

## Service Charge Working Party Report to RCC, March 2023

### 1.Membership

#### Members

Bernie Burrows

Adam Hogg

Andy Hope

Helen Hudson

Sandra Jenner – Chair

Frits van Kempen

Fred Rodgers

Sally Spensley

### 2.Areas of Activity since last report

- BEO Review:
  - Project Team (Paul Murtagh, Rosalind Ugwu, Sandra Jenner and Julie Leo the Altair Lead Consultant) has been meeting at least weekly to oversee the project.
  - Fact finding phase of the review completed before Christmas
  - Interim Summary Report circulated in February
  - Phase 2 to produce proposals for improvements should be completed at end February
  - Final report should be produced shortly thereafter
- Progress against budget 22/23; Budget 23/24

Meeting held with Paul Murtagh, Rosalind Ugwu, Anne Mason, Helen Davinson, Mike Saunders - repairs, Graeme Low - energy, and Jason Hayes - programmed work, to understand and challenge:

  - 22/23 year to end January spending against estimates. There are considerable overspends on repairs for some blocks and a communication is being produced by the BEO for those blocks affected. Energy remains problematic – see below
  - 23/24 budget compilation, assumptions and justification. The figures provided were incomplete but we have another meeting arranged in March.

- Increases year on year are forecast and we have continued with our push to be forward looking and stressed that we expect budget owners/the managers who authorise expenditure ie who spend our money, to:
  - actively consider value for money and whether there are opportunities for delivering the service more efficiently ;
  - produce regular reports on progress with variance explanations

The BEO Review also recommends the need for these as well as many other improvements.

### Energy

A report will be provided by Graeme Low at the RCC meeting.

At the time of writing we have been told that:

- The reconciliation of energy usage for 2021/22 is still not complete and for 22/23 is almost complete
- Energy usage for 23/24 will be accurate
- The price is still unclear because the rebate for the solar deal has not been determined

Given the amount of work to be done we continue to work in groups of 2 so that a deeper dive can be undertaken into key elements of Service Charges: Energy; Repairs; Programmed work; and the BEO itself.

Sandra Jenner  
Chair, SCWP  
20/03/23