

To: All Councillors

When calling please ask for:  
Fiona Cameron, Interim Democratic Services  
Manager  
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Calls may be recorded for training or monitoring  
Date: 8 February 2023

Dear Councillor

A Meeting of the EXECUTIVE was held on Tuesday, 7 February 2023. The Decisions taken at the meeting are set out below.

The deadline for call-in of any of these decisions for scrutiny (within five working days) will be **NOON ON WEDNESDAY, 15 FEBRUARY 2023**. Members must notify Stephen Rix, Interim Executive Head of Legal and Democratic Services (Monitoring Officer) by e-mail, telephone or letter if they wish to refer a decision to the appropriate Overview and Scrutiny Committee. The Constitution requires that **five non-Executive Members may call-in** a decision of the Executive for scrutiny.

Members should contact their Chairman or Vice-Chairman before calling any items in.

Yours sincerely

STEPHEN RIX

Executive Head of Legal and Democratic Services (Interim) (Monitoring Officer)

## **NOTE FOR MEMBERS**

The item numbers below correspond to the item numbers on the Executive Agenda.

### **AGENDA**

#### 7. **GENERAL FUND BUDGET 2023/24 AND MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL PLAN (MTFP) 2023/24 - 2026/27**

The Executive RESOLVED to make the following recommendations to Council, to:

- i) agree a 2.99% increase in Waverley's Band D Council Tax Charge for 2023/24 with resultant increases to the other council tax bands;
- ii) agree to continue the Council's existing Council Tax Support Scheme at the current levels;
- iii) agree to a general inflationary increase to Fees and Charges for 2023/24 except for car parking charges and some exceptions as proposed in Annexe 4;
- iv) note the appropriation of garages from the HRA to General fund and approve an increase of 4% to the weekly charge for all garages from 1 April 2023;
- v) approve the General Fund Budget for 2023/24 as summarised in Annexe 2, incorporating the baseline net service cost variations included at Annexe 1 and Annexe 3;
- vi) approve the General Fund Capital Programme as detailed in Annexe 5; and,
- vii) approve the reserve movements as set out in Annexe 6.

Reason: The General Fund Budget is a major decision for the Council and setting a balanced budget is a statutory requirement. Scrutiny of these MTFP and Budget proposals demonstrate transparency and good governance. The Covid-19 negative impact on the finances has mostly been overcome through the swift response and actions taken by the council. This challenge was immediately followed by the impact of the global economic crisis driving up UK inflation and interest rates and the resulting current cost of living crisis. The council has been well positioned to respond to these challenges and whilst the latest MTFP for the subsequent years ending 2026/27 continues to project future financial pressures, and opportunities, the council is able to take action to ensure sufficient funding is in place to deliver and maintain services.

**[This matter is recommended to Council for decision.]**

#### 8. **HRA BUSINESS PLAN - REVENUE BUDGET AND CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2023/24**

The Executive RESOLVED to recommend to Council that:

1. the rent level for Council dwellings be increased by up to 4% from the 22/23 level with effect from 1 April 2023 within the permitted guidelines contained within the Government's rent setting policy;
2. the service charges in senior living accommodation be increased by 4% per week from 1 April 2023 to £20.90;
3. the recharge for energy costs in HRA properties be increased by 4% per week from 1 April 2023;
4. the revised HRA Business Plan for 2023/24 to 2053/54 as set out in Annexe 1 be approved;
5. the approval change for the fees and charges as set out in Annexe 4 is noted
6. the Housing Revenue Account Capital Programmes as shown in Annexe 5 & Annexe 6 be approved; and,
7. the financing of the capital programmes be approved in line with the resources shown in Annexe 7.
8. to deliver the works identified in the maintenance budgets it is recommended that authority is delegated to the Executive Head of Housing, in consultation with the Co-Portfolio Holders for Housing and the s151 Officer, to procure and enter into contracts valued over £100,000 shown in Annexe 8.

Reason: In order to approve the use of reserves and resources to fund Waverley Borough Council's Landlord Services, the 30 year maintenance programme, deliver proposals for building new affordable homes and stock remodelling.

**[This matter is recommended to Full Council for decision.]**

9. CAPITAL STRATEGY 2023/24 - INCORPORATING TREASURY MANAGEMENT AND ASSET MANAGEMENT INVESTMENT STRATEGY

The Executive RESOLVED to recommend to Council:

1. That the five-year Capital Strategy for 2023/2028, incorporating the Treasury Management Strategy, Prudential Indicators and Asset Investment Strategy, is approved.
2. That Full Council delegate authority to the Executive for the financial year 2023/2024, subject to a positive recommendation from the Asset Investment Advisory Board and agreement from the Joint Chief Executive and Joint Strategic Director:
  - a. to bid, negotiate and complete on property acquisitions and investments in land and buildings with a total individual cost of up to £10m, subject to the decision fully satisfying all criteria and process requirements set out in this Strategy; and
  - b. to determine a funding strategy for the acquisition or investment in line with the Treasury Management Strategy; and
  - c. to appoint advisors and undertake appropriate due diligence for each property acquisition and investment proposal as necessary; and

- d. to complete the legal matters and signing of contracts to execute the transactions referred to above.

Reason: The Capital Strategy is a whole organisation approach to capital investments (expenditure) and overall strategic planning. It has historically been seen as a finance responsibility but should be steered by the leadership of the Council and is a responsibility of all.

**[This matter is recommended to Council for decision.]**

#### 10. PAY POLICY STATEMENT 2023/24

The Executive RESOLVED to recommend to Council that the Pay Policy Statement for the 2023/24 financial year, attached at Annexe 1, be approved, subject to an amendment to correct the reference to the Joint Chief Executive being the Council's Returning Officer.

Reason: to comply with the Localism Act 2011 (Sections 38 and 39).

**[This matter is recommended to Full Council for decision.]**

#### 11. LOCAL PLAN PART 1 REVIEW

The Executive RESOLVED to recommend to Full Council that:

1. Having undertaken a review of LPP1 in accordance with [regulation 10A of The Town and Country Planning \(Local Planning\) \(England\) Regulations 2012 \(as amended\)](#), the Council resolves that LPP1 requires updating to a greater or lesser extent. However, the Local Plan as a whole continues to provide an up-to-date statutory development plan for Waverley, which must remain the starting point for decisions on planning applications while an update is brought forward.

The Executive further RESOLVED that:

2. A further report on the detailed scope of the update and the timetable for its preparation is prepared for consideration by Overview & Scrutiny to allow comments and recommendations to be made prior to the presentation to Executive and Full Council. This should include the implications of a new National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) and the emerging Levelling Up and Regeneration Bill once fully understood.
3. Budgetary provision is made to enable technical work on an updated evidence base to commence during 2023/24.
4. The budget should be reviewed in the light of the agreed scope of the update and work programme, with clear alignment and monitoring arrangements.
5. The governance journey for the update process should be clarified, to include the role of Overview and Scrutiny.

Reason: There is a statutory requirement to review Local Plan Part 1 to decide if an update is required.

**[Resolution 1 is recommended to Council for decision. The additional resolutions reflect recommendations from O&S – Services Committee.]**

12. GUILDFORD - GODALMING GREENWAY LAMMAS LAND CROSSING OPTIONS

The Executive RESOLVED to:

- a. Authorise SCC to proceed with detailed design and application for consents to cross the Lammas Lands using Option 3, hybrid route alignment, subject to in principle landowner permission from National Trust.
- b. Make route approval on the basis that SCC would have the primary responsibility for route maintenance.

Reason: Authorisation will enable SCC Highways to proceed with detailed design, planning and other consents. The hybrid route (Option 3) minimises disturbance to the Lammas lands whilst still supporting active travel between the centres of Farncombe and Godalming.

**[Overview & Scrutiny – Services]**

13. UK SHARED PROSPERITY FUND PROJECTS AND RURAL ENGLAND FUND

The Executive RESOLVED to approve:

1. the projects that have gone through the governance journey required by government, engagement with MPs in addition to internal governance requirements, for the £1 million UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) allocation to Waverley.
2. Waverley's Rural England Prosperity Fund (REPF) allocation of £400,000 to be used as a continuation of the Rural Development Programme for England: LEADER Funding (2015-2020) to support Waverley's rural business community, working with Surrey County Council, Guildford BC and Tandridge DC.

Reason: The allocation of £1.4 million is a considerable sum that will have a significant impact on local communities and businesses. The projects funded support the priorities of the Council during the recent cost-of-living crisis and new Economic Development Strategy, currently being consulted on with external and internal stakeholders. The projects have travelled through the internal and external governance route, as approved in July 2022.

**[Overview & Scrutiny – Resources]**

**For further information or assistance, please telephone Fiona Cameron,  
Interim Democratic Services Manager on 01483 523226**