Resources Scrutiny Committee on 20th January 2015, having previously been considered by the Caerphilly Homes Task Group on 11th December 2014. The report advised Members of the revised WHQS investment strategy and set out the HRA capital programme budget for 2015/16. The views of Members were sought prior to its presentation to Cabinet.
- 1.2 It was explained that major slippage during the 2014/15 financial year has necessitated a review of the investment strategy over the remaining five years of the programme. The slippage will cause additional pressure due to the increase in the volume of properties that will need to be completed over a shorter timescale. In order to maintain the principle of separation of internal and external works there are a large number of community area sequence changes, mainly affecting the external work. The HRA capital programme budget has allocated the necessary resources based on the Savills cost plan to deliver the programme during 2015/16 to meet the revised WHQS Investment Strategy.
- 1.3 Due to the factors outlined above it has been necessary to revise the work programme downwards for the current financial year to 1683 properties, which reflects the number of works packages that will have been committed. However a number of these works packages are expected to run on into 2015/16 and the projected outturn position in March 2015 has worsened since the time of writing the report, with around 1000 completions now anticipated. The implications of the over run on the 2015/16 programme will be assessed in April 2015.
- 1.4 Officers responded to queries regarding the programme of internal and external works in specific areas of the county borough. Members sought reassurances that the WHQS programme would be completed by 2020, with it explained that the revised programme would be reviewed during the first quarter of 2015/16 and that any subsequent contingency plans would be implemented following this review.
- 1.5 Following consideration of the report, the Policy and Resources Scrutiny Committee unanimously recommended to Cabinet that for the reasons contained therein, the revised investment strategy and the capital programme for 2015/16 that flows from the strategy be supported.
- 1.6 Members are asked to consider the recommendation.

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Appendices:

Appendix 1 Report to Policy and Resources Scrutiny Committee on 20th January 2015 – Agenda Item 11