

Council

Tuesday, 27 February 2024

Decisions

Set out below is a summary of the decisions taken at the meeting of the Council held on Tuesday, 27 February 2024. The wording used does not necessarily reflect the actual wording that will appear in the minutes.

If you have any queries about any matters referred to in this decision sheet please contact Democratic Services.

Medium Term Financial Strategy 2024-29, Cabinet 6 February

Council

Agreed to

- A) Acknowledge the projected changes in service spending and the overall resources available to the Council over the medium term to 2028/2029.
- B) Approve the updated financial forecast at Appendix A.

2024-2025 Business Plan Action Plan, Cabinet 6 February

Council

Agreed to

- A) Consider and approve the proposed Business Plan Action Plan for 2024-25 at **Appendix A**.
- B) Authorise the Chief Executive to make any minor wording changes required to final drafts, in consultation with the Leader.
- C) Authorise the Chief Executive to make any factual changes to the final drafts.

Capital Strategy, Cabinet 6 February

Council

Agreed to approve the updated Capital Strategy attached at Appendix A to the report which sets the policy framework for the development, management and monitoring of capital investment, including Capital Prudential Indicators.

Local Council Tax Support, Cabinet 6 February

Council

Agreed to approve the continuation of the successful 2023/24 LCTS scheme, with a reasonable uprating of 6.7% for the upcoming financial year

2024/25.

Review of Revenue Reserves, Cabinet 6 February

Council **agreed** to approve

- A) The Reserves as summarised at paragraph 12 of the report be released and transferred to the General Reserve or transferred to other reserves as appropriate on 31 March 2024.
- B) The movement in Reserves in 2023/2024 as set out in Appendix A, and the estimated balance of Reserves of £36.132 million, be noted.

Capital Programme 2024/25 - 2028/29, Cabinet 6 February

Council

Agreed to approve the revised General Fund Capital Programme outlined at Appendix A.

Summary General Fund Revenue Budget 2024/25, Cabinet 6 February

Council **agreed** to

- A) Review the detailed budgets presented at Appendix B, and summarised at Appendix A, with an estimated General Fund Gross Operating Expenditure for 2024/2025 of £76.887 million, estimated Gross Operating Income of £48.331 million and estimated General Fund Net Operating Expenditure of £28.555 million.
- B) Acknowledge the key factors which have led to the proposed 2024/2025 General Fund Revenue Budget, with service pressures summarised at Appendix C and offsetting efficiency savings/policy options summarised at Appendix D.
- C) Acknowledge that the 2024/2025 General Fund Revenue Budget gross expenditure is covered by forecast income sources (assuming no change in Government grant) and, therefore, any addition(s) to expenditure that are made by the Cabinet or Council will need to be met from the General Fund Balance.
- D) Approve the 2024/2025 General Fund Revenue Budget taking into account the statement by the Chief Finance Officer on the risks and robustness of the estimates as required under Section 25 of the Local Government Act 2003 (reproduced at Appendix F).
- E) Set the Council Tax Requirement for 2024/2025 at £11,688,648.
- F) Approve an increase in the District element of the Council Tax of £5 per annum, giving an average Band D Council Tax of £170.31, plus the relevant amounts required by the precepts of the Parish Councils, Cambridgeshire County Council, Cambridgeshire Police & Crime Commissioner, Cambridgeshire Fire Authority and The Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority (CPCA).
- G) Approve the estimates of the amounts required to be made under the Non-domestic Rating (Rates Retention) Regulations 2013 as set out in paragraphs

38 - 41.

- H) Approve the use of the additional income from the Business Rate Pool, estimated at £1,100,000 in 2024/2025, for transfer to the established Renewables Reserve for priority projects.
- I) Subject to any changes to the recommendations above, Council approves:
 - (i) The 2024/2025 General Fund Revenue Budget based on known commitments at this time and planned levels of Service/functions resulting in a Budget Requirement of £37.132 million.
 - (ii) The District Council Precept on the Collection Fund (Council Tax Requirement) of £11.689 million in 2024/2025 (based on the final Government Settlement) and a Band D Council Tax of £170.31.

Housing Revenue Account Revenue & Capital Budget 2024/25, Cabinet 6 February

Council agreed to

Housing Revenue Account (HRA): Revenue

- A) approve the HRA revenue budget for 2024/2025 as shown in the HRA Budget Summary as presented at **Appendix A**.

HRA: Review of Rents and Charges

- B) Approve that council dwelling rents for all social rented properties be increased by 7.7%, recognising that inflation measured by the Consumer Price Index (CPI) at September 2023, plus 1% results in an increase of 7.7%.
- C) Approve that affordable rents (inclusive of service charge) are also increased by 7.7% in line with the increase for social rents.
- D) Approve that rents for affordable shared ownership properties are increased by 5.4%, recognising that inflation measured by the Retail Price Index (RPI) at January 2024 plus 0.5% results in an increase of 5.4%.
- E) Approve that garage rents be increased by 7.7% in line with the increase for social rents.
- F) Approve the proposed service charges for HRA services and facilities provided to both tenants and leaseholders, as shown in Appendix D.

HRA: Capital

- G) Approve the required level of funding for new build investment between 2024/2025 and 2028/2029 to ensure that commitments can be met in respect of the investment of all right to buy receipts currently retained or anticipated to be received by the authority for this period. This expenditure will take the form of HRA new build, with the 60% top up met by other HRA resources.
- H) Approve the HRA Medium Term Financial Strategy forecasts as shown in Appendix B.
- I) Approve the Housing Capital Programme as shown in Appendix C.

Council Tax Resolution 2024-25

Council

Agreed That the Council Tax Resolution, detailed at **Appendix A**, be approved.

Review of Polling Districts and Polling Places 2023, Civic Affairs Committee

14 December

Council

Agreed to approve the adoption of a revised schedule of Polling Districts and Places as laid out at Appendix A, with the following amendments:

- The polling place for Over and Willingham SD3 was amended to “Parish of Willingham and Northstowe Town”.
- The polling places for Whittlesford WG1 and WG2 were amended to “The Parish of Thriplow and Heathfield”.
- Maps to be included showing the boundaries between both Girton and Madingley and Willingham and Northstowe.

Pay Policy Statement

Council

Agreed to approve the updated Pay Policy Statement as required by the Localism Act 2011.

Swavesey Byeways Rate 2024/25

Council

Agreed to retain the level of the Swavesey Bye-ways rate at £1.20 per hectare for land within the charge paying area for the period 2024/25 in order to fund the required level of maintenance.

Report of the Independent Remuneration Panel - Members' Allowances Scheme 2023/24

Council **agreed** to

- A)** Agree a revised Scheme of Members' Allowances for 2023/24 (see Appendix A), including:
- (i) An increase in the Basic Allowance to £5,800 (equivalent to a 5.44% increase) back dated to 1 April 2023; and
 - (ii) An increase to all the Special Responsibility Allowances of 5.44%, back dated to 1 April 2023; and
 - (iii) The awarding of a new Special Responsibility Allowance of £580 to members of the following three committees of the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority: Transport & Infrastructure, Environment & Sustainable Communities and Skills & Employment.

- B)** Authorise the Head of Transformation to implement and advertise the new scheme and make any consequential amendments required to the Scheme of Members' Allowances in Part 6 of the Constitution.

Calendar of Meetings 2024/25

Council

Agreed to approve the Calendar of Meetings 2024/2025, as set out in Appendix A.

Standing in the name of Councillor Daniel Lentell

Council **agreed** the following motion:

Council notes:

Domestic abuse can encompass a wide range of behaviours. It can but does not have to involve physical acts of violence and can include threatening behaviour, controlling or coercive behaviour, emotional, psychological, sexual and/or economic abuse. Domestic abuse can involve abuse facilitated and perpetrated online or offline. It is widely recognised that the perpetrator's desire to exercise power and control over the victim is at the centre of abusive behaviours. Many victims will experience abusive behaviours simultaneously, perpetrators may demonstrate a wide range and use different tactics to gain power and control.

Sexual violence, sexual harassment, and domestic abuse are endemic in modern society, highlighted recently by the appalling murders of Sabina Nessa, Sarah Everard, and sisters Bibba Henry and Nicole Smallman.

A recent OFSTED review into sexual harassment in schools has found that sexual harassment, including online sexual abuse, has become 'normalised' for children and young people.

The Council already holds accreditation with the Domestic Abuse Housing Alliance.

The Lead Cabinet Member for Housing has directed officers to work towards obtaining White Ribbon Accreditation.

Council recognises:

The Domestic Abusing Housing Alliance (DAHA) is a UK based charity that since 2014 has supported housing providers improve their response to domestic abuse. DAHA's accreditation standards have been endorsed by the Domestic Abuse Commissioner for England & Wales, Nicole Jacobs, who encouraged all local authorities and housing providers to adopt them.

White Ribbon is a charity in the UK with a mission to end violence against women and girls and is part of the global White Ribbon movement which arose from a campaign started in Canada in 2004.

Council believes:

The problem of domestic abuse needs addressing in all forms of relationship, including but not limited to abuse perpetrated by men towards women, by women towards men, within LGBTQ+ relationships, within family structures and within relationships between carers and those being cared for.

The prevalence of gender-based abuse is part of a broader culture of misogyny in society.

It is incumbent on everyone to work towards a society in which everybody can feel safe and secure and in which domestic abuse, including gender-based abuse, is a thing of the past.

By seeking White Ribbon accreditation, the Council will build upon its existing DAHA accreditation and will reaffirm its position that domestic abuse, including gender-based abuse, are never acceptable and we continue this fight against this scourge in society.

Council resolves to:

Endorse the decision of the Lead Cabinet Member for Housing to direct officers to work towards White Ribbon accreditation; and as part of this, mark White Ribbon Day on 25 November each year and encourage participation among councillors, council staff and local organisations.

Request the Leader to write to the Secretary of State for Education and the Secretary of State for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport to request further work be done in support of all elements of this motion.

Call out all forms of sexual objectification and all its negative outcomes and encourage others to do the same; championing the wellbeing of everyone, particularly of women and girls, and encouraging the education of everyone.

Standing in the Name of Councillor Heather Williams

Council **agreed** the following motion:

This Council requests that the Cabinet expands its Cost of Living Support scheme to include providing free sanitary products to those who may not be able to afford them.

Standing in the name of Councillor Anna Bradnam

Council **agreed** the following motion:

This Council notes:

- Care-experienced people face significant barriers that impact them throughout their lives.
- Despite the resilience of many care-experienced people, society too often does not take their needs into account.
- Care-experienced people often face discrimination and stigma across housing, health, education, relationships, employment and in the criminal justice system.
- Care-experienced people may encounter inconsistent support in different geographical areas.
- The Public Sector Equality Duty requires public bodies, such as councils, to eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment, and victimisation of people with protected characteristics.

This Council believes:

- Councillors should be champions of children and young people in care and challenge the negative attitudes and prejudice that exists in all aspects of society.

This Council therefore resolves, in support of similar resolutions made by Cambridgeshire County Council and the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority:

- It recognises that care experienced people are a group who are likely to face discrimination.
- It recognises that Councils have a duty to put the needs of disadvantaged people at the heart of decision-making through co-production and collaboration.
- Future decision, services and policies made and adopted by the Council should be assessed through Equality Impact Assessments to determine the impact of changes on people with care experience, alongside those who formally share a protected characteristic.
- In the delivery of the Public Sector Equality Duty the Council includes care experience in the publication and review of Equality Objectives and the annual publication of information relating to people who share a protected characteristic in services and employment.
- This Council will treat care experience as if it were a Protected Characteristic.
- This Council formally calls upon all other bodies to treat care experience as a protected characteristic until such time as it may be introduced by legislation including:
 - i. working to establish South Cambridgeshire as a District where all local government treats our care leavers similarly.
 - ii. calling on towns and parishes as well as the Greater Cambridge Partnership to also pass this motion to enable us all to work together to protect and provide for our care experienced young people.
- To continue proactively seeking out and listening to the voices of care experienced people when developing new policies based on their views.