

**To All County Councillors**  
**and Executive Directors****Digest of decisions**

The following decisions were taken at a meeting of the Cabinet held on Thursday, 1 February 2024.

For further information on any of these items please contact the appropriate Executive Director or Democratic Services.

The last day to activate the call-in procedure is Thursday, 8 February 2024

4. Reserves Position and Reserves Policy -

**RESOLVED to:**

- 1) Note the current position on Earmarked Reserves;
- 2) Note the details of the amounts to be released from Earmarked Reserves balances to the General Reserve;
- 3) Note that the £31.803m released from Earmarked Reserves is expected to be fully required to mitigate the forecast 2023-24 overspend, with the balance being funded from the RCCO Earmarked Reserve held to support revenue budget management, and so ensure that the General Reserve balance remains at a minimum level; and
- 4) Approve the Reserves Policy at Appendix five to this report.

5. Budget Consultation Results -

**RESOLVED:**

To take into account the views of the consultation respondents when formulating its proposals to Full Council regarding the Revenue Budget for 2024-25.

6. Revenue Budget Report 2024-25 -

**RESOLVED:**

That Cabinet recommends to Council that it:

1) Notes the details of the Autumn Statement 2023 and Provisional Local Government Finance Settlement as outlined in sections 4.3 and 4.4 of the report;

2) Notes the Government's expectations about Council Tax levels for 2024-25 in section 4.5 of the report;

3) Approves the precepts as outlined in section 4.5 and Appendix Four of the report;

4) Approves that billing authorities are informed of Council Tax levels arising from the budget proposals as outlined in section 4.5 and Appendix Four of the report;

5) Approves the contingency to cover non-standard inflation as outlined in section 4.7 of the report, and the contingency be allocated by the Director of Finance & ICT, as S151 Officer, once non-standard inflation has been agreed;

6) Approves the service pressure items identified in section 4.8 and Appendix Five of the report;

7) Approves the increase to budgets for undeliverable prior year savings proposals as outlined in section 4.9 of the report;

8) Approves the level and allocation of budget savings as outlined in section 4.10 and Appendix Six of the report;

9) Notes the comments of the Director of Finance & ICT, as S151 Officer, about the robustness of the estimates and adequacy of the reserves as outlined in section 4.11 of the report;

10) Notes the details of the Council's consultation activity as outlined in section 5 of the report;

11) Approves the Council Tax requirement of £410,111,128 which is calculated as follows:

	£
<b>Budget Before Non-Inflationary Pressures and Budget Reductions</b>	<b>705,047,178</b>
Plus Service Pressures – ongoing	6,391,000
Plus Adult Social Care Precept	7,816,432
Plus Service Pressures - one-off	17,287,000
Less Budget Reductions	-40,068,000
Increase in Debt Charges - ongoing	9,845,000
Increase in Debt Charges – one-off	1,423,000
Increase in Risk Management Budget	6,111,671
Decrease in Interest and Dividend Receipts	<u>916,000</u>

<b>Net Budget Requirement</b>	<b>714,769,281</b>
Less Top-Up	-101,908,989
Less Business Rates	-18,418,000
Less Revenue Support Grant	-16,755,184
Less New Homes Bonus	-843,359
Less General Grant	-135,023,210
Less PFI Grant	-10,503,833
Less Use of Earmarked Reserves	<u>-21,205,578</u>
<b>Balance to be met from Council Tax</b>	<b><u>410,111,128</u></b>

12) Approves the use of the Revenue Contributions to the Capital Expenditure Earmarked Reserve to provide one-off support to the 2024-25 Revenue Budget; and

13) Authorises the Director of Finance & ICT, as S151 Officer, to allocate cash limits amongst Cabinet portfolios and the Executive Directors will then report to Cabinet on the revised Service Plans for 2024-25.

7. Capital Programme Approvals, Treasury Management and Capital Strategy for 2024-25 -

**RESOLVED:**

That Cabinet recommends to Council that it:

1) Approves the new Capital Starts Programme set out in Appendix two of the report and approves the procurement and award of contracts which support the delivery of the Capital Programme. All contract awards will then be subject to approval by Executive Directors (via an Executive Director Report) under the relevant Departmental Scheme of Delegation;

2) Approves the detailed Planned Asset Maintenance Programme for 2024-25 as set out in Appendix three of the report;

3) Adopts the Treasury Management Strategy for 2024-25 set out in Appendix four of the report;

4) Adopts the Investment Strategy for 2024-25 set out in Appendix five of the report;

5) Adopts the Capital Strategy for 2024-25 set out in Appendix six of the report;

6) Adopts the Minimum Revenue Provision Statement for 2024-25 set

out in Appendix seven of the report; and

7) Adopts the application of financing up to 4% of disposal costs associated with land from capital receipts as set out in paragraph 4.7 of the report.

8. Council Plan 2024-25 -

**RESOLVED to:**

- 1) Agree the authority's Council Plan for 2024-25 and recommend it to Full Council for approval; and
- 2) Note the Strategic Objectives Implementation Plan 2024-25.

9. Public consultation - Early Help and Children's Centres -

**RESOLVED to:**

- 1) Approve the commencement of public consultation, and engagement with partner agencies on the proposed redesign of the Early Help service, including Children's Centres and specific services for children with a disability as outlined in the report; and
- 2) Approve an in-principle decision for public consultation if savings proposals to specific services for children with disability require this.