

**DECISION RECORD SHEETS**

**FOR**

**DECISIONS MADE AT THE**

**EXECUTIVE MEETING**

**HELD ON**

**THURSDAY, 16 FEBRUARY 2023**

## DECISION SHEET

## ACTION BY

### 83. Housing Revenue Account Budget 2023/24

Deputy Chief Executive - Graham Ebers

## DECISION

**RESOLVED:** That the Executive made the following recommendations to Council. That:

- 1) The Housing Revenue Account budget for 2023/24 (Appendix A of the agenda papers) be approved;
- 2) That Council house dwelling rents be increased by up to 5.99% effective from 3 April 2023 in line with the council's Rent Setting Policy that was approved by Executive on 27 October 2022.
- 3) Garage rents to be increased by 5.99% effective from April 2023;
- 4) Shared Equity Rents to be increased by 5.99% effective from April 2023;
- 5) Tenant Service Charges to be increased by 3.99% effective from April 2023;
- 6) The Housing Major Repairs (capital) programme for 2023/24 as set out in Appendix B be approved;
- 7) Sheltered room guest charges for 2023/24 remain unchanged at £9.50 per night per room.

## Reason for Decision

The revenue and capital budgets for 2023/24 are set and tenants rent levels are set for 2023/24 to ensure sound finances and value for money in providing housing services for council tenants.

## 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

None.

## DECISION SHEET

## ACTION BY

### 84. Capital Programme and Strategy 2023-2026

Deputy Chief Executive - Graham Ebers

## DECISION

**RESOLVED:** That the Executive noted and recommended to Council that:

- 1) the Capital Strategy for 2023 - 2026 at Appendix A of the agenda papers, be approved
- 2) the three-year capital programme for 2023 - 2026 at Appendix B of the agenda papers, be approved;
- 3) the draft vision for capital investment over the next five years at Appendix C of the agenda papers be approved;
- 4) the use of developer contribution funding (s106 and CIL) for capital projects as set out in Appendix D of the agenda papers, be approved. (Approval is sought up to the project budget.)

### Reason for Decision

The capital programme and strategy 2023-2026 sets out the capital investment for the benefit of the community and how this is funded.

### 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

None.

## DECISION SHEET

## ACTION BY

### 85. Treasury Management Strategy 2023-2026

Deputy Chief Executive - Graham Ebers

## DECISION

**RESOLVED:** That the Executive;

1) noted the Treasury Management Strategy as set out in Appendix A, of the agenda papers including the following additional appendices;

- Prudential Indicators (Appendix B)
- Annual Investment Strategy 2023/24 (Appendix C)
- Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP) policy (Appendix D)

2) noted that the Audit Committee agreed the Treasury Management Strategy, including the change of minimum credit rating for investments, on 1 February 2023 and have recommended the report to Council.

### Reason for Decision

To agree the treasury management procedures, limits, and objectives for 2023/24.

Effective and safe use of our resources to deliver service improvements and service continuity through the management of the council's cash flow and investments while funding the capital programme.

### 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

None.

## **DECISION SHEET**

## **ACTION BY**

### **86. Medium Term Financial Plan 2023-2026 Including Revenue Budget Submission 2023/24**

Deputy Chief Executive - Graham  
Ebers

## **DECISION**

**RESOLVED:** That the Executive:

- 1) recommended to Council that the Summary of Budget Movements (SOBM) be approved. (Appendix A of the agenda papers);
- 2) noted the report of the Community and Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee relating to Scrutiny of the Budget Setting Process 2023-24 and the Medium Term Financial Plan 2023-2026 (as set out in Appendix B to the report);
- 3) approved the schedule of fees and charges, as set out in Appendix C to the report, to be effective from the dates listed on the schedule and the schedule of fees and charges, as set out in Appendix E in relation to the decision at Licensing and Appeals Committee;
- 4) agreed delegated authority for the Chief Finance Officer to draw funds from the Dedicated Schools Grant to support delivery of the Safety Valve Programme.
- 5) noted in relation to the capital programme, additional challenges have emerged in the secondary school places capital programme and were currently being worked through and would be reported to Executive in early 2023/24 to seek the necessary budget provision.

### **Reason for Decision**

To provide the Executive with the key revenue budget extract for 2023/24 of the Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP) 2023-2024 for submission to 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**

None.

## DECISION SHEET

## ACTION BY

### 87. Selection of the Council's Preferred Registered Providers

Director, Place and Growth -  
Simon Dale

## DECISION

### RESOLVED: That:

1) the following Registered Providers (RP) be approved as Partners for the next three-year period commencing on 1 April 2023, with a further two years subject to satisfactory performance:

A2Dominion  
Aster  
Housing Solutions  
Loddon Homes Limited  
Metropolitan Thames Valley Housing  
Places for People  
Silva  
Sovereign Housing Association  
Vivid

2) noted that performance during the initial partnership period will be assessed by Overview and Scrutiny Committee at the end of the three year period.

3) the Council and the nine RPs enter into a Partnership Agreement. The Agreement will detail expectations and responsibilities and will outline the basis for regular performance monitoring. The agreement will also contain an action plan which all partner RPs will be expected to adhere to.

### Reason for Decision

The delivery of affordable homes is an underpinning principle of the Council's vision. The approval of carefully selected Registered Provider (RP) Partners for the Council will ensure that those RPs delivering affordable housing in the borough via s106 agreements and other land opportunities are aligned to the Council's strategic vision and aspirations. In doing so, this will positively benefit the community through provision of high quality, well-managed affordable homes, with the Council gaining full nomination rights to these homes.

### 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

None.

## **DECISION SHEET**

## **ACTION BY**

### **88. Contract for Legal Advice for Adults & Children's Services**

Director, Children's Services -  
Helen Watson, Director, Adult  
Social Care and Health - Matt  
Pope

## **DECISION**

**RESOLVED:** That the Executive:

i) approved the continuation of provision of adults and children's legal services by the Joint Legal Team based in Reading Borough Council on the basis of the "Heads of Terms" (appendix 1); and

ii) delegated to the Director of Children's Services and Director of Adults' Services, in consultation with the relevant officers in legal, finance and service areas, authority to enter into a contract for joint services with Reading Borough Council.

### **Reasons for Decision**

The purpose of this report is to seek approval from Executive of the "Heads of Terms" (attached as Appendix 1 of the agenda papers) which will inform the new 5 year Shared Agreement for the Joint Legal Team (JLT) serving Adults' and Children's Services which will involve expenditure of approximately £4.6 million over 5 years.

### **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**

None.

## DECISION SHEET

## ACTION BY

### 89. Contracted Bus Services

Director, Place and Growth -  
Simon Dale

## DECISION

**RESOLVED:** That the Executive:

1) agreed to a further extension of the existing contracts between 1 April 2023 and 31 August 2023 for the following services:

- a) local bus services for Wokingham Town and the surrounding areas (Norreys Estate, Mulberry Grove, Woosehill, Emmbrook, Wokingham Without and Crowthorne, Winnersh, Hurst, Twyford, Charvil, Sonning and Woodley)
- b) local bus services for the villages which lie south of the M4 (Shinfield, Spencerswood, Swallowfield and Riseley)
- c) Services on the A327 corridor,
- d) the 19a/b/c services between Lower Earley, Maiden Erlegh, Woodley, the Royal Berkshire Hospital and Reading Town Centre

2) agreed to the retender of local bus services and agreed to make the increased budget available for the above services, as detailed in the exempt information in the report.

3) agreed to the release of any appropriate S106 funding to support any such decision in recommendation 2.

4) noted that S106 funding will only be sufficient to fund the services for a three-year period. A growth bid will need to be submitted if services were to continue beyond September 2026.

5) agreed to delegate the authority to award contracts for the above bus service to the Director of Place & Growth in consultation with the Executive Member for Active Travel, Transport and Highways.

### Reason for Decision

Existing local bus contracts came to their natural end on 30 June 2022. The contract term was modified until 31 March 2023 under procurement Regulation 72 (1)(c) and approved via an Individual Executive Member Decision. The contracts were retendered in Winter 2022 for the same level of service at the same cost. No successful bids were received.

The Executive is now asked to agree to the extension of the services for a further five months until the end of August 2023, and the retender of the services for a further three years. The Executive is also asked to agree to further budget and the release of S106 funding to allow the continuation of the services for a further 5 months until the end of August 2023, and the retender and delivery of the services for a further 3 years.

### 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**

None.

**Name**        **Priya Patel**  
**Job Title**    **Head of Democratic and Electoral Services**

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