

Executive Cabinet

1. Any Cabinet recommendations on the reports that require Council decisions appear as separate items on the agenda.

General Report of the Meeting Held on 19 January 2023

Draft 2023/24 Budget Update

2. Councillor Peter Wilson, Deputy Executive Leader and Executive Member (Resources) presented the report of the Director of Finance which set out the draft budget position for the council for 2023/24 and the forecast for 2024/25, reflecting the information contained within the Provisional Local Government Financial Settlement announced on 19 December 2022, which will be finalised in January/early February 2023.
3. Despite the continued pressures on council expenditure budgets, including the impact of rising inflation and increasing utility costs, combined with the real terms reduction in Government funding provided to the council since 2010, we supported the proposed council tax increase of 1.99% for 2023/24 as presented to Finance Council in February 2022. The proposal for an increase of 2.99% in 2024/25 will be revisited next year as part of the budget setting process.
4. We recognised the financial challenges the Council faces with regards to the £1.357m forecast budget deficit by next year but also recognised the need to keep council tax at a reasonable level due to the cost of living crisis whilst also maintaining strong service provision and providing support for residents. We supported the work already being undertaken to reduce the forecast deficit and supported the recommendations in the report.
5. Consultation on the proposed budget for 2023/24 will commence following approval of the proposals by Executive Cabinet. We approved the recommendations in the report.

Fees and Charges 2023-24

6. Councillor Peter Wilson, Executive Member (Resources) presented the report of the Director of Finance which set out the current position around fees and charges and proposals for 2023/24.
7. We noted the appendix which detailed the key fees and charges budgets across a number of different categories. Although not exhaustive, the list gave an indication of the core fees involved.
8. We recognised those charges over which the Council has no control in setting the amount that can be charged, including planning application fees. It was also recognised that the fees and charges that have been increased by the council are reflective of actual charges incurred through increasing costs and include no element of uplift for the council. We approved the recommendations within the report.

Select More Policy Review 2022

9. Councillor Terry Howarth, Executive Member (Homes and Housing) presented the report of the Director of Communities which sought permission to consult on the new draft policy following the review of the allocations policy by the Select Move Steering Group.
10. As part of the Select Move policy review, changes are proposed to improve how Social housing across the partnership is delivered. We noted the proposed changes, as

outlined in detail in the appendices, which will be subject to consultation for a period of 10 to 12 weeks.

11. On the 10 November 2022 we accepted all the recommendations of the Overview and Scrutiny Select Move Task group. We recognised that this Executive Cabinet report was not the Executive Cabinet response to those recommendations, but the Select Move Partnership has taken into account the recommendations of the Task group when proposing amendments to the policy. The Task group were thanked for their thorough review. We approved the recommendations within the report.

Customer Access Policy

12. Councillor Adrian Lowe, Executive Member (Customer, Streetscene and Environment) presented the report of the Director of Customer and Digital which provided an overview of the proposed Customer Access Charter and Feedback Policy; including the principles and standards for customer access across the organisation.
13. We considered the contents of the report which included updates on the customer services principles, customer care standards, improvements to current customer access, proposed uniforms, proposed changes to processes to ensure that customers can access specialist services at the first point of contact, a refreshed Feedback Policy.
14. We noted the local indicator targets and the service standards as well as the proposed actions to be delivered in order to develop and implement aligned processes across the service. We welcomed the report and approved the recommendations within the report.

Shared Services Review – Property and Assets

15. I presented the confidential report of the Director of Change and Delivery which outlined the shared services review for Property and Assets. We considered the report and approved the recommendations within the report.

2023-25 Community Commissioning Procurement – Approval to Tender

16. Councillor Bev Murray, Executive Member (Early Intervention) presented the confidential report of the Director of Communities which sought approval to proceed to tender for services to be commissioned from the voluntary, community, faith social enterprise sector (VCFSE). It also provided details of commissioning review and overview of all planned commissioned services for 2023-25. We considered the report and approved the recommendations within the report.

Recommendations

17. To note the report.

Councillor Alistair Bradley
Executive Leader

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