

CABINET Post-Decision

Summary of the Decisions taken

Date of Meeting Monday, 26th February, 2024 **Issued By:-** Nick Pontone

Date of Delivery to Members: Tuesday, 27th February, 2024

Date which any call in must be received by: Tuesday, 5th March, 2024

Implementation of decisions delayed to: Wednesday, 6th March, 2024

(Other than those budget items which are decisions for full Council or those marked with an asterisk (*) which need to be implemented urgently and those items marked with a hash (#) which have been considered by scrutiny in the past 6th months and cannot be called in).

AGENDA ITEM.	SUBJECT MATTER	DECISION PROPOSED	WARD	PROPOSED TO BE RESOLVED/ RECOMMENDED
1.	Declarations of Interest	None declared.	-	-
2.	Minutes of the Meeting held on 15th January 2024	Approved.	-	Resolved
3.	Budget Management Quarter 3 2023/24	1. That a virement from centrally held budgets to service directorates in respect of costs of the additional Employer contributions to the Local Government Pension Scheme, amounting to £0.7m be authorised.	All	-

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		<p>2. That a one-off virement from the Redundancy Reserve to Children's Services in respect of redundancies arising from the review of Children's Centres, amounting to £67k be authorised.</p> <p>3. That slippage of £25.8m in the General Fund capital programme to 2024/25 be authorised.</p> <p>That it be noted that:</p> <p>(a) The Council's forecast overspend at the end of Quarter 3 was £17.81m. Overall this represented a further increase from the £8.2m reported at the end of Quarter 2. The risk was therefore high that the Council would be unable to balance its budget within the Capitalisation Direction, unless it draws upon the Budget Smoothing Reserve, other reserves and provisions and continued to take action to reduce expenditure and increase income.</p> <p>(b) The accounting adjustments of £6.978m attributable to the Balance Sheet and ledger reviews, and that these would mitigate the headline forecast outturn, reducing it from £17.81m to £10.83m. At this stage, no virements were being recommended until the end of the</p>		

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		<p>financial year when further work is concluded.</p> <p>(c) Service revenue budgets were forecast to overspend by £21.3m in 2023/24. There were Corporate overspends in respect of interest costs and receipts (£2.3m) and the MRP of £3.2m. This was balanced by an underspend on the Corporate Contingency budget (£7.7m) and a number of other variances within the Corporate budget amounting to £1.3m. Service and Corporate budgets combined are showing an overspend of £17.81m prior to the recommended virement of £6.98m.</p> <p>(d) Medium Term Financial Strategy Savings (MTFS) of £21.2m are expected to be delivered in 2023/24 against planned savings of £22.4m.</p> <p>(e) That the Capital programme was forecast to underspend in 2023/24 by £29.1m. Of this, £25.8m was due to delayed starts on various projects slippage and it is one of the recommendations of this report that approval is granted to slip this to 2024/25.</p>		

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4.	General Fund Capital Programme 2024/25 to 2027/28	That approval of the Capital Programme for 2024/25 to 2027/28 be recommended to full Council as set out in Appendix A to the report.	All	-
5.	Treasury Management Strategy	<p>That it be noted that following recommendation regarding the Treasury Management Strategy 2024/25 would formally considered by the Audit & Corporate Governance Committee on 29th February 2024:</p> <p><i>"Audit & Corporate Governance Committee is asked to recommend to Council the following:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>a. Approve the Treasury Management Strategy (TMS) for 2024/25 at Appendix 1 including:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>i. the Annual Investment Strategy for 2024/25 (within Appendix 1 page 23)</i> <i>ii. the Annual Borrowing Strategy for 2024/25 (within Appendix 1 page 13)</i> <i>iii. Minimum Revenue Provision Policy Statement for 2024/25 (within Appendix 1 page 33)</i> <i>iv. the Prudential Indicators for the period 2024/25 to 2026/27 (Appendix 1 page 18)</i> <i>v. the Capital Strategy for the 2024/25 (Appendix 1 page 17)"</i> 	All	-

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		<p>The Cabinet noted that an updated version of the TMS would be provided to the Audit & Corporate Governance Committee which included the following additional indicators be incorporated within the Treasury Management Strategy.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A £4m minimum level of HRA general reserve • A £5m minimum level of Major Repairs Reserves • A 1.25 times HRA interest cover ratio 		
6.	General Fund Revenue Budget 2024-25, and Medium Term Financial Strategy 24/25 to 27/28	<p>That Cabinet agreed to recommend to Council that it:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Notes the section 25 Report of the Executive Director of Finance and Commercial at Appendix A that confirms in particular the robustness of the estimates and the adequacy of the proposed financial reserves. 2. Approve the 2024/25 budget on the basis of an increase in the general element of Council Tax of 7.99% and an increase in the Adult Social Care Precept element of 0.51%. 3. Approves the Council Tax Resolution 2024/25 as set out in Appendix B on the basis that it is not excessive in 	All	-

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		<p>accordance with the principles approved under section 52ZB and 52ZC of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 and as permitted by the proposed The Referendums Relating to Council Tax Increases (Principles) (England) Report 2024/25.</p> <p>4. Delegate authority to the Executive Director of Finance and Commercial, to place a notice in the local press of the amounts set under recommendation 3 within a period of 21 days following the Council's decision.</p> <p>5. Approve the Medium-Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) as set out in Appendix C, based on the estimated financial deficit in the Capitalisation Direction and to be funded by capitalisation of:</p> <p>a. £23.078m for 2024/25 b. NOTE that the remaining years of the MTFS imply an estimated financial deficit totalling £27.460m, approval of which will be subject to annual approval to DLUHC</p> <p>6. Approve the overall General Fund revenue budget for 2024/25, as set out in Appendix D1 of £162.1m to include:</p>		

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		<p>a. Growth for pressures of £13.855m b. Inflationary pressures of £4.472m including pay and contract inflation c. Proposed savings by Directorates of £12.206m in 2024/25, with further savings of £6.836m in 2025/26 and £1.796m in 2026/27</p> <p>7. Approve measures to control spending and improve the finances of the Council at Appendix F.</p> <p>8. Note the impact of a change in legislation to implement a 100% premium on Council Tax for properties left unoccupied for 1 year as opposed to 2 years as set out in Appendix G1, such change to take effect on 1 April 2024.</p> <p>9. Determine that Council Tax will be increased for furnished properties periodically occupied from 1 April 2025 in accordance with the Scheme for Properties Occupied Periodically at Appendix G2 and s.11C of the Local Government Finance Act 1992.</p> <p>10. Agree that the Council Tax Support Scheme approved on March 9th 2023 should remain in place, with the exception of minor amendments for clarification purposes as set out in</p>		

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		<p>Appendix B1.</p> <p>11. Delegates to Cabinet the authority to approve an increase in funding for the new Transformation project on receipt of a report and robust Business Plan.</p> <p>The following was agreed by Cabinet:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The write-off of individual debts over £15,000, with a total value of £646,000, as set out in Appendix H. 2. Approve the proposed fees and charges for 2024/25 as set out in Appendix J (where these relate to executive functions); 3. Approve the Contract Sum for Slough Children First Limited for 2024/25 as £39,044,000 		
7.	Housing Revenue Account (HRA) 30-year Business Plan and Medium Term Budgets 2024/25	<p>Cabinet agreed to note the HRA 30-year Business plan as set out in Appendices A & B.</p> <p>Cabinet agreed to recommend to Council to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Approve the HRA revenue budget for 2024/25 as set out in Table 3 & Appendix C which reflects the annual rents & service charges increases already approved by Cabinet. 	All	Recommended

AGENDA ITEM.	SUBJECT MATTER	DECISION PROPOSED	WARD	PROPOSED TO BE RESOLVED/ RECOMMENDED
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Approve the HRA 5-year Capital Programme as set out in Table 4 & Appendix D. • Note the draft 5-year HRA reserves and balances as set out in Appendix E. 		
8.	School Funding Report - Dedicated Schools Grant 2024/2025	<p>Cabinet agreed to recommend the budgets to Council to:</p> <p>(a) Note the DSG allocations for Slough (Table 1) as published by the Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA)</p> <p>(b) Approve the local authority formula for allocating resources to Slough schools for 2024/25 as set out in Appendix A, the Authority Proforma Tool (APT).</p> <p>(c) Approve a transfer from the Schools Block allocation of £100,000 to the Central Schools Services Block and £761,539 to the High Needs Block in the 2024/25 financial year (£861,539 being 0.5% of the total schools' block allocation).</p> <p>(d) Approve the Dedicated Schools Grant Budget for 2024/25 at £231,514,470 including the allocations between the four funding blocks as set out in this report.</p>	All	Recommended

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		(e) Delegate authority to the Executive Director – Children’s Services, in consultation with the Lead Member for Children and Education and the Executive Director for Finance and Commercial, to make minor changes to the schools’ budget in year.		
9.	Contract for Shared Legal Service with Harrow Council	That the continuation of the provision of a shared legal service by Harrow Council under the Inter-Authority agreement dated 1 June 2023 be endorsed.	All	Resolved
10.	References from Scrutiny	There were no recommendations from scrutiny over and above those noted under Item 6: General Fund Revenue Budget 2024/25, and Medium Term Financial Strategy 2024/25 to 2027/28.	All	-