

STATEMENT OF EXECUTIVE DECISIONS

Thursday, 26th January, 2023

The decisions summarised below were taken by the Executive at the above-mentioned meeting and, subject to the call-in procedure referred to in Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rule 17 and to the Notes at the end of this document, shall have effect five working days after the meeting. Details of any recommendations to Council are also included for completeness.

Members of the Executive

Chairman:

Councillor Julia McShane (Leader of the Council and Lead Councillor for Community and Housing) *

Vice-Chairman:

Councillor Joss Bigmore (Deputy Leader of the Council and Lead Councillor for Finance and Planning Policy) *

Councillor Tim Anderson, (Lead Councillor for Assets and Property) *

Councillor Tom Hunt, (Lead Councillor for Planning Development, Legal and Democratic Services) *

Councillor George Potter, (Lead Councillor for Climate Change and Organisational Development) *

Councillor John Redpath, (Lead Councillor for Customer and Commercial Services)

Councillor John Rigg, (Lead Councillor for Regeneration) *

Councillor James Steel, (Lead Councillor for Environment and Regulatory Services) *

*Present

Councillor Angela Goodwin was also in remote attendance.

Agenda Item No.

Officer(s) to action Item

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

There were no apologies for absence.

2. LOCAL CODE OF CONDUCT - DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

3. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 5 January were approved as correct. The Chairman signed the minutes.

4. LEADER'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Leader of the Council made the following announcements:

There would be a fresh round of funding available from Crowdfund Guildford and an upcoming workshop would be held on 23 February to learn how to get involved and how to run a campaign. The deadline to apply was 29 March and residents were encouraged to visit the Spacehive website to find out more. Local businesses were also encouraged to pledge or promote the funding opportunity.

[Crowdfund Guildford - Home \(spacehive.com\)](http://spacehive.com)

The Council had recycled 7,670 Christmas trees in two weeks. This was a 12.5% increase on last year and good for sustainability.

The deadline for nominations to The Mayor's Award for Service to the Community was Friday 3 February. The award recognised individuals, groups and organisations who have gone above and beyond to serve their local community. Nominations should be submitted via the website.

[Nominations to open for The Mayor's Award for Service to the Community - Guildford Borough Council](#)

On the evening of Thursday 9 February there would be a 'Becoming a Councillor' briefing session. Those interested in becoming an elected member should email electoral services to find out more.

electoralservices@guildford.gov.uk

5. TO CONSIDER ANY RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Decision:

To ensure Councillor involvement in the processes for the procurement, contract preparation, and contract management of the stray dog service.

Reason(s):

To provide oversight of the service.

Other options considered and rejected by the Executive:

None.

Details of any conflict of interest declared by the Leader or lead councillors and any dispensation granted:

None.

6. CAPITAL AND INVESTMENT STRATEGY (2023-24 TO 2027-28)

Decision:

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Worsfold

Subject to Council approving the budget on 8 February 2023:

- 1) That the £500,000 allocated in respect of the Bus Station relocation scheme (Scheme no. P17 (p)) be removed from the provisional capital programme.
- 2) That the new bids, as shown in paragraph 4.13 of this report be approved for inclusion in the capital programme as indicated.

Recommended to Council on 8 February:

- 1) That the General Fund and HRA capital estimates, as shown in appendices 2 and 3, as amended to include such bids as may be approved by the Executive at its meeting on 26 January 2023, be approved
- 2) That the Minimum Revenue Provision policy, referred to in section 5 of this report, be approved.
- 3) That the capital and investment strategy be approved, specifically the investment strategy and Prudential Indicators contained within the report and in Appendix 1.
- 4) That the updated flexible use of capital receipts policy at Appendix 8 be approved.

Reason(s):

- To enable the Council to approve the capital and investment strategy for 2023-24 to 2027-28
- To enable the Council, at its budget meeting on 8 February 2023, to approve the funding required for the new capital schemes propose

Other options considered and rejected by the Executive:

None.

Details of any conflict of interest declared by the Leader or lead

councillors and any dispensation granted:

None.

7. HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT BUDGET 2023-24

Decision:

Recommended to Council (8 February 2023):

- (1) That the proposed HRA revenue budget for 2023-24, as set out in Appendix 1 to the report, be approved.
- (2) That a rent increase of 5%, be implemented.
- (3) That the fees and charges for HRA services for 2023-24, as set out in Appendix 2 to the report, be approved.
- (4) That a 3% increase be applied to garage rents, which is in line with the wider Council policy on fees and charges.

Reason(s):

To enable the Council to set the rent charges for HRA property and associated fees and charges, along with authorising the necessary expenditure to implement a budget, this is consistent with the objectives outlined in the HRA Business Plan.

Other options considered and rejected by the Executive:

None.

Details of any conflict of interest declared by the Leader or lead councillors and any dispensation granted:

None.

8. GENERAL FUND BUDGET 2023-24 AND MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL PLAN 2024-25 TO 2026-27

Decision:

Recommended to Council (8 February 2023):

- (1) To approve a 2.99% increase in Guildford's Band D Council Tax Charge for 2023/24 with resultant increases to the other council tax bands.
- (2) To approve the General Fund Budget for 2023/24, as summarised in Appendix 2.
- (3) To continue the Council's existing Council Tax Support Scheme at the current levels.

Matt
Gough &
Victoria
Worsfold

Peter
Vickers

- (4) To approve the General Fund Fees and Charges for 2023/24 proposed in Appendix 4.
- (5) To utilise the full amount of the New Homes Bonus received for 2023/24 for the purpose of contributing to identified one-off General Fund revenue cost pressures.
- (6) To agree that the Joint Management Team undertakes a comprehensive service challenge and present a revised budget and Medium-Term Financial Plan to Full Council in July 2023 as described in this report.

Reason(s):

To enable the Council to set the Budget and Council Tax for the 2023-24 financial year. The General Fund Budget is a major decision for the Council and setting a balanced budget is a statutory requirement.

Other options considered and rejected by the Executive:

None.

Details of any conflict of interest declared by the Leader or lead councillors and any dispensation granted:

None.

NOTES:

- (a) Any decision marked “#” means that the item was deemed by the Managing Director and agreed by the Executive and Chairman of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee to be a matter of urgency for the reason indicated and, in accordance with Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rule 17 (h), such decision takes effect immediately and is therefore *not* subject to the call-in procedure.
- (b) The call-in procedure is as follows:
 - (i) the Chairman of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee; or
 - (ii) a minimum of five members of the Councilmay require that a decision be referred to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee for review.
- (c) Councillors wishing to exercise their right to call-in a decision taken by the Executive must give notice in writing to the Democratic Services Manager. The reason for a councillor calling-in a decision shall accompany any such request and must meet one of the following criteria:
 - (a) that there was insufficient, misleading or inaccurate information available to the decision-maker;

- (b) that all the relevant facts had not been taken into account and/or properly assessed;
- (c) that the decision is contrary to the budget and policy framework and is not covered by urgency provisions; or
- (d) that the decision is not in accordance with the decision-making principles set out in the Constitution.

Such notice should be marked for the attention of John Armstrong who can be contacted by e-mail on john.armstrong@guildford.gov.uk

- (d) On receipt of a call-in request, the Monitoring Officer will decide, in consultation with the chairman of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee, whether it is valid and will notify the councillors concerned accordingly.
- (e) In the case of a valid call-in, the decision shall be referred to a special Call-in meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee, which shall be held within 21 days of the decision on validity referred to in paragraph (d) above.
- (f) A decision marked with an asterisk denotes that the matter is a “Key Decision” which is defined in the Council’s Constitution as an executive decision:
 - (i) which is likely to result in significant expenditure or savings (of at least £200,000) having regard to the budget for the service or function to which the decision relates; or
 - (ii) which is likely to have a significant impact on two or more wards within the Borough.