

Agenda item number and title	Decisions taken	Reasons for decision	Details of alternative options considered	Details of any conflict of interest declared and any dispensation granted
8. General Fund Budget 2024/25	<p>The Executive RECOMMEND that Council:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> I. Agree a 2.99% increase in Waverley’s Band D Council Tax Charge for 2024/25 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 (a) to a general inflationary increase to Fees and Charges for 2024/25 except for car parking charges and some limited other exceptions as proposed in <u>Annexe 4.1</u>, (b) agree the increase to car parking charges as proposed in <u>Annexe 4.2</u>, and (c) agree the specific other increases to the fees and charges as proposed in <u>Annexe 4.3</u>; IV. Approve a general inflationary increase of 4.5% to the weekly charge for all garages from 1 April 2024; V. Approve the General Fund Budget for 2024/25 as summarised in <u>Annexe 2</u>, incorporating the baseline net service cost variations detailed at <u>Annexe 1</u> and <u>Annexe 3</u>; VI. Approve the General Fund Capital Programme as detailed in <u>Annexe 5</u>; VII. Approve the reserve movements as set out in <u>Annexe 6</u> and to agree a delegation to the S151 officer to agree draw down from the reserves if the use is in line with the approved purpose; and VIII. Approve an increase in inflation provision proposed within the General Fund budget of £111,252 to be funded by the £159,459 increase in funding guarantee grant as confirmed by the Department of Levelling Up, Housing and Communities on 5 February 2024. 	<p>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 impacts of macroeconomic conditions and government policies are reflected in the budget proposal as set out in the report.</p> <p>While the council has managed to respond to these challenges in recent years, the latest MTFP for the years ending 2027/28 continues to project future financial pressures. The council is taking action to ensure sufficient funding is in place to deliver and maintain services for 2024/25 but this report explains the conditions and uncertainties that threaten its ability to continue to do so for the following years.</p>	As set out in the report.	None

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9. HRA Budget 2024/25	<p>The Executive RECOMMEND that the Council approves:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> I. The weekly rent for Council dwellings to be increased by up to 7.7% from the 2023/24 weekly rent charges, effective from 1 April 2024, within the permitted guidelines contained within the Government’s rent setting policy II. That service charges and utility charges at non senior living accommodation be increased by 7.7% per week III. That the heating charges in senior living accommodation be increased by 20% per week from 1 April 2024 to £31.20 IV. The Service Charge in senior living accommodation be increased by 15% per week from 1 April 2024 to £24.04 V. The revised HRA Business Plan for 2024/25 to 2053/54 as set out in Annexe 1 VI. The approved change to the fees and charges as set out in Annexe 4 is noted; VII. The HRA capital programmes as show in Annexe 5 and 6; VIII. The financing of the capital programmes in line with the resources as shown in Annexe 7 IX. 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 s151 Officer, to procure and enter contracts valued over £100,000 show in Annexe 8 X. An increase in inflation provision proposed within the Housing Revenue Account budget of £48,207 to be funded by the £159,459 increase in funding 	<p>In order to approve the use of reserves and resources to fund Waverley Borough Councils Landlord Services, the 30 year maintenance programme, and to deliver proposals for building new affordable homes and stock remodelling.</p>	<p>Alternative rent scenarios are included in the body of the report.</p>	<p>None</p>

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	guarantee grant as confirmed by the Department of Levelling Up, Housing and Communities on 5 February 2024.			
10. Capital Strategy 2024/25	<p>The Executive RECOMMEND that the Council approves:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> I. The five-year Capital Strategy for 2024/2029, incorporating the Treasury Management Strategy, Prudential Indicators and Asset Investment Strategy, for approval. II. That Full Council delegate authority to the Executive for the financial year 2024/25, subject to a positive recommendation from the Asset Investment Advisory Board and agreement from the Chief Executive and Strategic Director: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 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. 	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.	It is a statutory requirement for local authorities to produce an annual Capital Strategy.	None

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<p>11. Leaseholder Buildings Insurance Cover 2024/25</p>	<p>The Executive RESOLVED to</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> I. Approve the renewal of the right to buy leasehold insurance policy with Proctor Insurance for one year (April 2024 – March 2025) at the estimated value of £105K. 	<p>The Council is responsible for providing building insurance for the 480 right to buy leaseholders who are recharged for the service.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> I. Insurance could be procured at a cost to the leaseholders but because of the leasehold insurance market Protector Insurance may be the only insurer to return a tender. The outcome of a procurement being financially beneficial to the leaseholders may be minimal. II. The practical option with minimal risk is the offer of Protector Insurance to provide the cover for 12 months and for the Council to tender the long term provision from 2025. 	<p>None</p>

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12. Social Housing Decarbonisation Fund	<p>Subject to there being a successful application by the Council in obtaining grant from the Social Housing Decarbonisation Fund, The Executive RESOLVED to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> I. Approve, in consultation with the Borough Solicitor, delegation of authority to the Executive Head of Housing Services to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. award directly a contract to E.ON to deliver energy efficiency works to council homes through a public sector framework (Fusion 21) for the value of £560K. b. enter into a Grant Funding Agreement (GFA), Grant Offer Letter (GOL), Data Sharing Agreement (DSA) and associated documents with the Department of Energy, Security and Net Zero (DESNZ). II. Approve expenditure of £280,000 as allocated by the Council as part of the match funding. 	As set out in the report.	The only option apart from withdrawing the bid is to make a direct award to E.ON if the Council's bid is successful.	None
13. Pay Policy Statement 2024-25	The Executive RECOMMEND to Council that the Pay Policy Statement for the 2024/25 financial year, attached at Appendix 1, be approved.	To comply with the Localism Act 2011 (Sections 38 and 39).	The Pay Policy Statement is a requirement of section 38 (1) of the Localism Act 2011 that sets a statutory duty on local authorities annually to publish a statement	None

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			approved by Full Council by the end of the financial year and relating to the new financial year. Failure to comply could lead to a legal challenge to the Council.	

The deadline for call-in of any of these decisions for scrutiny (within five working days) will be NOON ON **14 February 2024**. Members must notify Susan Sale, Executive Head of Legal and Democratic Services (Monitoring Officer) by e-mail committees@waverley.gov.uk 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 Overview and Scrutiny Chairman or Vice-Chairman before calling any items in.

For further information or assistance, please contact Committee Services committees@waverley.gov.uk