



**Service Director – Legal, Governance and  
Commissioning**

**Julie Muscroft**

Governance and Commissioning

PO Box 1720

Huddersfield

HD1 9EL

**Tel:** 01484 221000

## Decision Summary

**Committee:**

**Date:**

**Committee Clerk:**

**TEL:**

**COUNCIL**

**WEDNESDAY 6 MARCH 2024**

**Andrea Woodside**

**01484 221000**

### **Chair**

Councillor Cahal Burke

### **Councillors Attended**

Councillor Beverley Addy

Councillor Masood Ahmed

Councillor Itrat Ali

Councillor Karen Allison

Councillor Ammar Anwar

Councillor Zarina Amin

Councillor Bill Armer

Councillor Donna Bellamy

Councillor Aafaq Butt

Councillor Martyn Bolt

Councillor Andrew Cooper

Councillor Moses Crook

Councillor Nosheen Dad

Councillor Paola Antonia Davies

Councillor Paul Davies

Councillor Ebrahim Dockrat

Councillor Donald Firth

Councillor Eric Firth

Councillor Charles Greaves

Councillor Adam Gregg

Councillor David Hall

Councillor Steve Hall

Councillor Tyler Hawkins

Councillor Lisa Holmes

Councillor James Homewood

Councillor Yusra Hussain

Councillor Manisha Roma Kaushik

Councillor Viv Kendrick

Councillor Musarrat Khan  
Councillor Jo Lawson  
Councillor John Lawson  
Councillor Vivien Lees-Hamilton  
Councillor Susan Lee-Richards  
Councillor Gwen Lowe  
Councillor Andrew Marchington  
Councillor Naheed Mather  
Councillor Harry McCarthy  
Councillor Tony McGrath  
Councillor Bernard McGuin  
Councillor Hannah McKerchar  
Councillor Matthew McLoughlin  
Councillor Paul Moore  
Councillor Alison Munro  
Councillor Darren O'Donovan  
Councillor Shabir Pandor  
Councillor Carole Pattison  
Councillor Mussarat Pervaiz  
Councillor Andrew Pinnock  
Councillor Jackie Ramsay  
Councillor Elizabeth Reynolds  
Councillor Imran Safdar  
Councillor Cathy Scott  
Councillor Joshua Sheard  
Councillor Will Simpson  
Councillor Anthony Smith  
Councillor Elizabeth Smaje  
Councillor Richard Smith  
Councillor Melanie Stephen  
Councillor Mohan Sokhal  
Councillor John Taylor  
Councillor Mark Thompson  
Councillor Graham Turner  
Councillor Sheikh Ullah  
Councillor Adam Zaman  
Councillor Habiban Zaman

### **Apologies**

Councillor Timothy Bamford, Councillor Amanda Pinnock and Councillor Kath Pinnock

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## **1: Announcements by the Mayor and Chief Executive**

To receive any announcements from the Mayor and Chief Executive.

Council received tributes to Members who would be retiring from service at the forthcoming local elections, namely Councillors D Firth, Gregg, McGuin, Mather, Reynolds and Stephen.

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## **2: Apologies for absence**

Group Business Managers to submit any apologies for absence.

Apologies for absence were received on behalf of Councillors Bamford, A U Pinnock and K Pinnock.

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## **3: Minutes of Previous Meeting**

To approve the Minutes of the Meeting of the Council Meeting held on 7 February 2024.

Approved as a correct record.

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## **4: Declaration of Interests**

Members will be asked to say if there are any items on the Agenda in which they have any disclosable pecuniary interests or any other interests, which may prevent them from participating in any discussion of the items or participating in any vote upon the items.

A list of granted dispensations was tabled. No further interests were declared.

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## **5: Allocation of Seats - Update Report**

To consider (i) the adjustment of the allocation of seats pursuant to the formation of Kirklees Community Independents Group and (ii) the appointment of the Chair of Environment and Climate Change Scrutiny Panel.

Contact: Leigh Webb, Acting Head of Governance

### **RESOLVED –**

- 1) That the allocation of seats to groups and to independent councillors be in accordance with the schedule as attached as Appendix A of the report.
  - 2) That the finalisation of the allocation of seats on the Committees and Panels set out at Appendix A be delegated to the Group Business Managers and to advise the Acting Head of Governance on the allocation of the places accordingly.
  - 3) That any changes to joint authorities or outside bodies be delegated to the Monitoring Officer in consultation with the Group Business Managers and to advise the Acting Head of Governance on the membership accordingly.
  - 4) That Cllr Hannah McKerchar be appointed to the position of Chair of Environment and Climate Change Scrutiny Panel for the remainder of the municipal year.
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## **6: Our 2024/2025 Council Plan (Reference from Cabinet)**

To consider the 2024/2025 Council Plan and the adoption of the document as part of the Council's Policy Framework.

Contact: Stephen Bonnell – Policy, Partnerships and Corporate Planning

**RESOLVED** – That the 2024/2025 Council Plan be approved and incorporated within the Council's Policy Framework.

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## **7: Council Annual Budget Report 2024-2025 and following years; incorporating Capital, Treasury Management, General Fund, Revenue and Housing Revenue Account (Reference from Cabinet)**

1) To consider the recommendations of Budget Cabinet, held on 13 February 2024 that:

(i) General Fund Revenue

- the draft Revenue Budget for 2024-2025, as attached at Appendix F, be approved
- the forecast spending and funding plans for the 2024-2027 period, as set out at Appendix F, be noted
- the forecast levels of statutory and other council reserves, as set out at Appendix H, be noted
- the strategy for the use of balances and reserves (paragraph 2.15 refers) be approved
- the Council's participation in the Leeds City Region Business Rates Pool for 2024-2025 be noted and that authority be delegated to the Chief Executive and Service Director (Finance), in consultation with the Leader and Cabinet Member (Finance), to agree the governance arrangements for 2024-2025, to be approved by the Business Rates Joint Committee (paragraph 2.20 refers)
- it be noted that discussions regarding the uplifts on the rates paid to external providers for demand-led activities are ongoing, and that authority be delegated to the Strategic Director (Adults and Health) to agree the final uplifts to rates for 2024-2025 (paragraph 2.4.3 refers)
- approval be given to the Council's flexible capital receipts policy for 2024-2025 (paragraph 2.8 and Appendix E refer)
- approval be given to the Council Tax requirement for 2024-2025 (Appendix N refers)
- the Council's Statutory 151 Officer's positive assurance statement as to the robustness of the forecasts and estimates and adequacy of financial reserves be noted (paragraph 2.21 refers)
- authority be delegated to the Council's statutory s151 Officer to amend how the finally approved precepts are recorded in the Council's revenue budget in line with the final notifications received following decisions by the West Yorkshire Mayor Police and Crime Commissioner, the Fire and Rescue Authority and the

Parish Councils, should these be received after 6 March 2023  
(paragraph 3.1.3 refers)

(ii) Treasury Management

- the borrowing strategy be approved (paragraphs 2.16 to 2.29 refer)
- the investment strategy be approved (paragraphs 2.30 to 2.38 and Appendices A and B refer)
- the policy for provision of repayment of debt (minimum revenue provision) be approved (paragraphs 2.39 to 2.41, Appendix C refer)
- the treasury management indicators be approved (Appendix D refers)
- the investment strategy (non treasury investments) be approved (Appendix F refers)

(iii) Capital

- the updated Capital Plan 2023-2032 be approved (Appendix Kiii refers)
- the Capital Strategy (including prudential indicators) be approved (Appendix K refers)

(iv) Housing Revenue Account

- the draft Housing Revenue Account Budget for 2024-2025 be approved (Appendix L refers)
- the strategy for the use of the Housing Revenue Account reserves be approved (Appendix L refers)

2) To consider the recommendations of Cabinet, held on 20 February 2024 that, in relation to Council Tax provisions within the Levelling Up and Regeneration Act 2023 in regard to long term empty properties and second homes, it be agreed;

- (i) That the qualifying period for the long term empty property premium in Council Tax be reduced to one year, effective from 1 April 2024
- (ii) That approval be given to a 100% Council tax premium for second homes with effect from 1 April 2025.
- (iii) That authority be delegated to the Section 151 Officer, in conjunction with the relevant Cabinet Member, to enable the amendment of the policy and/or any associated procedures to ensure alignment with the regulations or statutory guidance relating to the exemptions from the premiums, when these are issued or subsequently amended by Government.

Amendments will be published in accordance with Council Procedure Rules 19(3) and 19(4) on 28 February 2024.

Contact: Isabel Brittain – Interim Service Director, Finance

## **RESOLVED – (BUDGET MOTION APPROVED)**

1) That the Budget Motion be approved;

(v) General Fund Revenue

- the draft Revenue Budget for 2024-2025, as attached at Appendix F, be approved
- the forecast spending and funding plans for the 2024-2027 period, as set out at Appendix F, be noted
- the forecast levels of statutory and other council reserves, as set out at Appendix H, be noted
- the strategy for the use of balances and reserves (paragraph 2.15 refers) be approved
- the Council's participation in the Leeds City Region Business Rates Pool for 2024-2025 be noted and that authority be delegated to the Chief Executive and Service Director (Finance), in consultation with the Leader and Cabinet Member (Finance), to agree the governance arrangements for 2024-2025, to be approved by the Business Rates Joint Committee (paragraph 2.20 refers)
- it be noted that discussions regarding the uplifts on the rates paid to external providers for demand-led activities are ongoing, and that authority be delegated to the Strategic Director (Adults and Health) to agree the final uplifts to rates for 2024-2025 (paragraph 2.4.3 refers)
- approval be given to the Council's flexible capital receipts policy for 2024-2025 (paragraph 2.8 and Appendix E refer)
- approval be given to the Council Tax requirement for 2024-2025 (Appendix N refers)
- the Council's Statutory 151 Officer's positive assurance statement as to the robustness of the forecasts and estimates and adequacy of financial reserves be noted (paragraph 2.21 refers)
- authority be delegated to the Council's statutory s151 Officer to amend how the finally approved precepts are recorded in the Council's revenue budget in line with the final notifications received following decisions by the West Yorkshire Mayor Police and Crime Commissioner, the Fire and Rescue Authority and the Parish Councils, should these be received after 6 March 2023 (paragraph 3.1.3 refers)

(vi) Treasury Management

- the borrowing strategy be approved (paragraphs 2.16 to 2.29 refer)
- the investment strategy be approved (paragraphs 2.30 to 2.38 and Appendices A and B refer)
- the policy for provision of repayment of debt (minimum revenue provision) be approved (paragraphs 2.39 to 2.41, Appendix C refer)
- the treasury management indicators be approved (Appendix D refers)
- the investment strategy (non treasury investments) be approved (Appendix F refers)

- (vii) Capital
    - the updated Capital Plan 2023-2032 be approved (Appendix Kiii refers)
    - the Capital Strategy (including prudential indicators) be approved (Appendix K refers)
  
  - (viii) Housing Revenue Account
    - the draft Housing Revenue Account Budget for 2024-2025 be approved (Appendix L refers)
    - the strategy for the use of the Housing Revenue Account reserves be approved (Appendix L refers)
- 2) That in relation to Council Tax provisions within the Levelling Up and Regeneration Act 2023 in regard to long term empty properties and second homes, it be agreed;
- (i) That the qualifying period for the long term empty property premium in Council Tax be reduced to one year, effective from 1 April 2024
  - (ii) That approval be given to a 100% Council tax premium for second homes with effect from 1 April 2025.
  - (iii) That authority be delegated to the Section 151 Officer, in conjunction with the relevant Cabinet Member, to enable the amendment of the policy and/or any associated procedures to ensure alignment with the regulations or statutory guidance relating to the exemptions from the premiums, when these are issued or subsequently amended by Government.
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