

CABINET DECISION RECORD

The following decisions were taken by the Cabinet on Tuesday, 30 January 2024 and will take effect on 08/02/2024 unless the call-in procedure has been triggered.

CALL-IN DEADLINE: 07/02/2024.

The following represents a summary of the decisions taken by the Cabinet. It is intended to represent the formal record of the decisions taken and to facilitate the call-in process. The minutes will be published in due course to site alongside this decision sheet.

Members wishing to request a call-in on any of these matters, should contact the Regulatory Business Manager or relevant Committee Manager.

The Cabinet at its meeting on Tuesday, 30 January 2024 considered the following matters and resolved:

- **MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING: 11 DECEMBER 2023 AND 19 DECEMBER 2023** (Item 2)

These were agreed as a correct record of the meeting.

- **REPORTS FROM SELECT COMMITTEES, TASK GROUPS AND OTHER COMMITTEES OF THE COUNCIL** (Item 5)

RESOLVED:

That the Budget Task Group report be noted and recommendations considered.

- **LEADER / DEPUTY LEADER / CABINET MEMBER/ STRATEGIC INVESTMENT BOARD DECISIONS TAKEN SINCE THE LAST CABINET MEETING** (Item 6)

RESOLVED:

That the decisions taken since the last Cabinet meeting be noted.

- **CABINET MEMBER OF THE MONTH** (Item 7)

RESOLVED:

That the Cabinet Member of the Month update be noted.

- **2024/25 FINAL BUDGET AND MEDIUM-TERM FINANCIAL STRATEGY TO 2028/29** (Item 8)

RESOLVED:

That Cabinet makes the following recommendations to Council on 6 February 2024.

Cabinet recommends that Council:

1. Approves the net revenue budget requirement be set at **£1,197.1 million** (net cost of services after service specific government grants) for 2024/25

(Annex B), subject to confirmation of the Final Local Government Financial Settlement.

2. Approves the total Council Tax Funding Requirement be set at **£914.9 million** for 2024/25. This is based on a council tax increase of 4.99%, made up of an increase in the level of core council tax of 2.99% and an increase of 2% in the precept proposed by Central Government to cover the growing cost of Adult Social Care (Annex E).
3. Notes that for the purpose of section 52ZB of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, the Council formally determines that the increase in core council tax is not such as to trigger a referendum (i.e. not greater than 3%).
4. Sets the Surrey County Council precept for Band D Council Tax at £1,758.60, which represents a 4.99% uplift. This is a rise of £1.61 a week from the 2023/24 precept of £1,675.08. This includes £251.44 for the Adult Social Care precept, which has increased by £33.50. A full list of bands is as follows:

| Valuation band | Core precept | ASC precept | Overall precept |
|----------------|--------------|-------------|-----------------|
| A | £ 1,004.77 | £ 167.63 | £ 1,172.40 |
| B | £ 1,172.24 | £ 195.56 | £ 1,367.80 |
| C | £ 1,339.70 | £ 223.50 | £ 1,563.20 |
| D | £ 1,507.16 | £ 251.44 | £ 1,758.60 |
| E | £ 1,842.08 | £ 307.32 | £ 2,149.40 |
| F | £ 2,177.01 | £ 363.19 | £ 2,540.20 |
| G | £ 2,511.93 | £ 419.07 | £ 2,931.00 |
| H | £ 3,014.32 | £ 502.88 | £ 3,517.20 |

5. Approves the use of £5m of earmarked reserves, to enable additional targeted preventative and early intervention investment in the event that the Final Local Government Finance Settlement does not provide any additional funding to that contained in the provisional settlement (paragraph 6).
6. Notes that underlying General Fund Balances are projected to remain at £49 million as of 1 April 2024.
7. Approves the Total Schools Budget of £656.7 million to meet the Council's statutory requirement on schools funding (as set out in Section 9 of the 2024/25 Final Budget and Medium-Term Financial Strategy to 2028/29).
8. Approves the overall indicative Budget Envelopes for Directorates and individual services for the 2024/25 budget (Annex B).
9. Approves the total £1,902.4 million proposed five-year Capital Programme (comprising £1,291.3 million of budget and £611.1 million pipeline) and approves the £404.9 million Capital Budget in 2024/25 (Annex C).
10. Approves the Capital and Investment Strategy (Annex F - Sections 1 to 3), which provides an overview of how risks associated with capital expenditure, financing and treasury will be managed as well as how they contribute towards the delivery of services.
11. Approves the policy for making a prudent level of revenue provision for the repayment of debt - the Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP) Policy (Annex G).
12. Notes that the investment in Transformation required to deliver improved

outcomes and financial benefits is built into the proposed Medium-Term Financial Strategy (as set out in section 3 of 2024/25 Final Budget Report and Medium-Term Financial Strategy to 2028/29).

13. Cabinet notes that the Audit & Governance Committee has approved the following at its meeting on the 17th January 2024: Treasury Management Strategy and Prudential Indicators (Annex F – Section 4) which set a framework for the Council's treasury function to manage risks, source borrowing and invest surplus cash.

Reasons for Decisions:

Council will meet on 6 February 2024 to agree a budget and to set the Council Tax Precept for 2024/25. Cabinet is required to recommend a budget to Council for consideration at this meeting. The budget directs available resources to support the achievement of the Council's ambitions and priorities in the 2030 Vision and the Refreshed Organisation Strategy.

The budget will also support the delivery of the continuing transformational changes that are required to ensure that the Council can improve priority outcomes for residents, while managing growing demand for services and ensuring future financial sustainability.

- **ADMISSION ARRANGEMENTS FOR SURREY'S COMMUNITY AND VOLUNTARY CONTROLLED SCHOOLS FOR SEPTEMBER 2025** (Item 9)

RESOLVED:

That Cabinet makes the following recommendations to Council on 6 February 2024.

Cabinet recommends that Council approves:

1. The admission arrangements for community and voluntary controlled schools, including the Published Admission Numbers (PANs), for September 2025 as set out in Annex 1 and its appendices.

Reasons for Decisions:

- The local authority has a duty to determine the admission arrangements for all community and voluntary controlled schools by 28 February 2024
 - The admission arrangements are working well
 - The arrangements enable the majority of pupils to attend a local school and in doing so reduce travel and support Surrey's sustainability policies
 - The changes highlighted in bold red text in Sections 10, 11, 14 and 19 of Annex 1 have been made to add clarity to the arrangements and reflect existing practice
 - The arrangements remain as they were determined for 2024, which enables parents to have some historical benchmark by which to make informed decisions about their school preferences for 2025 admission
 - The arrangements are compliant with the School Admissions Code
- **STRATEGIC INVESTMENT BOARD ANNUAL REPORT - FINANCIAL YEAR 2022/23** (Item 10)

RESOLVED:

1. That Cabinet endorses the Annual Report of the Strategic Investment

Board.

Reasons for Decisions:

- To inform the Council about the activities of the Strategic Investment Board
- The Strategic Investment Board has been established in accordance with best practice governance to ensure effective oversight and alignment with the strategic objectives and values of the Council.

(The decisions on this item can be called in by the Resources and Performance Select Committee)

- **2023/24 MONTH 8 (NOVEMBER) FINANCIAL REPORT** (Item 11)

RESOLVED:

1. That Cabinet notes the Council's forecast revenue budget (after the application of the full contingency budget) and capital budget positions for the year.
2. That Cabinet approves the Empty Homes proposal of £575,933 to Waverley Borough Council relating to 2022, outlined in paragraph 7 – 8.
3. That Cabinet approves the increase to the Your Fund Surrey small project fund allocation for each individual councillor to £100,000.

Reasons for Decisions:

This report is to comply with the agreed policy of providing a monthly budget monitoring report to Cabinet for approval of any necessary actions.

(The decisions on this item can be called in by the Resources and Performance Select Committee)

- **STRATEGIC INVESTMENT BOARD ANNUAL REPORT - FINANCIAL YEAR 2022/23** (Item 13)

See Minute 13/24.

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