

LONDON BOROUGH OF CROYDON

To: All Member of Council
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STATEMENT OF EXECUTIVE DECISIONS MADE BY THE EXECUTIVE MAYOR IN CABINET ON 22 FEBRUARY 2023

This statement is produced in accordance with Regulation 12 of the Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Meetings and Access to Information) (England) Regulations 2012. Further to the associated public notice of Key Decisions no scrutiny call-in has been received, and therefore the following decisions can be implemented.

The following apply to the decisions listed below:

Reasons for these decisions:

<https://democracy.croydon.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=183&MId=2990>

Other options considered and rejected:

<https://democracy.croydon.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=183&MId=2990>

Details of Conflicts of Interest declared by the Decision Maker: None

Note of dispensation granted by the head of paid service in relation to a declared conflict of interest by that Decision Maker: None

The Executive Mayor has made the executive decisions noted out below:

Key Decision no.: N/A

Decision Title: SCRUTINY STAGE 2

Details of decision:

Having carefully read and considered the Part A report, and the requirements of the Council's public sector duty in relation to the issues detailed in the body of the reports, the Executive Mayor in Cabinet

RESOLVED: To

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

Key Decision no.: N/A

Decision Title: PERIOD 8 FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE REPORT

Details of decision:

Having carefully read and considered the Part A report, and the requirements of the Council's public sector duty in relation to the issues detailed in the body of the reports, the Executive Mayor in Cabinet

RESOLVED: To

- 1.1. Note the General Fund revenue budget outturn is forecast to be balanced at Month 8. Service directorates are indicating a £16.865m overspend. This is offset by £0.978m corporate underspend, £4m use of earmarked inflation reserves, £5m use of the general contingency budget and the budgeted £6.9m contribution to General Fund Balances being released.
- 1.2. Note the forecast elimination of the planned contribution to General Fund Reserves of £6.9m for 2022/23.
- 1.3. Note that a further number of risks and compensating opportunities may materialise which would see the forecast change.
- 1.4. Note the actions being taken through the Deficit Recovery plan. Further details are in paragraph 2.15
- 1.5. To approve the progress of the MTFs savings as indicated within Table 4 and detailed in Appendix 3.
- 1.6. Note the Housing Revenue Account (HRA) is projecting an end of year position of a £4.976m overspend, due to inflation, disrepair costs and void rents.
- 1.7. Note the Capital Programme spend to date for the General Fund of £17.534m (against a budget of £68.160m) with a projected forecast underspend of £15.084m for the end of the year.
- 1.8. Note the Housing Revenue Account Capital Programme spend to date of £12.352m (against a budget of £25.165m), with a projected forecast underspend of £4.145m for the end of the year.
- 1.9. Note, the above figures are predicated on forecasts from Month 8 to the year end and therefore could be subject to change as forecasts are made based on the best available information at this time.
- 1.10. Note, the Council continues to operate a Spend Control Panel to ensure that tight financial control and assurance oversight are maintained A new financial management culture is being implemented across the organisation through

increased scrutiny, such as the monthly assurance meetings, improved communication and budget manager training from CIPFA.

1.11. To approve the virement details in section 7 of this report.

Key Decision no.: N/A

Decision Title: OPENING THE BOOKS - REPORTS FROM WORTH TECHNICAL ACCOUNTING SOLUTIONS

Details of decision:

Having carefully read and considered the Part A report, and the requirements of the Council's public sector duty in relation to the issues detailed in the body of the reports, the Executive Mayor in Cabinet

RESOLVED: To

- 1.1. To accept and refer the Worth Technical Accounting Solutions reports to the Audit and Governance Committee for debate.
- 1.2. Request that the Audit and Governance Committee monitor the implementation of the recommendations from the reports.

Key Decision no.: N/A

Decision Title: REVENUE BUDGET AND COUNCIL TAX LEVELS 2023/24

Details of decision:

Having carefully read and considered the Part A report, and the requirements of the Council's public sector duty in relation to the issues detailed in the body of the reports, the Executive Mayor in Cabinet

RESOLVED: To

- 1.1. Consider the responses to the budget engagement with residents and businesses as set out in Section 10 and Appendix I.
- 1.2. Consider and have due regard to the equalities impact assessment undertaken on the budget proposals as set out in Section 15.
- 1.3. Approve the responses to the Scrutiny and Overview Committee recommendations (to follow) on the budget proposals as set out in Section 20.

- 1.4. Approve that Directors be authorised to implement their service plans for 2023/24 in accordance with the recommendations within this report, the Council's Constitution, Financial Regulations, relevant Schemes of Delegation and undertake any further consultation required regarding the Equalities Impact Assessment
- 1.5. Propose to Full Council for approval an increase in the Croydon element of the 2023/24 council tax charge by 12.99% (Band D £203.95).
- 1.6. Propose to Full Council for approval a 2% increase (Band D £31.40) in the 2023/24 Adult Social Care precept levy.
- 1.7. Note, based on the Mayor of London's draft consolidated budget, a 9.7% (Band D £38.55) increase regarding the Greater London Authority precept.
- 1.8. Propose to Full Council for approval the calculation of budget requirement and council tax as set out in Appendix G and note that the inclusion of the GLA precept will result in a total increase of 13.93% (Band D £273.91) in the overall Croydon council tax bill.
- 1.9. Propose to Full Council for approval the setting of the Council's own total net expenditure budget for 2023/24 at £340.911m.
- 1.10. Propose to Full Council for approval the detailed programme of revenue savings, income, demand pressures and legacy budget corrections, by directorate, as set out in Appendix C.
- 1.11. Propose to Full Council the proposed £10m budget in 2023/24 to support delivery of the transformation programme.
- 1.12. Propose to Full Council for approval that the Corporate Director of Resources be authorised to collect and recover National Non-Domestic Rate and council tax in accordance with the Local Government Finance Act 1988 (as amended), the Local Government Finance Act 1992.
- 1.13. Note the revenue budget assumptions detailed in the report and budget projections to 2025/26 made by the Corporate Director of Resources in agreement with the Chief Executive and with the Corporate Management Team.
- 1.14. Note the Council's request for a capitalisation direction from the Department of Levelling Up, Housing and Communities [DLUHC] of up to £300.6m (£161.6m in 2022/23 regarding legacy finance issues and £139m regarding 2023/24 to 2025/26, annually £63m, £38m and £38m respectively).
- 1.15. Note that all Directors will be required to report on their projected financial position compared to their revenue estimates in accordance with the 2023/24 monthly financial performance reporting timetable.

- 1.16. Note the statement (section 11 of the Report) of the Corporate Director of Resources, under Section 25 of the Local Government Act 2003, regarding the adequacy of reserves and robustness of estimates.
- 1.17. Note that the provisional Dedicated Schools Grant allocation for 2023/24 will increase by £26.310m to £427.688m (section 12 of the Report).

Key Decision no.: N/A

Decision Title: REVIEW OF COUNCIL TAX SUPPORT SCHEME 2023-24

Details of decision:

Having carefully read and considered the Part A report, and the requirements of the Council's public sector duty in relation to the issues detailed in the body of the reports, the Executive Mayor in Cabinet

RESOLVED: To

- 1.1. Recommends to Council the following changes to the Council Tax Support Scheme:
 - 1.1.1 Remove the application of the minimum income floor to households where the claimant or partner are disabled
 - 1.1.2 Change the rate at which the income bands are increased annually from the level of CPI 10.1% to the amount Council Tax is increased for that year which could be up to 15% cap.
 - 1.1.3 Introduce non-dependent deductions (NDD) to disabled not working households, except where the non-dependent is in receipt of Employment Support Allowance or Limited Capability to Work, or in receipt of carers allowance for the claimant or partner.
- 1.2. To agree The Councils Council Tax Support Scheme is amended as set out above, from 1 April 2023

Key Decision no.: N/A

Decision Title: FEES AND CHARGES

Details of decision:

Having carefully read and considered the Part A report, and the requirements of the Council's public sector duty in relation to the issues detailed in the body of the reports, the Executive Mayor in Cabinet

RESOLVED: To

- 1.1. Have due regard to the equalities impact assessment in Appendix 2 in making the decisions set out in these recommendations.
- 1.2. Approve the fees and charges as set out in Appendix 1 to the extent that they fall within the authority of the Executive to determine.

Key Decision no.: 6922EM

Decision Title: CAPITAL PROGRAMME AND CAPITAL STRATEGY 2022/23 TO 2026/27

Details of decision:

Having carefully read and considered the Part A report, and the requirements of the Council's public sector duty in relation to the issues detailed in the body of the reports, the Executive Mayor in Cabinet

RESOLVED: To

Recommend the following to Full Council:

- 1.1. Agree the Council's 2023/24 to 2026/27 General Fund Capital Programme which includes planned expenditure of £305.67m (including capitalisation directions) across the four years.
- 1.2. Note that the Council will incur borrowing of £169.53m (including £162m of Capitalisation Direction) in 2022/23, with further borrowing projected of £45.82m in 2023/24 and £28.36m over the three years after 2023/24. The cost of this borrowing is factored into the Council's Medium Term Financial plan resulting in 2023-24 total interest charge and Minimum Revenue Provision of £61.3m
- 1.3. Approve the Council 2023/24 Housing Revenue Account Capital Programme with a total investment planned of £32.62m with borrowing of nil.
- 1.4. Approve the Council's Capital Strategy, drafted with the support of PwC, as detailed within Appendix A of this report.

Key Decision no.: N/A

Decision Title: TREASURY MANAGEMENT STRATEGY STATEMENT, MINIMUM REVENUE PROVISION POLICY STATEMENT AND ANNUAL INVESTMENT STRATEGY 2023/24

Details of decision:

Having carefully read and considered the Part A report, and the requirements of the Council's public sector duty in relation to the issues detailed in the body of the reports, the Executive Mayor in Cabinet

RESOLVED: To

Recommend to Full Council that it approves:

- 1.1. The Treasury Management Strategy Statement 2023/24 as set out in this report.
- 1.2. The Prudential Indicators as set out in Appendix A of this report.
- 1.3. 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 B.

Key Decision no.: N/A

Decision Title: HRA BUSINESS PLAN AND BUDGET UPDATE REPORT - JANUARY 2023

Details of decision:

Having carefully read and considered the Part A report, and the requirements of the Council's public sector duty in relation to the issues detailed in the body of the reports, the Executive Mayor in Cabinet

RESOLVED: To

- 1.1. To approve the HRA budget for 2023-24
- 1.2. To note the update to the HRA 30 year Business plan based on the HRA budget for 2023-24
- 1.3. To note the assumptions the business plan is based upon and the risks associated with these assumptions
- 1.4. To note the commencement of the work on a new asset management strategy and enhanced stock condition survey that will further inform the business plan
- 1.5. To approve an application to the Secretary of State for a direction permitting the funding by the HRA of Discretionary Housing Payments from an HRA Hardship Fund, and to authorise the Corporate Director, Housing to agree the terms of such a direction with DLUHC.

Key Decision no.: 0323EM

Decision Title: INFORMATION, ADVICE AND GUIDANCE CONTRACT

Details of decision:

Having carefully read and considered the Part A report, and the requirements of the Council's public sector duty in relation to the issues detailed in the body of the reports, the Executive Mayor in Cabinet

RESOLVED: To

- 1.1. Approve an extension and variation to the existing information, advice & guidance contract awarded to Citizens Advice Croydon, as set out within this report in order to maintain continued provision whilst a full and compliant procurement exercise is completed. The proposed extension is for a maximum period of up to 12 months at a cost of £325,000.

Key Decision no.: 6422EM

Decision Title: STREET LIGHTING POLICY

Details of decision:

Having carefully read and considered the Part A report, and the requirements of the Council's public sector duty in relation to the issues detailed in the body of the reports, the Executive Mayor in Cabinet

RESOLVED: To

- 1.1. Note the outcome of the pilot studies as set out in section 4.15 of this report.
- 1.2. Agree to the introduction of the draft 'Street Lighting Policy' as summarised in Section 3 and Appendix A of this report.
- 1.3. To formalise the trial running since 06 January 2022 and adopt the pilot regime of 50% reduction in light levels in residential streets between 7pm – 5am and 50% reduction along main traffic routes from Midnight – 5am.
- 1.4. To delegate to officers to undertake further pilot studies within the framework of the draft Street Lighting Policy, to reduce energy consumption and CO2 emissions from the street lighting infrastructure across the borough and report back to a future cabinet.

Key Decision no.: N/A

Decision Title: LOCAL PLANNING AUTHORITY SERVICE TRANSFORMATION

Details of decision:

Having carefully read and considered the Part A report, and the requirements of the Council's public sector duty in relation to the issues detailed in the body of the reports, the Executive Mayor in Cabinet

RESOLVED: To

- 1.1. Agree the draft Planning Transformation Programme structure, including the programme's high level workstreams, future governance and next steps.
- 1.2. To delegate the preparation of the Final Planning Transformation Programme, to the Corporate Director of Sustainable Communities, Regeneration and Economic Recovery following further consultation with the Cabinet Member of Planning and Regeneration.

Key Decision no.: 7422EM

Decision Title: ANNUAL DELIVERING THE CROYDON GROWTH ZONE REPORT 2023-24

Details of decision:

Having carefully read and considered the Part A report, and the requirements of the Council's public sector duty in relation to the issues detailed in the body of the reports, the Executive Mayor in Cabinet

RESOLVED: To

- 1.1. To agree £12,261,000 budget for the 'Delivering the Growth Zone' programme 2023/24;
- 1.2. To note the indicative funding profile for Growth Zone Sub Groups and projects as detailed in Table 1 of this report; and,
- 1.3. To agree subject to the requirement to comply with the provisions of Part 4G of the Constitution in taking delegated decisions, and the parameters previously approved in the March 2021 Cabinet report 'Delivering the Growth Zone' delegate to the Corporate Director of Sustainable Communities, Regeneration & Economic Recovery in consultation with the Chief Finance Officer (Section 151) and the Cabinet Member for Planning and Regeneration authority to make necessary changes to the funding assigned to Sub Groups as outlined in Table 1.

Signed: Monitoring Officer

Notice date: 06 March 2023