

**Councillor Sarah Allen – Deputy Leader of the Council and Cabinet
Member for Housing and Neighbourhood Working**

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Our ref

SA/LH

Please Contact

Councillor Sarah Allen

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1st February 2024

Councillor Bennett-Sylvester

Elected Member

Via email: michael.sylvester@rotherham.gov.uk

Dear Cllr Bennett-Sylvester

Supplementary question to Council Meeting – 17th January 2024

Thank you for your raising a supplementary question at the Council meeting on 17th January regarding the Right to Buy Scheme and how it was impacting the housing stocks. You asked if there was any possibility that, where there were services enjoyed by an entire community but paid for out of the HRA / tenants rents, that this could be transferred over to the general fund?

I can advise that there are currently no plans to revisit the arrangements for how parks are accounted for in the HRA and General Fund but the Council will keep this position under review to ensure the balance of responsibility is appropriate to the HRA.

It is possible to transfer land from Housing Revenue Account (HRA) to General Fund or vice versa. This process is called appropriation. Appropriation happens within a legal framework that can trigger the requirement for Secretary of State consent. It also results in the requirement for accounting adjustments to be made to the General Fund and HRA Capital Financing Requirement (CFR). Transfers can also generate new financial obligations that would need to be funded, e.g. parks appropriated to

the General Fund would need a corresponding budget to provide for upkeep and maintenance.

I hope that my response is helpful.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Sarah Allen', written in a cursive style.

Councillor Sarah Allen

Deputy Leader

Cabinet Member for Housing and Neighbourhood Working