

**Report for:** Leader of the Council - 17 January 2024

**Item number:** n/a

**Title:** Fire Safety Contract Budget Virement

**Report authorised by:** David Joyce, Director of Placemaking and Housing

**Lead Officer:** Scott Kay. Email [Scott.Kay@Haringey.gov.uk](mailto:Scott.Kay@Haringey.gov.uk) telephone 07815 653663.

**Ward(s) affected:** All.

**Report for Key/  
Non-Key Decision:** Key Decision.

**1. Describe the issue under consideration.**

1.1 This report seeks approval from the Leader of the Council for virements to make adequate budget provision for the expenditure required to implement the fire safety programmes detailed below.

**2. Cabinet Member Introduction**  
n/a

**3. Recommendations**

3.1. The Leader of the Council authorises virements to cover the cost of capital and revenue expenditure for the financial year April 2023 to March 2024, to a total of £2,100,540.00, of which £980,320.0 is revenue and £1,120,220.00 is capital, in order to implement the fire safety programme.

**4. Reasons for decision**

4.1 In January 2023, the Council wrote to the Regulator of Social Housing (RSH), the body that provides independent oversight of all registered social housing providers including local authorities and Housing Associations and made a voluntary self-referral for a potential breach of the Home Standard.

4.2 The RSH assessed the evidence provided as part of the self-referral and confirmed that the Council has indeed breached two parts of the Home Standard. As a result, the RSH published a Regulatory Notice on 6<sup>th</sup> March 2023. This notice remains “live” for 12 months or until full compliance is achieved.

- 4.3 In July 2023, the council entered a Voluntary Undertaking with the Regulator of Social Housing with the aim of achieving full compliance and discharge of the Notice.
- 4.4 The Voluntary Undertaking was agreed by Cabinet in July 2023 and delegated the authority to the Chief Executive to enter a Voluntary Undertaking with the Regulator.
- 4.5 The Voluntary Undertaking requires Haringey Council clearing the backlog of high-risk fire actions by 31<sup>st</sup> March 2024. Failure to do so can result in direct intervention from the Regulator of Social Housing.
- 4.6. These works require the use of multiple external contractors due to both resource requirements and specialist certification.
- 4.7 As part of the programme development to deliver the works required to meet our commitments, the value has been established and is additional to previously budgeted provision within the current financial year.

## **5. Alternative options considered.**

### **5.1 Do Nothing**

- 5.1.1 Doing nothing will mean that the Council will fail to meet its commitments to the Regulator provided in the Voluntary Undertaking.

## **6. Background information**

- 6.1 Since the Voluntary Undertaking, good progress has been made to reduce the number of high-risk actions.
- 6.2 This project seeks to deliver over 1300 of the remaining approximately 2000 overdue, high-risk actions to be completed by the deadline. The remainder are in several smaller programmes allocated to individual teams and being delivered through in-house or existing supply chain arrangements, including for example new loft hatches being installed.
- 6.3 The Director of Finance and Director of Placemaking & Housing have identified potential reserve funding capacity to fund the Revenue works and capital programme capacity for the virement needed to fund the capital works.
- 6.4 The breakdown of the projects and finding requirements is as follows.

Project	Position	Total Revenue	Total Capital	Total Value	23/24 Rev	23/24 Capital	Totals for FY23/24
3 x fire stopping contracts	2 x award reports written 1 x being tendered	£ 1,225,000	£ -	£1,225,000	£ 887,500	£ -	£ 887,500
1 x Bin chute contract	1 x award report writtent	£ 178,360	£ 267,540	£ 445,900	£ 106,080	£ 159,120	£ 265,200
3 Fire Enclosure Contracts	3 x being tendered	£ -	£1,504,500	£1,504,500	£ -	£ 659,600	£ 659,600
3 x Survey programme	3 x via existing fire consultants	£ -	£1,005,560	£1,005,560	£ -	£ 288,240	£ 288,240
<b>Totals</b>		<b>£ 1,403,360</b>	<b>£2,777,600</b>	<b>£4,180,960</b>	<b>£ 993,580</b>	<b>£ 1,106,960</b>	<b>£ 2,100,540</b>

6.5 The total cost of the works being committed is £4.18m, of which £2.08m will be met from the 2024/25 revenue and capital budgets. This report addresses the funding required for the £2.1m falling upon this year.

## 7 Contribution to strategic outcomes

7.1 This project will contribute to theme 5 of the Corporate Plan. A borough where everyone has a safe, sustainable, stable, and affordable home.

## 8. Carbon and Climate Change

8.1 This report requests the virement of budgets to support the delivery of fire safety programmes. The programmes themselves are the subject of individual procurements and award reports. Carbon and Climate Change is therefore considered in each of those reports in line with the “Carbon in All Cabinet Reports – Guidance for Report Writers”.

## 9 Statutory Officers comments

### 9.1 Finance – Director of Finance

9.1.1 It is proposed that £1,106,960 be vired from the Existing Homes Major Works capital budget to the Fire Safety capital budget. It is also proposed that £993,580 be vired from the HRA Revenue Reserve to the HRA revenue budget covering fire safety works.

### 9.2 Procurement

9.2.1 The recommendations of this report do not involve or require any procurement activity.

### 9.3 Legal

9.3.1 The Head of Legal and Governance (Monitoring Officer) has been consulted in drafting this report.

9.3.2 Under Part 4, Rules of Procedure Section I, Financial Regulations, the Leader of the Council has the power to add to authorise the virements set out in the recommendations in 3.1 of the report.

9.3.3 The Head of Legal and Governance (Monitoring Officer) sees no legal reasons preventing the Leader of the Council from approving the recommendations set out in 3.1 of the report.

#### **9.4 Equalities**

9.4.1 The council has a Public Sector Equality Duty under the Equality Act (2010) to have due regard to the need to:

- Eliminate discrimination, harassment and victimisation and any other conduct prohibited under the Act.
- Advance equality of opportunity between people who share protected characteristics and people who do not.
- Foster good relations between people who share those characteristics and people who do not.

9.4.2 The three parts of the duty apply to the following protected characteristics: age, disability, gender reassignment, pregnancy/maternity, race, religion/faith, sex and sexual orientation. Marriage and civil partnership status applies to the first part of the duty. Although it is not enforced in legislation as a protected characteristic, Haringey Council treats socio-economic status as a local protected characteristic.

9.4.3 The purpose of this decision is to approve the virements to cover the cost of capital and revenue expenditure for the financial year April 2023 to March 2024, to a total of £2,100,540.00, of which £980,320.0 is revenue and £1,120,220.00 is capital, in order to implement the fire safety programme.

9.4.4 Given that the aim of this decision is to continue to support resident safety through the delivery of our fire safety programmes, we do not predict any negative equalities implications resulting from this decision.

#### **10. Use of Appendices**

None

#### **11. Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985**

Not Applicable