

Decisions

Agenda item 5. Combined Authority Update Report

The Leader of the Council agreed the following:

- To note the update on the Board and issues considered at the meeting of the Combined Authority Board Board meeting held on 22 January and 6 February.
- Note the Combined Authority's Assistant Director Skills and Employment overview of the CPCA's work on skills and employment.

Agenda item 6. Cambridge Delivery Company: Update Report

The Leader of the Council agreed the following:

- Noted the update on the progress of the Cambridge Delivery Company implementation

Agenda item 7. Greater Cambridge Impact and Cambridge Pledge

The Executive Councillor for Finance and Resources agreed the following (additional text underlined):

- Noted progress made with securing equity and loan finance and developing the pipeline of projects for first investment during the second half of 2025.
- Requested that a single investment of £0.8m to the Greater Cambridge Impact is included in the 2025/26 General Fund
- Budget to be recommended to Full Council (noting these funds were agreed 'in principle' by full Council on 20th July 2023 subject to progress towards funding commitments of £5m from other parties)
- Requested that drawdown is delegated to the Executive Councillor for Finance and Resources, following consultation with Chair and Opposition Spokes, following reassurance from the Chief Executive and Chief Financial Officer in consultation with that governance arrangements are in place and due diligence is completed.
- Requested approval of the nomination of the Chief Executive as the Council's representative on the Greater Cambridge Impact Company Board.

Agenda item 8. Detailed General Fund Budget Proposals 2025/26 and an Update to the Budget Setting Context

[Agenda for Strategy and Resources Scrutiny Committee on Monday, 10th February, 2025, 5.30 pm - Cambridge Council](#)

***Summary of changes can be found at the link above called Update Information BSR**

The Executive Councillor for Finance and Resources agreed the following recommendations below to the Executive, noting the summary of changes* :

General Fund Revenue Budgets:

a) Recommend to Council for approval the revenue pressures and bids shown in Appendix D(a) and the revenue savings and increased income shown in Appendix D(b).

b) Recommend that Council confirms delegation to the Chief Finance Officer of the calculation and determination of the council tax taxbase which is set out at Appendix A(a).

c) Recommend that Council approves 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.

Note that the council's preceptors (Cambridgeshire Police & Crime Commissioner, Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Fire Authority, Cambridgeshire County Council and Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Combined Authority) will meet to confirm their precepts on or before 13 February 2025, following which the formal council tax calculation will be carried out for approval by Council.

d) Recommend that Council delegates 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).

General Fund Capital Plan:

e) Recommend that Council approves 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.

f) Recommend that Council approves the Capital Strategy 2025/26 attached at Appendix H.

General Fund Reserves:

g) Recommend that Council note the impact of budget proposals upon General Fund unallocated reserves, as set out on page 34 of the attached Budget Setting Report 2025/26.

h) Recommend that Council note 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.

i) Recommend that Council approve 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).

j) Recommend that Council approve the 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.

Section 25 Report:

k) Recommend that Council note 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.

Treasury Management Strategy:

l) Recommend that Council approves the Treasury Management Strategy 2025/26 attached at Appendix G, including the prudential and treasury management indicators set out at Annexe C.

m) Recommends that Council approves 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.

Other:

n) Recommend that Full Council reconfirm 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:

- War disablement pension
- War widow, widower or surviving civil partner pension
- Armed Forces Independence Payment

Note 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.

o) Recommend that Council note the Equality Impact Assessment in Appendix F covering all General Fund budget proposals.

p) Recommend that Council note the schedule of proposed fees and charges for 2025/26 in Appendix I(i) and Confidential Appendix I(ii)

For more information, please contact Democratic Services:

- Tel 01223 457000
- democratic.services@cambridge.gov.uk

To view the meeting on the Council's YouTube channel follow the link below:

[Strategy and Resources Scrutiny Committee - Monday, 10th February, 2025 5.30 pm](#)