

HRA – Update on opening of the books exercise

- Since 2019/20, accounting practice has led more spend being charged to the HRA than should have been. As Susmita outlined previously, charges were made to cost centres that are within the HRA ring fence that were not core to providing a HRA related services. The current leadership has made significant efforts to ensure that the integrity of the HRA ring fence is not breached.
- The leadership brought in CIPFA to provide HRA bespoke training to all departments to ensure the compliance becomes embedded across all departments within the council. The training was recorded and slides from the sessions are available for staff and will be loaded onto Croydon Learning for ease of access for all staff.
- Service Level Agreements (SLA's) are being drawn up for the current financial year and future years. The SLA's must meet the requirements that the guidance sets. If not the SLA's will not be approved and will be rejected and the costs will need to be met from the GL
- The Council is in the process of updating its 2019/20 and 2020/21
- The accounts for these prior years will then be updated and the corrections to the HRA/GF charges will be made resulting in a transfer to HRA reserves from the GF
- External auditors are currently completing the audit of the prior year accounts
- Once completed the 2022/23 accounts will be published and will be available on the council web site
- [https://www.croydon.gov.uk/council-and-elections/budgets-and-spending/accounts-and-payments/financial-accountsancial accounts](https://www.croydon.gov.uk/council-and-elections/budgets-and-spending/accounts-and-payments/financial-accountsancial%20accounts) | Croydon Council

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