

# CABINET Post-Decision

## Summary of the Decisions taken

**Date of Meeting** Monday 27<sup>th</sup> February, 2023 **Issued By:-** Nick Pontone

**Date of Delivery to Members:** Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> March, 2023

**Date which any call in must be received by:** Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> March, 2023

**Implementation of decisions delayed to:** Friday 10<sup>th</sup> March, 2023

(Other than those items marked with an asterisk (\*) which need to be implemented urgently and those items marked with a hash (#) which have been considered by scrutiny in the past 6<sup>th</sup> months and cannot be called in).

AGENDA ITEM.	SUBJECT MATTER	DECISION PROPOSED	WARD	PROPOSED TO BE RESOLVED/ RECOMMENDED
1.	Declarations of Interest	None.	-	-
2.	Minutes of the Meeting held on 16th January 2023	Approved.	-	Resolved
3.	Accounts and Audit Update	That the accounts be received and that the issues arising from the preparation and audit of the statement of accounts set out in sections 2.3 to 2.9 of the report be noted in order to	All	Resolved

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		ensure that the findings are taken into account by Cabinet when making decisions and that any recommendations made by the external auditors are addressed.		
4.	Update on Objection to 2018/19 Accounts and issuing of Statutory Recommendations– Purchase of Observatory House	That the report be received and that Cabinet ensure that the actions in relation to Cabinet reports and business cases be adopted.	All	Resolved
5.	Section 25 Report #	Agreed to recommend to Council that it had regard to the report when making decisions about the calculation of council tax requirement.	All	Recommended
6.	Capital Programme 2023/24 to 2027/28 #	Agreed to recommend approval of the Capital Programme for 2023/24 to 2027/28 to full Council as set out in the report and Appendix A.	All	Recommended
7.	Treasury Management Strategy 2023/24 #	<p>Agreed to recommend to Council the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Approval of the Treasury Management Strategy (TMS) for 2023/24 to 2027/28 including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Minimum Revenue Provision Policy Statement for 2023/24 (Appendix 1)</li> <li>ii. Annual Investment Strategy for 2023/24 (Appendix 2)</li> <li>iii. Approved Counterparty List (Appendix 3)</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	All	Recommended

AGENDA ITEM.	SUBJECT MATTER	DECISION PROPOSED	WARD	PROPOSED TO BE RESOLVED/ RECOMMENDED
		iv. Approved Countries for Investments (Appendix 4) v. the Prudential Indicators for the period 2023/24 to 2025/26 (Section 4 of the TMS)		
8.	Housing Revenue Account Business Plan 2023/24 and 30-Year Housing Investment Plan #	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Approved the HRA revenue budget for 2023-24 (Table 1 &amp; Appendix A)</li> <li>• Noted the HRA 5-year revenue budgets for 2023-24 to 2027-28 (Table 1 &amp; Appendix A)</li> <li>• Noted the HRA 30-year revenue budgets for 2023-24 to 2052-53 (Appendix B)</li> <li>• Approved the HRA 5-year Capital Programme for a total £52.714m (Table 3 &amp; Appendix C)</li> <li>• Noted the 30-year Capital Programme for 2023-24 to 2052-53 (Appendix D)</li> <li>• Noted the draft HRA reserves and balances for the 5-year Business Plan (Appendix E)</li> </ul>	All	Recommended
9.	Update on Dedicated Schools Grant Management Plan #	Cabinet noted the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ the forecast position for DSG spend in 2022/23 to 2026/27</li> </ul>	All	Recommended

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ the overarching issues that have resulted in the DSG deficit and the actions taken to date to address these</li> <li>➤ the Council has been taking part in the 'safety valve' intervention programme with the DfE and has submitted its final proposal for addressing the deficit on the High Needs Block.</li> </ul>		
10.	2023/24 Budget #	<p>Agreed to recommend to full Council the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Approval of the 2023/24 budget to enable the Council Tax for 2023/24 to be set;</li> <li>2. Approval of the Model Council Tax Resolution 2023/24 as set out in Appendix B;</li> <li>3. Delegate authority to the Executive Director of Finance and Commercial, to place a notice in the local press of the amounts set under recommendation 2 within a period of 21 days following the Council's decision;</li> <li>4. Approve the Medium-Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) as based on the estimated financial deficit in the</li> </ol>	All	Recommended

AGENDA ITEM.	SUBJECT MATTER	DECISION PROPOSED	WARD	PROPOSED TO BE RESOLVED/ RECOMMENDED
		<p>Capitalisation Direction and to be funded by capitalisation of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. £267.1m up to 2022/23</li> <li>b. £31.6m for 2023/24</li> <li>c. £58.4m for beyond 2023/24</li> </ul> <p>5. Approve the overall General Fund revenue budget of £143.4m, to include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. growth for pressures of £12.2m</li> <li>b. proposed savings by Directorates of £22.4m</li> </ul> <p>6. Approve measures to control spending and improve the finances of the Council at Appendix D</p> <p>To note the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>7. The balanced budget position for 2023/24 requiring savings of £22.4m and the projected financial deficit between 2024/25 to 2027/28</li> <li>8. The intention to increase Council Tax by 7.99% in 2023/24</li> <li>9. The intention to increase Council Tax by a further 2% in 2023/24 in respect of the Adult Social Care Precept</li> </ul>		

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		<p>10. The assumed funding for the protection of social care 2023/24 through the Better Care Fund</p> <p>11. That due regard has been had to the s.25 report by the Executive Director of Finance and Commercial</p> <p>12. The minutes from the 2023/24 Budget Scrutiny Sessions at Appendix H</p> <p>13. Approve the process for access to contingency as set out in paragraphs 2.16.57 to 2.16.62</p>		
11.	Financial Update Report - P9 2022/23	<p>That Cabinet approved the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• that the fully-funded capital scheme proposed to make efficient use of the DfT grant to a projected value of £1.943m as set out in paragraph 9.5 of this report be added to the capital programme</li> <li>• the virements as set out in Appendix E.</li> </ul> <p>That Cabinet noted the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• that the 2022/23 forecast year-end position for the General Fund, taking account of use of all capitalisation direction amendments, is a fully</li> </ul>	All	Resolved

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		<p>balanced position. However, within this, there is an overspend of £4.256m across service areas, comprising a further anticipated ask from SCF for contract funding support of £2.760m, shortfalls on savings initiatives within Council directorates of £2.1m and a range of other broadly offsetting under and overspends. This position is then balanced through an improvement in the collection fund position, underspends in Treasury and corporate budgets and the use of capitalisation;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• that the General Fund Capital Programme is forecasting an underspend of £2.633m at a spend of £26.022m;</li> <li>• that the HRA is forecasting a surplus and contribution towards capital funding and HRA reserves of £2.604m, a £0.073m adverse variance against budget;</li> <li>• that the HRA Capital Programme is forecasting to underspend against budget by £3.761m;</li> <li>• that the DSG balance is forecast to be a cumulative deficit of £27.108m by the</li> </ul>		

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		<p>end of this financial year, reflecting an in-year deficit of £1.638m, with plans to reduce the in-year movement to a balanced position by 2025/26;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• that maintained schools are projecting a reduction in balances by 31 March 2023 from £9.555m to £6.478m, with 4 out of 16 schools expecting to be in deficit with an aggregate deficit of £0.741m.</li> </ul>		
12.	Financial Action Plan – Update	<p>That the summary update on the key areas of the work undertaken to respond to the many and very serious financial challenges and the recommendations made by external agencies be noted. Specifically, the report provided an update on the following issues:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Capitalisation Direction</li> <li>• progress being made on generating capital receipts</li> <li>• budgets</li> <li>• Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP)</li> <li>• the Council’s borrowing levels</li> <li>• accounts</li> <li>• the dedicated schools grant</li> <li>• the finance structure</li> <li>• revenues and benefits</li> <li>• Council accounting, HR and procurement system (ERP)</li> <li>• commercial and procurement</li> </ul>	All	Recommended



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		<p>improvements</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• internal audit actions</li> <li>• company governance and actions</li> </ul> <p>Cabinet noted the progress and issues arising from the continued work on the above.</p> <p>Cabinet agreed to recommend the report to Council.</p>		
13.	Approval to write-off individual debts greater than £15,000	That the write-off of those debts identified in the report be authorised.	All	Resolved
14.	Update on Discretionary Council Tax premium on empty properties and second homes	<p>(a) That delegated authority to the Executive Director for Finance and Commercial, following consultation with the Cabinet Member for Customer Services, Procurement &amp; Performance, to devise a policy for additional Council Tax premiums to be introduced for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 100% premium for properties which have been empty and unfurnished for a period between 1 (previously 2) and 5 years;</li> <li>• 100% premium for second homes; and</li> <li>• To bring the policy to full Council once the legislation is in force.</li> </ul>	All	Resolved
15.	Resilience contract for	(a) Authorised commencement of procurement	All	-

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	Revenues and Benefits work	<p>for the provision of off-site processing resources through the Framework Contract held by the London Borough of Tower Hamlets;</p> <p>(b) Delegated authority to the Executive Director for Finance and Commercial following consultation with the Cabinet Member for Customer Services, Procurement &amp; Performance to award a contract.</p>		
16.	Procure a provider of e-vouchers for Housing Support Fund awards	<p>(a) Authorised commencement of procurement for the provision of an e-voucher provider.</p> <p>(b) Delegated authority to the Executive Director for Finance and Commercial following consultation with the Cabinet Member for Customer Services, Procurement &amp; Performance to award a contract.</p>	All	Resolved
17.	Council Tax Reduction Scheme 2023-24 #	<p>(a) Agreed to recommend the Council Tax Reduction Scheme 2023/24 (Appendix D) to Full Council for adoption for the financial year 2023/24.</p> <p>(b) Agreed to allocate £0.040m into the Council Tax Hardship Fund and to use the Council's £0.253m allocation of the Council Tax Support Fund to protect the current levels of support provided to those</p>	All	-

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		taxpayers who would otherwise lose under the proposed scheme.		
18.	Approval of contract sum and update on business plan for Slough Children First Limited (SCF)	<p>a) Noted the draft SCF's business plan for 2023/24 to 2027/28 at Appendix A and agree that this should not be approved as the annual business plan.</p> <p>b) Approved a Contract Sum for 2023/24 of £36.062m, an increase of £4.632m on the 2022/23 base budget.</p> <p>c) Delegated authority to the Executive Director of Strategy and Improvement, in consultation with the Lead Member of Customer Services, Procurement &amp; Performance, to offer an enhanced level of support services with a charging mechanism to reflect cost recovery.</p> <p>d) Noted that a report will be brought back to Cabinet in Quarter 2 of 2023/24 with a new business plan for SCF, following consultation with key stakeholders and alignment with the Council's Corporate Plan.</p> <p>e) Noted and accept the recommendations from the People Scrutiny Panel Task and Finish Group and delegate authority to the Chief Executive, in consultation with the Lead Member for Children's Services, to</p>	All	Resolved

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		<p>appoint lead officers to progress each recommendation and to request that the SCF Board of Directors ensure that these recommendations are considered and reflected in a new business plan.</p>		
19.	Energy Flex Purchases 23/24 (Purchase Strategy)	<p>i. Adopted the following purchase strategy:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Approved the purchase of 50% of the '23/24' energy volume for Summer 23 and Winter 23.</li> <li>b. Approved the purchase of the remaining energy volume if the wholesale price for that forward period falls below £150/MWh (power) and 150p/therm (gas), the floor price and where feasible well below the floor price.</li> <li>c. Approved the default position to purchase energy volume (power) on a month ahead, and gas on a day ahead (spot price) should wholesale prices for forward period remain above £150/MWh (power) and 150p/therm (gas).</li> <li>d. Set a wholesale energy market price cap for the month ahead and Winter 23 of £250/MWh (power) and 300p/therm (gas) and if markets increase such that the cap is expected to be exceeded, or is exceeded, then Cabinet approves</li> </ul>	All	Resolved

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		<p>the purchase of the remaining energy volume for 23/24 to limit further cost exposure.</p> <p>ii. Delegated authority to the Executive Director of Place &amp; Communities, in consultation with the Executive Director of Finance and Commercial (the S151 officer) and the Lead Members (Finance Oversight &amp; Assets and Customer Services, Procurement &amp; Performance) to purchase energy in line with the above guidelines.</p> <p>iii. Required officers to report back to Cabinet by February 2024 on the current state of energy markets and any proposed changes to purchasing strategy of future energy volume in the final year of the flex energy contracts 24/25.</p>		
20.	Implementation of Controlled Parking Zones (CPZ) Boroughwide	<p>a. Approved the use of Controlled Parking Zones with resident permit schemes as outlined in the report, following the statutory consultation, as the Council's standard approach for the provision of parking restrictions.</p> <p>b. Delegated authority to the Executive Director for Place and Communities, in consultation with the Lead Member for Transport and the Local Environment, to consider any objections received following</p>	All	Resolved

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		<p>the statutory consultation and to make the necessary traffic regulation orders to determine the final scheme for each location.</p> <p>c. Approved the Parking Permit Policy provided as Appendix A</p>		
21.	E-Scooters and e-Bikes trial and scheme	<p>(a) Approved the restart of the e-scooter scheme in Slough, extended to include e-bikes, for a period of up to 4 years, to cover the national trial period up to May 2024 and any agreed trial extension by the Department for Transport (DfT) and subsequently the remainder of the 4-year term subject to the full legislation of e-scooters.</p> <p>(b) Approved the commissioning of a provider for the e-scooter/e-bikes trial.</p> <p>(c) Delegated authority to the Executive Director for Place and Community, in consultation with the Lead Member for Transport and the Local Environment, to approve the award of contract and final scheme operations.</p> <p>(d) Noted that a follow-up report will be brought back to Cabinet after the national trial ends, to provide updates on the remaining trial period and any legislative and operational</p>	All	Resolved

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		changes required by the DfT.		
22.	CCTV Services	<p>a. Approved the cessation of responsibility for all public facing CCTV from 1 January 2024.</p> <p>b. Noted that a further report would be presented in the Autumn to Overview and Scrutiny Committee and to Cabinet to review SBCs role in our joint commitment with Thames Valley Police to community safety from 1 January 2024 onwards. This would not involve any financial commitment by the Council to CCTV.</p>	All	Resolved
23.	Library Services	<p>a. Approved a library model of predominantly self-service library service from 4 buildings across the borough (The Curve, Britwell Hub, Cippenham Library and Langley Library) with the opening hours set out in paragraph 2.16.1 of the report.</p> <p>b. That a report be received a report at July 2023 Cabinet to review the performance of the library service in the first 2 months of the 2023/24 operating model, including performance against planned opening hours and the blend of footfall across the opening hours.</p>	All	Resolved
24.	Refresh of Corporate Plan	a) Approved the process, timetable and	All	Resolved

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		<p>consultation plans for a refreshed Corporate Plan as set out in Appendix 1.</p> <p>b) Delegated authority to the Chief Executive, in consultation with the Leader, to finalise the draft Corporate Plan for public consultation following the elections in May 2023.</p>		
25.	Improvement & Recovery Update	<p>(a) That the progress made by the Council since the previous report in addressing the Directions of the Secretary of State be noted;</p> <p>(b) That the next steps be agreed as set out in the action plans and other workstreams that have been developed to address the Directions.</p>	All	Resolved
26.	Recommendations from Cabinet Committee on Asset Disposals	There were no recommendations from the Cabinet Committee.	All	-
27.	References from Overview & Scrutiny	<p>(a) That the Task &amp; Finish Group reports from the Overview &amp; Scrutiny Committee, People Scrutiny Panel and Customer &amp; Community Scrutiny Panel be approved.</p> <p>(b) That the members of the Task &amp; Finish Groups be thanked and commended for their reports.</p>	All	Resolved



<b>AGENDA ITEM.</b>	<b>SUBJECT MATTER</b>	<b>DECISION PROPOSED</b>	<b>WARD</b>	<b>PROPOSED TO BE RESOLVED/ RECOMMENDED</b>
28.	Exclusion of Press and Public	All business was conducted in Part I of the meeting therefore it was not necessary to exclude the press and public.		Resolved
29.	Approval of contract sum and update on business plan for Slough Children First Limited (SCF) - Appendix A	Part II Appendix noted.		-