

# Strategy and Resources Scrutiny Committee Decisions 11 February 2019



Agenda item	Decision
<b>5 and 6</b> <b>Urgent Decision</b> <b>Freehold Transfer</b> <b>of 11A Thorpe Way</b> <b>Cambridge</b>	Noted the urgent decision
<b>7</b> <b>Lion Yard</b> <b>Investment</b>	The Committee approved the recommendations  The Executive Councillor approved the recommendation.
<b>8</b> <b>Cambridge City</b> <b>Housing company –</b> <b>review of Pilot</b> <b>Phase</b>	The Committee approved the recommendations <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- unanimously to endorse recommendation 2.1</li> <li>- unanimously to endorse recommendation 2.2</li> <li>- by 4 votes to 0 to endorse recommendation 2.3</li> <li>- by 4 votes to 0 to endorse recommendation 2.4</li> <li>- unanimously to endorse recommendation 2.5</li> </ul> i. Approve that CCHC moves from its pilot phase into business as usual.  ii. Confirm the Council's financial support for the company, subject to ongoing review by

	<p>the S151 officer.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>iii. Agree that the Council refinance the existing loan to the company for three years at 2.02%.</li> <li>iv. Support the company directors' recommendation that, in view of the possible market impact of Brexit, any decision on further investment is delayed until at least the final quarter of 2019/20, or until the local property market has stabilised.</li> <li>v. Agree that a third director is appointed to the company.</li> </ul> <p>The Executive Councillor approved the recommendation.</p>
<b>9 Capital Strategy</b>	<p>The Committee approved the recommendations unanimously to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Approve the capital strategy as set out in this report.</li> <li>ii. Note the summary Capital programme.</li> </ul> <p>The Executive Councillor approved the recommendation.</p>
<b>10 Treasury Management Strategy Statement Report 2019/20 to 2022/23</b>	<p>The Committee approved the recommendations unanimously.</p> <p>The Executive Councillor recommended Council to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Approve the report, including the estimated Prudential &amp; Treasury Indicators for 2019/20 to 2022/23, inclusive, as set out in Appendix C of the officers report;</li> <li>ii. Increase the Money Market Fund (MMF) limit to £15 million per fund, with no maximum limit overall;</li> <li>iii. Use Enhanced Money Market Funds (EMMFs)</li> </ul>

	<p>with a credit rating not lower than AAf, as assessed by any one of the credit rating agencies, with an initial counterparty limit of £5m per fund; and;</p> <p>iv. Increase the Council's Authorised Borrowing Limit (external borrowing) to £300 million.</p>
<p><b>11</b></p> <p><b>General Budget Report 2019/20</b></p> <p><b>Fund Setting</b></p>	<p>The Committee approved the recommendations by 4 votes to 0.</p> <p>The Executive Councillor recommended the Executive to :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Approve Revenue Pressures shown in Appendix C (a) and Savings shown in Appendix C (b).</li> <li>ii. Agree there are no bids to be funded from External or Earmarked Funds (which would be included as Appendix C (c) .</li> <li>iii. Approve Non-Cash Limit items as shown in Appendix C (d).</li> </ul> <p>The Executive Councillor recommended Council to</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Approve delegation 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 will be set out in Appendix A (a).</li> <li>ii. Approve the level of Council Tax for 2019/20 as set out in Appendix A (b) (<i>to follow for Council</i>) and Section 4 [page 27 refers].</li> </ul> <p><i>Note that the Cambridgeshire Police and Crime Panel will meet by 30 January 2019 to consider the precept proposed by the Police and Crime Commissioner, Cambridgeshire &amp; Peterborough Fire Authority will meet on 7 February 2019 and</i></p>

	<p><i>Cambridgeshire County Council will meet on 5 or 8 February 2019 to consider the amounts in precepts to be issued to the City Council for the year 2019/20.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>iii. Approve delegation to the Head of Finance authority to finalise changes relating to any 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).</li> <li>iv. Approve an additional contribution of £250k to the Cambridge Live Development Plan Earmarked Reserve to include transition funding, proposal NCL4325.</li> <li>v. Approve the proposals outlined in Appendix E (a) for inclusion in the Capital Plan, including any additional use of revenue resources required. Report page no. 3 Agenda page no.</li> <li>vi. Approve the revised Capital Plan for the General Fund as set out in Appendix E (d), the Funding as set out in Section 7, page 39.</li> <li>vii. Note the impact of revenue and capital budget approvals and approve the resulting level of reserves to be used to support the budget proposals as set out in the table [Section 8, page 45 refers].</li> </ul>
<b>12</b> <b>Amendment to</b> <b>Budget Setting</b> <b>Report (General</b> <b>Fund) 2019/20 to</b> <b>2022/23</b>	<p>The purpose of the discussion was to ask questions of the Liberal Democrat Members on the Scrutiny Committee on their group's budget amendment. No formal vote was taken.</p>
<b>13</b>	The Committee approved the recommendations

<p><b>Business Rates Retail Discount Scheme</b></p>	<p>unanimously to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Adopt the Retail Discount policy (appendix A of the officers report) for qualifying businesses in occupation of retail premises which have a rateable value of less than £51,000, for the financial years 1 April 2019 to 31 March 2020 and 1 April 2020 to 31 March 2021 only.</li> <li>ii. Delegate authority to the Head of Revenues and Benefits to award the “Retail Discount” where a ratepayer demonstrates their entitlement.</li> </ul> <p>The Executive Councillor approved the recommendation</p>
<p><b>14 Council Tax Reduction Scheme 2019/20</b></p>	<p>The Committee approved the recommendations unanimously to.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Agree to continue the current Council Tax Reduction Scheme framework with changes to applicable amounts and premiums as defined within the local scheme. The scheme supports low-paid workers already struggling to cope with stagnant wages, rising living costs and on-going Welfare Reforms that impact on Universal Credit, Tax Credits and other in-work support.</li> <li>ii. Agree that Care Leavers under 25 are included in the vulnerable groups classification within the local Council Tax Reduction Scheme.</li> <li>iii. Agree that following the delay in rolling out full service Universal Credit to October 2018, that the significant review of the current scheme be carried out during spring 2019 to reflect the rollout of Universal Credit.</li> <li>iv. Agree that Empty Property Premium increases are adopted in full from 1 April 2019 to 1 April</li> </ul>

	<p>2021.</p> <p>The Executive Councillor approved the recommendation</p>
<p><b>15 Combined Authority Update</b></p>	<p>The Committee noted the recommendation to:</p> <p>i. Receive an update on issues considered at the meetings of the Combined Authority held on 31 October 2018, 28 November 2018 and 30 January 2019.</p> <p>The Executive Councillor noted the recommendation.</p>
<p><b>16 Corporate Plan 2019-22</b></p>	<p>The Committee approved the recommendation by 4 votes to 0 to:</p> <p>Approve the draft Corporate Plan 2019-22 attached at Appendix A.</p> <p>The Executive Councillor noted the recommendation.</p>

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