



Council 24 February 2025

Agenda items 1-5 can be viewed via the meeting recording: [Full Council - Monday 24 February 2025, 6.00pm](#)

Decisions

Agenda item 6. Recommendations of the Executive

Agenda item 6a. Housing Revenue Account (HRA) Budget Setting Report (BSR) 2025/26

- i. Approved that council dwellings rents for all social rented and social shared ownership properties be increased in line with government guidelines, with an increase of 2.7%, being inflation as measured by the Consumer Price Index (CPI) at September 2024 of 1.7%, plus 1%. Rent increases will take effect from 1 April 2025. This equates to an average rent increase of £3.37 per week.
- ii. Approved that affordable housing rents, inclusive of service charge, are also increased by 2.7% in line with the increase for social rents. This equates to an average rent increase of £5.06 per week.
- iii. Approved that rents for affordable shared ownership properties are increased by RPI as at September 2024, 2.7% plus 0.5%, as allowed for in the lease requirements for these properties.
- iv. Approved that garage and parking space charges for 2025/26 are increased by inflation at 2.7%, in line with dwelling rents,

and approve changes in charges for parking permits, as set out at table 10 on page 28 of the attached Housing Revenue Account Business Plan Update and Budget Setting Report 2025/26.

- v. Approved the proposed service charges for Housing Revenue Account services and facilities, as shown in Appendix D of the attached Housing Revenue Account Business Plan Update and Budget Setting Report 2025/26.
- vi. Approved the proposed leasehold administration charges for 2025/26, as detailed in Appendix D of the attached Housing Revenue Account Business Plan Update and Budget Setting Report 2025/26.
- vii. Approved that service charges continue to be recovered at full estimated cost, as detailed in Appendix D of the attached Housing Revenue Account Business Plan Update and Budget Setting Report 2025/26, recognising that local authorities should endeavour to limit increases to inflation as measured by CPI at September 2024 (1.7%) plus 1%, wherever possible.
- viii. Approved the revenue savings, pressures and bids set out at Appendix F of the attached Housing Revenue Account Business Plan Update and Budget Setting Report 2025/26.
- ix. Approved the resulting Housing Revenue Account revenue budget as summarised at table 5 on page 20 of the attached Housing Revenue Account Business Plan Update and Budget Setting Report 2025/26.
- x. Approved the capital bid set out at Appendix F of the attached Housing Revenue Account Business Plan Update and Budget Setting Report 2025/26.
- xi. Approved the updated Housing Capital Investment Plan as shown at Appendix E of the attached Housing Revenue Account Business Plan Update and Budget Setting Report 2025/26.
- xii. Approved the proposed approach to financing the Housing Capital Investment Plan as set out at table 11 on page 31 of the attached Housing Revenue Account Business Plan Update and Budget Setting Report 2025/26.

- xiii. Approved the revised need to borrow over the life of the Business Plan, to sustain the proposed level of capital investment, which includes delivery of the 10 Year New Homes Programme.
- xiv. Recognised that the constitution delegates Treasury Management to the Chief Finance Officer (Part 3, para 5.11), with Part 4F, C16 stating; 'All executive decisions on borrowing, investment or financing shall be delegated to the Chief Finance Officer, who is required to act in accordance with CIPFA's Code of Practice for Treasury Management in Local Authorities'.
- xv. Recognised that the decision to borrow significantly to build new homes impacts the council's ability to set-aside resource to redeem the HRA Self-Financing debt at the point at which the loan portfolio matures, resulting in a need to re-finance debt at the point of maturity.
- xvi. Approved the inclusion of a capital budget for Disabled Facilities Grant expenditure and associated grant income from 2025/26 onwards, based upon 2024/25 net grant awarded, with delegation to the Chief Finance Officer to approve an in year increase or decrease in this budget in any year, in direct relation to any increase or decrease in the capital grant funding available for this purpose, as received from Cambridgeshire County Council through the Better Care Fund.
- xvii. Approved the delegation to the Chief Finance Officer, 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.
- xviii. Approved the delegation to the Director of Communities 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 recommendations made by the Shared Home Improvement Agency Board.
- xix. Approved the delegation to the relevant Director, in consultation with the Chief Finance Officer, to draw down resource from the ear-marked revenue reserve or capital reserve 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.

- xx. Approved the delegation to the Chief Finance Officer to make any necessary technical amendments to detailed budgets in respect of recharges between the General Fund and the HRA.

Agenda item 6b. General Fund Budget Setting Report 2025/26 to 2029/30

- i. Approved the revenue pressures and bids shown in Appendix D(a) and the revenue savings and increased income shown in Appendix D(b).
- ii. Delegated to the Chief Finance Officer the calculation and determination of the council tax taxbase which is set out at Appendix A(a).
- iii. Approved the increase to the city council share of council tax for 2025/26 at 2.99%, and the updated council tax levels as set out on page 17 of the attached Budget Setting Report 2025/26.
- iv. Delegated authority to the Chief Finance Officer to reallocate budgets between services in relation to 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).
- v. Approved the capital proposals set out at Appendix E(a), the revised capital plan set out at Appendix E(c), and the revised capital funding approach set out on page 28 of the attached Budget Setting Report 2025/26.
- vi. Approved the Capital Strategy 2025/26 attached at Appendix H.
- vii. Noted the impact of budget proposals upon General Fund unallocated reserves, as set out on page 34 of the attached Budget Setting Report 2025/26.
- viii. Noted the key risks to the council's financial sustainability highlighted in the table on pages 30-31 of the attached Budget Setting Report 2025/26.
- ix. Approved in principle a contribution to the Civic Quarter Development Reserve equivalent to the net underspend against

budget for the 2024/25 financial year (currently forecast at £4.0 million).

- x. Approved transfers to earmarked reserves totalling £6.602 million in 2025/26 as set out on pages 32-33 of the attached Budget Setting Report 2025/26.
- xi. Noted the Chief Finance Officer's Section 25 Report, covering the robustness of estimates and adequacy of reserves, included at section 7 of the attached Budget Setting Report 2025/26.
- xii. Approved the Treasury Management Strategy 2025/26 attached at Appendix G, including the prudential and treasury management indicators set out at Annexe C.
- xiii. Approved a change to the maturity structure prudential indicator, such that all new borrowing will have a maturity of at least 5 years (rather than the previous 10 years), as explained at paragraph 3.8 of Appendix G.
- xiv. Reconfirmed that the incomes below will be disregarded (if above the £10 statutory disregard) when calculating entitlement to housing benefit and/or council tax reduction. These schemes are often called local or modified schemes:
 - a. War disablement pension
 - b. War widow, widower or surviving civil partner pension
 - c. Armed Forces Independence PaymentNote that the estimated cost to the council for payments of housing benefit made under the local scheme is £1,777.50 and for council tax reduction less than £50.
- xv. Noted the Equality Impact Assessment in Appendix F covering all General Fund budget proposals.
- xvi. Noted the schedule of proposed fees and charges for 2025/26 in Appendix I(i) and Confidential Appendix I(ii).

Agenda item 7. To consider the recommendations of Committees for adoption

Agenda item 7a. Licensing Committee - Review of Gambling Statement of Principles

- i. Approved the draft Statement of Gambling Principles shown in Appendix A of the Officer's report.

Agenda item 7b. Civic Affairs Committee - Pay Policy Changes and Draft Pay Policy Statement 2025/26

- i. Approved the draft Pay Policy Statement 2025/2026 attached to the Officer's report as Appendix 1.

Agenda item 7c. Employment Senior Officer Committee - Our Cambridge Group Redesign - Summary of Implementation and Consideration of Termination/Exit Costs

- i. Approved individual termination costs over £100k arising from the Group Design due to contractual severance.

Agenda item 8, 9a, 9b, 9c, 9d, 11b, 11c, 11d were deferred to the 17 March Council meeting.

Agenda item 11a. South Newnham Neighbourhood Plan - Making (adopting) the Neighbourhood Plan

- i. Noted the results of the referendum for the South Newnham Neighbourhood Plan that took place on 16 January 2025.
- ii. 'Makes' (adopts) the South Newnham Neighbourhood Plan as part of the Local Development Plan for the area as it was a successful referendum. The made version of the plan was attached as Appendix 1 of the Officer's report.

For more information please contact Democratic Services:

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