



Strategy and Resources Scrutiny Committee 10 October 2022

Decisions

5. Re-procurement of the Council's Gas Supplies

- To Note Record of Urgent Decision Taken by the Executive Councillor for Finance, Resources and Transformation regarding Re-procurement of the Council's Gas Supplies.

6. Council Tax Reduction Local Scheme April 2023 to March 2026

The Executive Councillor for Finance, Resources and Transformation recommended to Council on 20 October 2022:

- To continue with the current Council Tax Reduction scheme (to include annual uprating in line with housing benefit rates) for working age

- To reset the non-dependant deduction rates for both working-age schemes for 1 year from 1 April 2023 and to uprate by September CPI figures thereafter.
- To continue with an earnings based banded local Council Tax Reduction scheme for Universal Credit claimants and to have fixed non dependant deductions for these claims.
- To reset the earned income bands and contribution amounts set out in 4.03 Table 1 for 1 year from 1 April 2023 and to uprate by September CPI figures thereafter.
- To align non-dependant deductions so the rules for application are the same for all schemes (prescribed Pensioner scheme and the two Local Schemes, one for Universal Credit households and one for non-Universal Credit households)
- To not introduce a minimum contribution towards Council Tax for households on Local Council Tax Reduction.

7. Treasury Management Half Yearly Update Report 2022/23

The Executive Councillor for Finance, Resources and Transformation recommended to Council:

- The Council's estimated Prudential and Treasury Indicators for 2022/23 to 2025/26.
- That the revised counterparty list be approved.
- To approve the addition of a loan to the Cambridge Investment Partnership in the counterparty list, to bring these into line with the approved expenditure per the approved capital plan.

8. General Fund Medium Term Financial Strategy 2022

The Executive Councillor for Finance, Resources and Transformation recommended to Council

- To agree the budget process and timetable as outlined in Section 8 [page 25] of the MTFS document.
- To agree the incorporation of changed assumptions as presented in Section 3 [pages 10 and 11], which provide an indication of the net savings requirement, by year for the next five years [page 13], and revised projections for General Fund (GF) revenue and funding as shown in Appendix A [page 26] and reserves, Section 6 [page 18].
- To agree the 2022/23 revenue budget proposal as set out in Section 4 [page 12], for a £1,122k increase in pay budgets to reflect the current pay offer
- To note the changes to the capital plan and funding as set out in Section 5 [pages 15 to 17] and Appendix B [pages 27 to 30] of the MTFS document.
- To agree capital spending proposals.
- To agree changes to GF reserve levels, the prudent minimum balance being set at £6.854m and the target level at £8.225m as detailed in Section 6 [page 18].

- To agree that the remaining balance of £213k on the Cambridge Live Development Fund is transferred to the GF reserve and the fund is closed [page 20].

9. Update on the Direction of the Future Council and Organisational Design

The Executive Councillor for Finance, Resources and Transformation agreed the following:

- Note the progress made, and the proposals for changes to operations, future council infrastructure and identified areas for saving and reinvestment.
- Confirm support for the direction of travel.
- That officers move forward with the development of changes that will achieve the savings required by Q1 April 2025.
- Note the programme timetable (section 8).

10. Future Office Accommodation Strategy

The Executive Councillor for Finance, Resources and Transformation agreed the following:

- Note the report and the options set out in 3.29 of the report.
- To approve the proposal to take forward more detailed investigation on two options:
 - i. To retain the Guildhall as the main office and civic space for the Council, dependent upon the potential to ensure it is fit for purpose for future use and the cost of achieving this

- ii. To investigate as a comparator the potential for an alternative office and civic space which meets the Council's needs in or around a central location.
- Request that a further report and recommendations be brought back to Committee at a later date for a final decision on the long-term office accommodation strategy aligned with the Our Cambridge business transformation outcomes.

11. South Cambridgeshire District Council Four Day Working Week Trial

The Executive Councillor for Finance, Resources and Transformation agreed the following:

- Note the information contained in this report and at Appendix A about the trial of a 4-day working week, including that, SCDC want to involve Cambridge City Council (CCC) in the preparations, share updates on progress with the Strategy & Resources Scrutiny Committee, and that both councils explore how this could be applied to Shared Waste.
- Note that the role of Greater Cambridge Shared Planning in the trial is contingent on the agreement of the Executive Councillor for Finance, Resources and Transformation, and that formal preparations for the Page 175 Agenda Item 112 involvement of the shared planning service in the trial will not proceed until a decision has been taken.

- Agree that Greater Cambridge Shared Planning should take part in the trial on the basis that assurance will be provided, and mitigations developed during the preparatory phase to maintain service standards for Cambridge residents, including to halt the trial if necessary.
- Agree that future decisions which have significant implications for shared services, including a '4-day week' trial for Shared Waste, must be made jointly and that proposals to improve governance arrangements to address this should be presented to both councils for agreement.
- Agree that CCC will need to consider the evidence regarding the benefits, risks and costs of a '4-day week' in relation to its own transformation plans during 2023/24.

12. Combined Authority Update

- To note an update from the Council's representative on the Board on issues considered at the meetings of the Combined Authority Board held on 28 July and 31 August and 21 September 2022.

13. Corporate Enforcement Policy

The Leader of the Council agreed:

- The proposed changes and to adopt the revised Corporate Enforcement Policy 2022.

For more information please contact Democratic Services:

- Tel 01223 457013
- democratic.services@cambridge.gov.uk

This page is intentionally left blank