



Council 24 February/3 March 2022

## Decisions

Full meeting recording available on the Council's You Tube channel

1. Minutes
  - Approved
3. Public questions
  - Please see the recording of the question and response. Council minutes will follow.
4. Recommendations of the Executive.

4a. Housing Revenue Account Budget Strategy Report (Executive Councillor for Housing)

Approved the revised need to borrow over the 30-year life of the business plan, with the first instance of this anticipated to be in 2022/23, to sustain the proposed level of investment, which includes ear-marking funding for delivery of a net 1,000 new homes over a 10-year timeframe.

Recognised that the constitution delegates Treasury Management to the Head of Finance (Part 3, para 5.11), with Part 4F, C16 stating; 'All executive decisions on borrowing, investment or financing shall be delegated to the Head of Finance, who is required to act in accordance with CIPFA's Code of Practice for Treasury Management in Local Authorities.

Recognised that any decision to borrow further will impact the authority's ability to set-aside resource to redeem 25% of the value of the housing

debt by the point at which the loan portfolio matures, with the approach to this to be reviewed before further borrowing commences.

Approved capital bids, as detailed in Appendix D (3 ) and Appendix E of the HRA Budget Setting Report.

Approved the latest Decent Homes and Other HRA Stock Investment Programme, to include reduced expenditure for wall structure and fire safety works and re-phasing of other elements of the programme into later years, as detailed in Appendix E of the HRA Budget Setting Report.

Approved the latest budget sums, profiling and associated financing for all new build schemes, including revised scheme budgets for Colville III, Fen Road, Ditton Fields, Aragon Close, Sackville Close and Borrowdale based upon the latest cost information from the Cambridge Investment Partnership (CIP) and a reduction in unit numbers at Aylesborough Close, as detailed in Appendices E and H, and summarised in Appendix K, of the HRA Budget Setting Report.

Approved the allocation of funds from the budget ear-marked for the delivery of 1,000 net new homes to allow buy back of leasehold dwellings and relocation of tenants from Princess and Hanover Court over the next two years, in advance of a final recommendation for the future of the estate which will be presented once the options appraisal and consultation work has been concluded.

Approved the revised Housing Capital Investment Plan as shown in Appendix K of the HRA Budget Setting Report.

Approved the inclusion of Disabled Facilities Grant expenditure and associated grant income from 2022/23 onwards, based upon 2021/22 net grant received, with delegation to the Head of Finance, as Section 151 Officer, to approve an in year increase or decrease in the budget for disabled facilities grants in any year, in direct relation to any increase or decrease in the capital grant funding for this purpose, as received from the County Council through the Better Care Fund.

Approved delegation to the Head of Finance, as Section 151 Officer, to determine the most appropriate use of any additional Disabled Facilities Grant funding, for the wider benefit of the Shared Home Improvement Agency.

Approved delegation to the Director to review and amend the level of fees charged by the Shared Home Improvement Agency for disabled facilities grants and repair assistance grants, in line with any decisions made by the Shared Home Improvement Agency Board.

Approved delegation to the Director to review, agree and enter into a revised Shared Home Improvement Agency Shared Service Agreement, in line with recommendations made by the Shared Home Improvement Agency Board.

Approved delegation to the Director, in consultation with the Head of Finance, as Section 151 Officer, to draw down resource from the earmarked reserves for potential debt redemption or re-investment, for the purpose of open market land or property acquisition or new build housing development, should the need arise, in order to meet deadlines for the use of retained right to buy receipts or to facilitate future site redevelopment.

Approved delegation to the Head of Finance, as Section 151 Officer, to make any necessary technical amendments to detailed budgets in respect of recharges between the General Fund and the HRA, with any change in impact for the HRA to be incorporated as part of the HRA Medium Term Financial Strategy in September 2022.

#### 4b. Capital Strategy (Executive Councillor for Finance and Resources)

Agreed the capital strategy as set out in the report and noted the summary capital programme

#### 4c. Treasury Management Statement 2022/2025 (Executive Councillor for Finance and Resources)

Approved the attached report, including the estimated Prudential and Treasury Indicators for 2022/23 to 2025/26 (inclusive) as set out in Appendix C.

Approved the renewal of the £7.5 million loan to Cambridge City Housing Company Ltd (CCHC) for a further term of 5 years from 1 April 2022, at

an interest rate of 2.02% per annum.

Agreed to introduce an authorised limit for other long-term liabilities of £2 million, in response to technical accounting changes brought about by the adoption of IFRS 16 (see 7.3 of the report).

#### 5a. Budget Setting Report (The Executive)

### **General Fund Revenue Budgets: [Section 5, page 26 refers]**

Approved

- Revenue Pressures and Bids shown in Appendix B(b) and Savings shown in Appendix B(c).
- Non-Cash Limit items as shown in Appendix B(d).
- Bids to be funded from External Funding sources as shown in Appendix B(e).

Delegated to the Chief Financial Officer (Head of Finance) of the calculation and determination of the Council Tax taxbase (including submission of the National Non-Domestic Rates Forecast Form, NNDR1, for each financial year) which is set out in Appendix A(a).

Approved the level of Council Tax for 2022/23 as set out in Appendix A (b) and Section 4 [page 17 refers].

### **Other Revenue:**

Delegated to the Head of Finance authority to finalise changes relating to any further corporate and/or departmental restructuring and any reallocation of support service and central costs, in accordance with the CIPFA Service Reporting Code of Practice for Local Authorities (SeRCOP).

**Capital: [Section 6, page 29 refers]**

**Capital Plan:**

Agreed the proposals outlined in Appendix C(a) for inclusion in the Capital Plan.

Deleted from the Capital Plan of the Cambridge Junction capital scheme, as set out in Section 6 [page 29 refers]

Subject to above, approved the revised Capital Plan for the General Fund as set out in Appendix C(c) and the Funding as set out in Section 6, page 29.

**General Fund Reserves:**

Noted the impact of revenue budget approvals and the resulting contribution from reserves to support service delivery [Section 8, page 44 refers].

Approved the allocation of funding on a contingency basis to the collaborative 'Changing Futures' programme project [Section 8, page 44 refers].

Noted the resulting level of reserves [Section 8, page 44 refers].

**Section 25 Report:**

Noted the Chief Finance Officer's Section 25 Report included in Section 10 of the BSR [page 65 refers].

**Review of Charges**

Noted the schedule of proposed fees and charges for 2022/23 in Appendix F.

5d Corporate Plan 2022-27

Approved the Corporate Plan as set out in the Agenda.

6a Licensing Committee-Review of Statement of Gambling Principles

Approved for publication the Statement of Gambling Principles set out in Appendix A of the Officer's report.

6b Civic Affairs Committee-Arrangements for the appointment of external auditor

Agreed Public Sector Audit Appointments Ltd (PSAA) as the appointing person for the council.

Delegated acceptance of the invitation to the Head of Finance, as the council's Section 151 Officer.

6c Pay Policy Statement 2022/23

Approved the draft Pay Policy Statement 2022/23 attached as Appendix 1 of the Officer's report.

Delegated authority to the Head of Human Resources to update the Pay Policy Statement 2022/23 now the chief executive and/or chief officer and NJC pay award were agreed (as updated in the information pack).

6d Protocol on Media Relations

Agreed that sections 1-3 of Part 4A Appendix F(A) of the constitution be deleted, as illustrated in Appendix A of the officer's report.

6e Members Allowances and Virtual Area Committees

Approved the Members Allowances Scheme as set out in the recommendation.

Approved that the Area Committees continue virtually for the March cycle 2022 as set out in paragraph 1.6 of the officer's report.

## 7 Resolution of Thanks to Councillor Gerri Bird

Approved

## 8. Oral Questions

- Please see the You Tube recording of the question and response. Council minutes will follow.

## 9. Motions

### **9a: Fuel Poverty**

Agreed to ask our Council leader to write to the Chancellor of the Exchequer, copied to our two MPs, making the case for intervention and pointing out that the proposed scheme to reimburse people via the council tax system, fails to help thousands of families in need or lead to long term investment to cut future bills and end the use of fossil fuels for domestic heating and power in Britain.

### **6b: North East Cambridge Area Action Plan**

Agreed to call on the Executive Councillor for Planning & Transport to consider with the scrutiny committee and in discussion with the Council's sport and leisure team, options for the on-site achievement of more of the local plan policy standard for sports facilities. This should be part of a wide and comprehensive review being undertaken on the Greater Cambridge Local Plan, and within the context of her decision to accept the recommendation of the Planning and Transport Scrutiny Committee to approve the currently proposed Reg 19 version of the Area Action Plan.

### **6c: Non-harmful advertising policy**

Withdrawn by Cllr Copley

## **6d: Cambridge response to spiking crisis**

Agreed the following:

- Work with key partner agencies across the city, taking proactive action towards the prevention of harassment and spiking, to make Cambridge a safe place for all at night.
- Explore the possibility of signing up to accreditation schemes, such as Best Bar None or Good Night Out, to set a zero-tolerance policy towards harassment and spiking for all council-run events, setting a standard which can be encouraged in venues across the city.
- Continue to work with our partners in the night time economy, including but not limited to pubs, venues and club owners, Cambridge and Anglia Ruskin Universities and Students' Unions, hospitals, Cambridge BID, the police and CAMBAC, to emphasise the need for urgent action to tackle drink spiking. In particular, close partnership working with Cambridge and Anglia Ruskin Universities, Students' Unions and Sixth Forms who have direct contact with students who play a large role in the NTE.
- Continue running WAVE training throughout the year to ensure venue staff across the city are able to identify vulnerability and safely make appropriate interventions.
- Produce an easily accessible information resource to share with the universities and NTE venues and publicise this through the council's channels, to educate and inform people. This could include debunking common misconceptions about harassment, how to respond to harassment, speaking out if you have concerns



about someone's behaviour, what to do if you believe you have been a victim of spiking, including who to go to, how to take care of yourself or a friend, and where to report the incident to.

- Encourage all venues serving alcohol to provide free drink stop tops and covers to prevent spiking, as well as education for club bouncers and security staff about how to recognize and advise someone who may have been spiked or injected and commit to offering funding for this in the next budget cycle, following an assessment of the demand and options available.
- Work with Cambridge BID to develop an application to retain our Purple Flag status for the following three years from 2022.
- Bring a report to the next Environment and Communities Committee to outline the activities of other partners across the city to prevent drink spiking, and to make recommendations to the Committee which identify further steps the Council can take to facilitate and support this work.

#### 10. Written questions

- Please see the information pack for question and answers.

For more information please contact Democratic Services:

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