

**Extract from the Minutes of Meeting of the People Committee – 25 January 2018**

**Housing Revenue Account – Revenue Estimates 2018/19  
Cunntas Teachd-a-steach Taigheadais – Tuairmsean Teachd-a-steach 2018/19**

There had been circulated Report No PEO/02/18 dated 15 January 2018 by the Director of Community Services.

During discussion, the following issues were raised:-

- it was reassuring that tenant concerns had been taken into account during the consultation process;
- delegating the setting of garage rents to Local Committees was welcomed. In relation to increases in garage rents being used to repair some of the garages and their approach roads it was clarified that this decision too would be delegated to the Local Committees;
- staff were congratulated for the work processes that had helped to facilitate a modest increase in rent of 0.5%;
- ongoing supported communication between the Council repair and maintenance teams and tenants was urged;
- although loan charges were still considered to be high, their reduction was welcomed;
- assurance was sought, and provided, that a substantial programme of repair and maintenance would be implemented for the housing stock; and
- Highland remained one of the best Local Authorities in Scotland as regards keeping rent increases to a minimum.

\* The Committee **AGREED TO RECOMMEND:-**

- i. a 0.5% increase for council house rents for 2018/2019;
- ii. that the above percentage increase (0.5%) be applied to all residential HRA rents and service charges and to Gypsy/Traveller site pitches;
- iii. that rents for garages and garage sites be increased by 3%;
- iv. that non-HRA rents for leased property should increase as stipulated in existing contracts;
- v. that the estimated HRA surplus of £4.722m in 2018/2019 be applied as Capital from Current Revenue to fund HRA capital investment; and
- vi. that proposals on delegation of functions on setting garage rents to Local Committees be included as part of the next planned review of the Scheme of Delegation to Committees for approval by the Council.