

DECISION RECORD SHEETS

FOR

DECISIONS MADE AT THE

EXECUTIVE MEETING

HELD ON

THURSDAY, 26 OCTOBER 2023

DECISION SHEET

ACTION BY

57. Declaration of Interests

DECISION

There were no declarations of interest on this occasion.

DECISION SHEET

ACTION BY

61. Proposed approach for the Street Scene and Grounds Maintenance service review

Director, Place and Growth -
Giorgio Framalitto

DECISION:

RESOLVED that the Executive:

1) approved the Community and Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee's recommendations:

- a) that the reduction of litter bins and frequency of emptying some bins not be implemented,
- b) that the proposed service reductions on Pages 8 - 11 of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee report be approved.

2) Noted that the Community and Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee agreed to establish a Task & Finish Group later in 2023/24, to scrutinise the provision and emptying of litter bins across the Borough and submit its recommendations to the Executive in due course.

3) Approved all necessary contract and financial adjustments with all necessary public information amended and appropriate proactive communications to all necessary stakeholders.

4) Approved the reduction of the service base budget to achieve the required savings subject to approval.

5) Noted the results of the public consultation (Appendix 1 of the report attached to the agenda).

Reason for Decision

The Council, like many others, is experiencing significant financial pressures due to inflation, capped increases of Council Tax and being the least funded unitary authority in the country. In comparison to other Unitary authorities, residents in Wokingham Borough receive around £400 less per household each year. In total this amounts to £30m less for Wokingham residents. The inflation, budget pressures and other associated care cost pressures now raise the need to implement financial savings as required. If the savings are unable to be achieved this will place an even further budget pressure on the Council.

Alternative options considered and rejected at time of the decision

None.

Any Conflict of interest declared by any Executive Member

None.

Any dispensation granted by the Head of Paid Service in respect of any declared conflict of interest

Not applicable.

DECISION SHEET

ACTION BY

62. Customer Experience Strategy

Chief Operating Officer – Sally
Watkins

DECISION:

RESOLVED that the Executive approved the draft Customer Experience strategy, following public consultation.

Reason for Decision

The strategy addresses several ‘pain points’ for our customers that were identified through more robust and frequent gathering of feedback, over the last 12 months. Feedback and input has been gathered from the workforce, residents, businesses, partners and Community groups to inform the content and design of the strategy – including the Equality Forum, CLASP and the Youth Council.

We know that people have inconsistent customer experiences when they interact with the Council – there are pockets of excellence, but the customer experience is not owned by everyone. The strategy outlines the vision and ambition around improving a more consistent customer experience.

Alternative options considered and rejected at time of the decision

None.

Any Conflict of interest declared by any Executive Member

None.

Any dispensation granted by the Head of Paid Service in respect of any declared conflict of interest

Not applicable.

DECISION SHEET

ACTION BY

63. Affordable Housing Rent Setting Policy

Director, Place and Growth -
Giorgio Framalitto

DECISION:

RESOLVED that the Executive approved the Rent Setting Policy as set out in Appendix 1 to the report attached to the agenda, for which the 'Rent Setting Policy' primarily relates to the Housing Revenue Account (2573 properties) plus includes a small number (18 properties) of General Fund properties.

Reason for Decision

The 'Rent Setting Policy' ensures we are regularising the current annual rent setting process, that re-confirms the rent setting is part of the annual Housing Revenue Account budget setting process.

The policy requires the council to adhere to the Rent Standard 2020 that in practice, means our approach to rent setting continues without any changes to our historical approach.

The final rent level will be agreed as part of the Housing Revenue Account budget setting process.

Alternative options considered and rejected at time of the decision

None.

Any Conflict of interest declared by any Executive Member

None.

Any dispensation granted by the Head of Paid Service in respect of any declared conflict of interest

Not applicable.

DECISION SHEET

ACTION BY

64. Revenue Monitoring 2023-24 Q2

Deputy Chief Executive - Graham Ebers

DECISION:

RESOLVED that the Executive:

- 1) noted the overall forecast of the current position of the General Fund revenue budget, Housing Revenue Account (HRA) and Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) illustrated in the Executive Summary and appendices attached to the report attached to the agenda.
- 2) noted the update on the update on the Energy Procurement Contract
- 3) approved the supplementary estimate of £86k in 2023/24 to support the procurement of the Waste Collection, Highways and Street Cleaning contracts.

Reason for Decision

This report is to allow the Executive to note the current of the forecast outturn position for 2023/24 for the Council's net revenue expenditure, its General Fund Balance (GFB), the Housing Revenue Account (HRA), and the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG).

Alternative options considered and rejected at time of the decision

None.

Any Conflict of interest declared by any Executive Member

None.

Any dispensation granted by the Head of Paid Service in respect of any declared conflict of interest

Not applicable.

DECISION SHEET

ACTION BY

65. Capital Monitoring 2023/24 - Q2

Deputy Chief Executive - Graham Ebers

DECISION:

RESOLVED that the Executive:

- 1) noted the position of the capital programme at the end of Quarter 2 (to 30 September 2023) as summarised in the report below and set out in detail in Appendix A to the report;
- 2) approved and noted the proposed carry forwards in the capital programme as set out in Appendix B of the report attached to the agenda;
- 3) approved a supplementary budget of £175,000 for the delivery of the pedestrian and cycleway at Hazebrouck Suitable Alternative Natural Greenspace (SANG). This is funded in full, from ringfenced S106 monies that can only be used for these purposes.

Reason for Decision

This report informs the Executive of the progress of the Council in delivering its capital programme for the financial year 2023/2024. The Executive have previously agreed to consider Capital Monitoring Reports on a quarterly basis and this report highlights the capital monitoring as at the end of the second quarter of the financial year (30 September 2023).

Alternative options considered and rejected at time of the decision

None.

Any Conflict of interest declared by any Executive Member

None.

Any dispensation granted by the Head of Paid Service in respect of any declared conflict of interest

Not applicable.

DECISION SHEET

ACTION BY

66. Ruscombe Neighbourhood Plan

Director, Place and Growth -
Giorgio Framalitto

DECISION:

RESOLVED that the Executive:

- 1) Accepted the modifications recommended by the Independent Examination into the Ruscombe Neighbourhood Plan (as set out in Enclosure 1 of the agenda papers) and for the modified plan to proceed to referendum.
- 2) Agreed that the Ruscombe Neighbourhood Plan, as modified in accordance with the recommendations of the Independent Examiner, meets the basic conditions and complies with the provisions of Paragraph 8 (1) (a) (2) of Schedule 4B to the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (inserted by the Localism Act 2011).
- 3) Agreed to publish the 'Decision Statement' as set out at Enclosure 2 of the agenda papers.
- 4) Authorised the Director of Place and Growth, in consultation with the Executive Member for Planning and Local Plan, to agree minor factual and consequential modifications necessary to the Ruscombe Neighbourhood Plan, the Decision Statement, and other supporting documents prior to the referendum.

Reason for Decision

The report considers the findings of the examination of the submission Ruscombe Neighbourhood Plan, the modifications recommended by the Independent Examiner and, if those modifications are accepted, seeks approval for the plan to progress to a public vote at referendum.

The Ruscombe Neighbourhood Plan, prepared by Ruscombe Parish Council, if made (adopted) will become part of the development plan and be used alongside Wokingham Borough Council's local plans to guide decisions on planning applications.

Alternative options considered and rejected at time of the decision

None.

Any Conflict of interest declared by any Executive Member

None.

Any dispensation granted by the Head of Paid Service in respect of any declared conflict of interest

Not applicable.

Priya Patel
Head of Democratic and Electoral Services

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