

23 February 2017

Brighton & Hove City Council

Agenda item 81**HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT REPORT 2017/18
AMENDMENT****Conservative Group Amendment 6**

It is proposed that the following additional saving is made in the Housing Revenue Account budget for 2017/18:

- Increase the saving of £0.570m for Property and Investment (page 167) by £0.250m by delivering the housing capital investment programme within the planned timetable to reduce maintenance requirements. The Property & Investment budget has consistently underspent.

The additional £0.250m recurrent resources generated will be used to:

- Create a ring-fenced fund of £0.250m within the Housing Revenue Account to provide youth services for council housing households.

Chief Finance Officer comments:

Increasing the saving on the HRA Property & Investment budget, which includes repairs and servicing contracts, may impact on the ability of the service to keep pace with repairs and maintenance requirements and demands, and therefore result in higher long term costs, as well as impacting service standards. In turn, this may reduce the resources available within the Medium Term Financial Strategy and 30 Year Business Plan, or alternatively require release of one-off reserves. However, the service has historically achieved underspends.

In order to use the saving for Youth Services, it will need to be clear that the expenditure clearly and wholly brings benefits to council housing residents. This would need to be monitored closely, to ensure compliance with statutory provisions.

