

MEETING OF THE CABINET – 11th FEBRUARY, 2019

NOTICE OF DECISIONS

Notice is given that the Cabinet, at its meeting held on 11th February, 2019, made the following decisions in respect of the items listed.

<u>Item</u>	<u>Decision</u>
Revenue Budget Strategy and Setting the Council Tax 2019/20	<p>(1) That the Council be recommended to note:</p> <p>(a) The actions of the External Auditors as set out in paragraph 13 of the report.</p> <p>(b) The forecast variances to budget in 2018/19 and progress with the delivery of savings as set out in paragraph 14 and Appendices A and B of the report.</p> <p>(2) That the Council be recommended, with effect from 1st April 2019, that for properties which have been empty (i.e. unoccupied and unfurnished) for more than two years, an Empty Homes Premium of 100% is applied, resulting in a 200% Council Tax charge being payable in these circumstances.</p> <p>(3) That the Chief Officer Finance and Legal Services be authorised, following consultation with the Cabinet Member for Finance, Council Sustainability and Transformation and the Opposition Spokesperson for Finance and Legal Services, to approve any minor changes to the budget proposals resulting from final decisions on the West Midlands Combined Authority Transport Levy and non-transport funding contributions, as set out in paragraph 43 of the report.</p> <p>(4) That, subject to any amendments arising from the above, the Council be recommended to approve the following:</p> <p>(a) The budget for 2019/20, and Directorate allocations (including the Public Health budget) as set out in the report.</p> <p>(b) That the statutory amounts required to be calculated for the Council's spending, contingencies and contributions to reserves; income and use of reserves; transfers to and from its collection fund; and Council Tax requirement, as referred to in Section 67(2)(b) be now calculated by the Council for the year 2019/20 in accordance with Sections 31A, 31B and 34 to 36 of the Local Government and Finance Act 1992 as shown in Appendix L of the report.</p>

- (c) That, having calculated the aggregate in each case of the amounts in Appendix L, the Council, in accordance with Section 30(2) of the Local Government Finance Act, 1992, agrees the following levels of Council Tax for Dudley Council services for 2019/20.

Valuation Bands

A £	B £	C £	D £	E £	F £	G £	H £
885.74	1033.36	1180.98	1328.60	1623.85	1919.10	2214.34	2657.21

- (d) The Medium Term Financial Strategy as set out in the report.

- (e) The Pay Policy Statement 2019 as set out in Appendix N to the report.

- (5) That the Council be recommended to determine that a referendum relating to Council Tax increases is not required in accordance with Chapter 4ZA of Part 1 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992.

- (6) That the Council be recommended to authorise Cabinet Members, the Chief Executive, Strategic Directors and Chief Officers to take all necessary steps to implement the proposals contained in the report, in accordance with the Council's Financial Management Regime.

Capital Programme
Monitoring

That the Council be recommended:

- (1) That progress with the 2018/19 Capital Programme, as set out in Appendices A and B be noted, and that budgets be amended to reflect the variances reported in Appendix A to the report.
- (2) That the replacement of the push wall of the Green Waste Barn be approved and included in the Capital Programme, as set out in paragraph 10 of the report.
- (3) That the replacement of the CCTV system at Lister Road Depot be approved and included in the Capital Programme, as set out in paragraph 11 of the report.
- (4) That the expenditure of £40,000 residual grant in respect of the Cradley Forge project be approved, and included in the Capital Programme, as set out in paragraph 12 of the report.
- (5) That the project to restore Stevens Park, Quarry Bank be approved and the capital element included in the Capital Programme, as set out in paragraph 13 of the report.

- (6) That the Tackling Roadside Nitrogen Dioxide allocation be noted and the associated projects included in the Capital Programme, as set out in paragraph 14 of the report.
- (7) That the car parking improvements at Brierley Hill and Stourbridge Family Centres be approved and included in the Capital Programme, as set out in paragraph 15 of the report.
- (8) That subject to the relevant revenue budget strategy proposal being agreed, the Dudley Interchange contribution of £3m be approved and included in the Capital Programme, as set out in paragraph 16 of the report.
- (9) That the former Museum and Dudley Town Hall project be approved and included in the Capital Programme, as set out in paragraph 17 of the report.
- (10) That subject to the relevant revenue budget strategy proposal being agreed, the Closed Circuit Television (CCTV) Control Room project be approved and included in the Capital Programme, as set out in paragraph 18 of the report.
- (11) That the urgent amendment to the Capital Programme, as set out in paragraph 19 of the report, be noted.
- (12) That the Prudential Indicators as required to be determined by the CIPFA Prudential Code for Capital Finance in Local Authorities and the Local Government Act 2003, as set out in Appendix C to the report, be agreed.
- (13) That the Capital Strategy, as set out in Appendix D to the report, be approved.
- (14) That the Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP) Policy for 2019/20 be approved as set out in paragraph 23 of the report.

Deployment of
Resources: Housing
Revenue Account and
Public Sector
Housing Capital

- (1) That the reduction of rents for Housing Revenue Account (HRA) dwellings by 1% from 1st April, 2019, as referred to in paragraphs 3 to 5 of the report, be approved.
- (2) That the changes to service charges, as detailed in paragraphs 6 and 8 of the report, be approved.
- (3) That the maintenance of current heating and lighting charges for sheltered housing with an average weekly charge of £14.92, as detailed in paragraph 7 of the report, be approved.
- (4) That the reduction of the current charge for pitch licences at Oak Lane by 1%, as outlined in paragraph 9 of the report, be approved.
- (5) That an increase of 2.7% for water charges at Oak Lane to £6.67 per week, as referred to in paragraph 9 of the report, be approved.

- (6) That an increase of £20 in the leaseholders' administration fee from £100 to £120 per annum, and an increase of £10 in the charge for the leasehold information pack, from £50 to £60 (plus VAT), as outlined in paragraphs 10 and 11 of the report, be approved.
- (7) That an increase of 2.1% (30p per month) for private Telecare Clients, as outlined in paragraph 12 of the report, be approved.
- (8) That the Council be recommended to approve the revised HRA budget for 2018/19 and the HRA budget for 2019/20, as outlined in Appendix 1, and the consultation arrangements set out in paragraph 4 of the report be noted.
- (9) That the Council be recommended to approve the public sector housing revised capital budgets for 2018/19 to 2022/23, attached as Appendix 2, and the consultation arrangements outlined in paragraph 4 of the report be noted.
- (10) That the Council be recommended to authorise the Strategic Director Place and the Chief Officer Finance and Legal Services to bid for and enter into funding arrangements for additional resources to supplement investment in the public sector housing stock as outlined in paragraphs 27 and 28 of the report and that expenditure funded from such resources be added to the Capital Programme.
- (11) That the Council be recommended to authorise the Strategic Director Place, following consultation with the Cabinet Member for Housing and Residents Welfare, to manage and allocate resources to the capital programme, as outlined in paragraph 29 of the report.
- (12) That the Council be recommended to confirm that all capital receipts arising from the sale of HRA assets (other than any receipts that may be specifically committed to support private sector housing) should continue to be used for the improvement of council homes, as set out in paragraph 29 of the report.
- (13) That the Council be recommended to authorise the Strategic Director Place to continue to buy back former right to buy properties, to buy other properties, and to buy land where required to assemble a viable site for housing development, subject to a robust assessment of good value for money and sustainability in terms of lettings, maintenance and major works, as set out in paragraph 30 of the report.
- (14) That the Strategic Director Place be authorised to procure and enter into contracts for the delivery of the capital programme, as outlined in paragraph 31 of the report.

Medium-Term Improvement Plan for Children's Services	<p>(15) That the Council be recommended to endorse the HRA medium term financial strategy and thirty year business plan attached as Appendix 3 to the report.</p> <p>(1) That the formal report of the Ofsted Inspection be noted.</p> <p>(2) That, subject to any required amendments, the Medium-Term Improvement Plan be approved.</p> <p>(3) That the requirement for the Medium-Term Improvement Plan to be supported by an Operational Action Plan, providing a performance tool to support delivery of the Improvement Plan, be noted and that the Action Plan be agreed by the Strategic Director People and the Cabinet Member for Children and Young People, subject to formal approval by Ofsted in March 2019.</p>
School Organisation, Place Planning and updated Place Planning Strategic Plan	That the School Place Planning Strategic Plan be approved.
Review of Travellers Transit Site Provision in Dudley Borough	<p>(1) That as a result of the review of the proposed provision of a temporary Transit site at Budden Road, Coseley, the project be discontinued.</p> <p>(2) That Officers be directed to identify smaller scale sites suitable for provision of a permanent Travellers Transit site and based on an assessment of each, make recommendations as to the preferred site and costs thereof, to be presented to a future meeting of the Cabinet.</p> <p>(3) That the establishment of a team of Environmental Enforcement Officers be approved.</p> <p>(4) That a programme of additional measures, including enhanced security, be developed and implemented on sites vulnerable to Unauthorised Encampments following engagement with the communities concerned.</p> <p>(5) That responsibility for finalising the detail of the Environmental Enforcement Team and programme of preventative and security measures be delegated to the Strategic Director Place following consultation with the Cabinet Member for Housing and Residents Welfare.</p> <p>(6) That officers be directed to seek the implementation of a borough wide injunction against Unauthorised Encampments.</p> <p>(7) That the Leader of the Council write to the Mayor of West Midlands Combined Authority asking him to press the government to legislate to enable a WMCA wide use of transit sites.</p>

- The Local Government and Social Care Ombudsman's Annual Review Letter 2018
- (1) That the report and the Annual Review Letter 2018 from the Local Government and Social Care Ombudsman be noted.
 - (2) That Chief Officers continue to ensure that requests for information on complaints are dealt with by the date requested to ensure that the Council maximises its performance on response times and remedy of complaints is maintained.
 - (3) That all Directorates continue to monitor and review their complaints actively to underpin ongoing good practice to achieve timely local resolution of complaints wherever possible.
 - (4) That the Cabinet endorse the recommendation of the Strategic Director People, as set out in Appendix 3 to the report, concerning the Local Government and Social Care Ombudsman's findings regarding Third Party Top-Ups and that the Council continue to permit third party contributions to be arranged between the care provider and the third party without Council involvement.

The details of the above items are set out in the reports submitted to the meeting of the Cabinet. Copies of the public reports may be obtained from Democratic Services (contact 01384 815238) or e-mail democratic.services@dudley.gov.uk or on the Committee Management Information System on the Council's Website.

Except where matters have been referred to the Council, the decisions will come into force, and may then be implemented, on the expiry of five working days from 12th February, 2019 unless a Scrutiny Committee objects to a decision and calls it in.

Mohammed Farooq
Lead for Law and Governance
(Monitoring Officer)

The Council House,
Priory Road,
Dudley,
West Midlands

Dated: 12th February, 2019

(Display until 20th February, 2019)