

LONDON BOROUGH OF CROYDON
STATEMENT OF CABINET MEETING DECISIONS – 25 FEBRUARY 2019

To: Croydon Council website
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This statement is produced in accordance with Regulation 12 of the Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) Meetings and Access to Information) (England) Regulations 2012. These are not the minutes of the meeting.

The following apply to each decision listed below:

Reasons for these decisions: are contained in the reports which can be downloaded on the Council's website
<https://democracy.croydon.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=183&MId=1552>

Other options considered and rejected: are contained in the reports which can be downloaded on the Council's website
<https://democracy.croydon.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=183&MId=1552>

Details of conflicts of Interest declared by any Cabinet Member: none

Note of dispensation granted by the head of paid service in relation to a declared conflict of interest by that Member: none

BUDGET AND COUNCIL TAX 2019/20

GENERAL FUND AND HRA BUDGET 2019/20

Details of decision:

The Leader of the Council delegated authority to the Cabinet to make the following decisions.

RESOLVED:

1. That Cabinet recommend to full Council:
 - a. A **2.99%** increase in the Council Tax for Croydon Services (a level of increase Central Government has assumed in all Councils' spending power calculation).
 - b. A **1.0%** increase in the Adult Social Care precept (a charge Central Government has assumed all councils' will levy in its spending power calculations).
 - c. To welcome the GLA increase of **8.93%**, **of which** 91% of which is being used for the Metropolitan Police service and 9% is being used for the fire service.
With reference to the principles for 2019/20 determined by the Secretary of State under Section 52ZC (1) of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 (as amended) confirm that in accordance with

s.52ZB (1) the Council Tax and GLA precept referred to above are **not excessive** in terms of the most recently issued principles and as such to note that no referendum is required. This is detailed further in section 3.5 of the report.

- d. The calculation of budget requirement and council tax as set out in Appendix D and E of the report. Including the GLA increase this will result in a total increase of 4.88% in the overall council tax bill for Croydon.
 - e. The revenue budget assumptions as detailed in the report and the associated appendices :-
 - f. The programme of revenue savings and growth by department for 2019/20 (Appendix A of the report).
 - g. The Council's detailed budget book for 2019/20 (Appendix B of the report).
 - h. The Capital Programme as set out in section 16, table 16 and 17 of the report.
 - i. To note there are no proposed amendments to the Council's existing Council Tax Support Scheme for the financial year 2019/20.
 - j. The adoption of the Pay Policy statement at Appendix H of the report.
 - k. Approve the increase in premium for long-term empty dwellings with effect from 1st April 2019 as set out in section 9.10 of the report and Appendix I of the report.
 - l. The adoption of the Adult Social Care Charging Policy with effect from the 1st April 2019 as set out in section 8.11 and appendix J of the report.
2. That Cabinet agree:
- a. A rent decrease for all Council tenants for 2019/20, in line with the Government's social rent policy which has legislated to reduce social rents by 1%.
 - b. No increase to Garage and Parking space rents.
 - c. No increase to the service charges for caretaking, grounds maintenance and bulk refuse collection as detailed in section 17 of the report.
3. That Cabinet note:
- a. That in respect of the Council's public sector equalities duties where the setting of the capital, revenue and HRA budget result in new policies or policy change the relevant service department will carry out an equality impact assessment to secure delivery of that duty including such consultation as may be required.
 - b. The progress being made towards balancing the Council's financial position for 2018/19 as at Quarter 3 and the current projected outturn forecast of £5.466m as set out in the report at item 5b on the agenda.
 - c. The response to the draft local government settlement which is attached at Appendix F of the report.
 - d. That pre-decision scrutiny of the proposed budget 2019/20 took place at the Scrutiny and Overview Committee on the 15th January 2019. The Scrutiny and Overview Committee agreed to recommend that the Cabinet Member for Finance and Resources be invited to attend a

- meeting of the Committee early in the new municipal year to discuss with Members the process for setting the following year's budget.
- e. The statement on reserves and balances and robustness of estimates from the statutory Section 151 Officer.

QUARTER 3 FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE REPORT 2018/19

Details of decision:

The Leader of the Council delegated authority to the Cabinet to make the following decisions.

RESOLVED: To

1. Note
the current revenue outturn forecast at the end of the third quarter of 2018/19 of £2.8m, this is before exceptional items of £2.666m, resulting in a total overspend of £5.466m. If the £5.466m is not reduced by the end of the year up to £5.5m will need to be drawn down from earmarked reserves in 2018/19. Reserves will then be replenished reserves in 2019/20 from the anticipated collection fund surplus and dividend payable to the Council by Brick by Brick, which forms part of the draft 2019/20 budget.
2. Note the ongoing engagement with and lobbying of Government by the Council for additional funding for Croydon, both in general terms and specifically Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children given Croydon's gateway status, fire safety measures and mitigation of the impact of the Universal Credit implementation.
3. Note the HRA position of a £1.87m forecast underspend against budget.
4. Note the capital outturn projection of £373.316m, forecast to be an underspend of £74.684m against budget.

TREASURY MANAGEMENT POLICY STATEMENT, MINIMUM REVENUE PROVISION POLICY STATEMENT & ANNUAL INVESTMENT STRATEGY 2019/20

Details of decision:

The Leader of the Council delegated authority to the Cabinet to make the following decisions.

RESOLVED:

That Cabinet recommend to Full Council that it approve:

1. The Treasury Management Policy Statement 2019/2020 as set out in the report including the recommendations:
 - a. That the Council takes up the balance of its 2018/2019 borrowing requirement and future years' borrowing requirements, as set out in paragraph 4.5 of the report.
 - b. That for the reasons detailed in paragraph 4.14 of the report, opportunities for debt rescheduling are reviewed throughout the year by the Director of Finance, Investment and Risk (S151 Officer) and that, she be given delegated authority, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Finance and Resources and in conjunction with the Council's independent treasury advisers, to undertake such rescheduling only if revenue savings or additional cost avoidance can be achieved at minimal risk in line with organisational considerations and with regard to the Housing Revenue Account (HRA) as set out in the Council's Medium Term Financial Strategy 2018/2022.
 - c. That delegated authority be given to the Director of Finance, Investment and Risk (S151 Officer) in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Finance and Resources, to make any necessary decisions to protect the Council's financial position in light of market changes or investment risk exposure.
 - d. That the Council adopts the 2017 edition of the revised Treasury Management Code of Practice and Prudential Code issued by CIPFA in December 2017.
2. That the Council adopts the Annual Investment Strategy as set out in paragraph 4.16 and 4.17 of the report.
3. That the Authorised Borrowing Limits (required by Section 3 of the Local Government Act 2003) as set out in paragraph 4.18 and as detailed in **Appendix C** of the report be as follows:

2019/2020	2020/2021	2021/2022
£1,486.05m	£1,550.30m	£1,615.40m

4. That the Council approve the Prudential Indicators as set out in **Appendix C** of the report.
5. The Annual Minimum Revenue Provision Policy Statement (required by the Local Authorities (Capital Financing and Accounting) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2008SI 2008/414) as set out in **Appendix D** of the report.
6. That the Council's authorised counterparty lending list as at 31 December 2018 as set out in **Appendix E** of the report and the rating criteria set for inclusion onto this list be approved.
7. That the Council adopts the Capital Strategy Statement set out in section 3 of the report.

HOUSING ASSET MANAGEMENT PLAN

Details of decision:

The Leader of the Council delegated authority to the Cabinet to make the following decisions.

RESOLVED: To

1. Note the proposed implementation and progression of the draft Housing Asset Management Plan which sets out the overarching direction, specific strategies, policies and procedures to manage the Council's housing assets over the period of 2019 to 2028; and
2. Recommend to Full Council that the Housing Asset Management Plan 2019-2028, Appendix 1 of the report, be approved and implemented.

BRICK BY BRICK ANNUAL BUSINESS PLAN

Details of decision:

The Leader of the Council delegated authority to the Cabinet to make the following decisions.

RESOLVED:

That Cabinet, on behalf of the Council as sole shareholder of Brick by Brick Croydon Limited ("**BXB**"), approve the 2019/2020 Business Plan of BXB as set out in Appendix 1 of the report.

STAGE 1: RECOMMENDATIONS ARISING FROM SCRUTINY

Details of decision:

The Leader of the Council delegated authority to the Cabinet to make the following decisions.

RESOLVED:

To receive the recommendations arising from the Scrutiny & Overview Committee (11 December 2018) and from the Children & Young People Scrutiny Sub-Committee (27 November 2018) to provide a substantive response within two months (i.e. at the next available Cabinet meeting on **25 March 2019**).

STAGE 2 RESPONSES TO RECOMMENDATIONS ARISING FROM SCRUTINY & OVERVIEW COMMITTEE ON 30 OCTOBER 2018 AND STREETS, ENVIRONMENT & HOMES SCRUTINY SUB-COMMITTEE ON 6 NOVEMBER 2018

Details of decision:

The Leader of the Council delegated authority to the Cabinet to make the following decisions.

RESOLVED:

To approve the response and action plans attached at Appendix A of the report and that these be reported to the Scrutiny and Overview Committee or relevant Sub-Committees.

INVESTING IN OUR BOROUGH

Details of decision:

The Leader of the Council delegated authority to the Cabinet to make the following decisions.

RESOLVED: To note

1. The contracts over £500,000 anticipated to be awarded by the nominated Cabinet Member, in consultation with the nominated Cabinet Member for Finance and Resources or, where the nominated Cabinet Member is the Cabinet Member for Finance and Resources, in consultation with the Leader.
2. The list of delegated award decisions made by the Director of Commissioning and Procurement, between 12/12/2018 – 11/01/2019.
3. Property acquisitions and disposals to be agreed by the Cabinet Member for Finance and Resources in consultation with the Leader since the last meeting of Cabinet.

Date: 5 March 2019