

CABINET

Thursday, 17 February 2022 (6:30 pm – 6:31 pm)

PRESENT:

Councillor House (Chair); Councillors Bicknell and Corben

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Airey, Craig, Kyrle and Pretty

RECOMMENDED ITEMS (REQUIRING A DECISION)76. RECOMMENDATIONS FROM COMMITTEES

There were no recommendations from Committees.

77. CORPORATE ACTION PLAN 2022/23Issue

The Corporate Action Plan (CAP) reflects the ambition of the Council to deliver for residents and businesses in the borough.

Consideration

The Corporate Action Plan is a statement of intention to carry out actions against a set of priorities, for residents, Councillors, staff and stakeholders, to visibly and meaningfully demonstrate its commitment to meeting Corporate Plan objectives.

RESOLVED –

That Cabinet approve the attached revised Corporate Action Plan for 2022/23 at Appendix 1 for approval by Council.

78. CORPORATE PERFORMANCEIssue

Corporate Performance presents the Council's financial and operational performance position for the third quarter (Q3) of 2021/22, including a forecast of the financial position for the full year against that budgeted.

Consideration

The financial monitoring for the third quarter of 2021/22 is forecasting total net favourable variances against the budget of £315,000 based on best

estimates in a changing landscape. This position will be reflected in the Budget and Medium-Term Financial Plan (MTFP).

RESOLVED –

That Cabinet:

- (1) note the performance of the Council for the first three quarters of 2021/22 and the Council’s forecast financial position for the year and consider any recommendations from Policy and Performance Scrutiny Panel; and**
- (2) note the performance of the Community Investment Programme (Appendix C).**

79. GENERAL FUND REVENUE BUDGET

Issue

This year has seen an improvement in certainty as the restrictions around Covid-19 have begun to be lifted. The budget process has reflected this increased certainty with informed budget forecasting and setting throughout 2021/22. Due to this a Revised Budget for 2021/22 and original budget for 2022/23 is brought for approval, this will help measure the ongoing impact of Covid-19 and other related costs and losses. The Medium-Term Financial Plan (MTFP) reflects the forecast outturn position and includes the anticipated future impacts of the pandemic and other emerging issues where relevant.

Consideration

As reported last year, due to the uncertainty of the impact of the pandemic, a regular review of the MTFP has continued to be carried out and reported to councillors quarterly to demonstrate that the Council remains in a stable financial position and is well prepared for any further unforeseen changes. As such the updated MTFP will continue to now be approved in line with the Budget in February. This enables the longer-term forecasts to be more accurate, up to date and directly aligned to the approved Budget.

RESOLVED –

That Cabinet:

- (1) recommend Council set the revised net Revenue Budget requirement for 2021/22 at £9,914,000 and note the impact on the Council’s General Fund balance (para 9);**
- (2) recommend Council set the net Revenue Budget requirement for 2022/23 at £10,166,000 and note the impact on the Council’s General Fund balance (para 9);**

- (3) recommend Council note the provisional Local Government Finance settlement for 2022/23 (para 14-17);**
- (4) recommend Council approve budget adjustments for 2021/22 and 2022/23 in line with the Medium Term Financial Plan (Appendices A & B);**
- (5) recommend Council increase the average Council Tax for Eastleigh Borough Council by 1.99% (2.81%below CPI) (para 18-22);**
- (6) recommend Council approve the Special Expenses for Parished and Non-Parished areas (para 23-25);**
- (7) Approve expenditure of £1,400,000 in 2022/23 for the Disabled Facilities Grant Programme to be funded from Government grant and housing capital receipts;**
- (8) Recommend to Council to accept the invitation from the Public Sector Audit Appointments (PSAA) Ltd to join the national scheme for the procurement of external audit services with effect from 2023/24.**

80. CAPITAL, INVESTMENT AND TREASURY MANAGEMENT STRATEGY

Issue

The Capital, Investment and Treasury Management Strategies set out the long-term context in which capital expenditure decisions are made and gives due consideration to both the risk and reward of these decisions and the impact on the achievement of priority objectives.

Consideration

These strategies give a high-level overview of how capital expenditure, financing and treasury management activity contribute to the provision of local services along with an overview of how associated risk is managed and the implications for future financial sustainability.

RESOLVED –

That Cabinet:

- (1) recommend to Council to approve the Capital Strategy at Appendix 1;**
- (2) recommend to Council to approve the Treasury Management Strategy at Appendix 2;**
- (3) recommend to Council to approve the Investment Strategy at Appendix 3;**

- (4) recommend to Council to approve the Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP) Statement at Appendix 2A; and**
- (5) recommend to Council to approve the Prudential Indicators at Appendix 2B.**

81. WRITE OFF OF IRRECOVERABLE DEBTS 2020/21

Issue

Councillors are aware that the Executive Head of Finance and Housing Programme is authorised within the Constitution's Scheme of Delegation to write-off debts of £5,000 or less in respect of housing benefits, council tax and business rates respectively. The Chief Financial Officer is authorised to write off debts of £5,000 or less and debts over this amount where bankruptcy or liquidation proceedings have been instituted. Anything outside of these limits should be approved by Cabinet.

Consideration

The process for debt collection is regularly reviewed to ensure that income to the Council can be maximised.

RESOLVED –

That Cabinet:

- (1) consider any recommendations from Audit & Resources Committee;**
- (2) note debts of £5,000 or under approved for write off by the Executive Head of Finance and Housing Programme with a net total of £2,123.03;**
- (3) note debts of £5,000 or under, and debts relating to bankruptcy or liquidation proceedings, approved for write off by the Corporate Director (CFO) with a net total of £182,922.25;**
- (4) note debts of £5,000 or under, approved for write off by the Corporate Director (CFO) totalling £51,566.06; and**
- (5) approve the write-off of debts in respect of one debtor in excess of £5,000 totalling £187,727.00 relating to National Non Domestic Rates (NNDR).**

RESOLVED ITEMS (SUBJECT TO QUESTIONS ONLY)

82. MINUTES

RESOLVED -

That the Minutes of the meeting held on 9 December 2021 be agreed as a correct record.

83. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest in relation to items of business on the agenda.

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