

Contact Officer: Yolande Myers

KIRKLEES COUNCIL

CABINET

Tuesday 21st February 2023

Present: Councillor Shabir Pandor (Chair)
Councillor Paul Davies
Councillor Eric Firth
Councillor Viv Kendrick
Councillor Naheed Mather
Councillor Carole Pattison
Councillor Cathy Scott
Councillor Will Simpson

Observers: Councillor John Lawson
Councillor Lesley Warner

Apologies: Councillor Musarrat Khan
Councillor Graham Turner

152 Membership of Cabinet

Apologies for absence were received on behalf of Councillor Musarrat Khan and Councillor Graham Turner.

153 Declarations of Interest

No interests were declared.

154 Admission of the Public

It was noted that all agenda items would be considered in public session.

155 Deputations/Petitions

No deputations or petitions were received.

156 Questions by Members of the Public

157 Questions by Elected Members (Oral Questions)

Under the provision of Executive Procedure Rule 2.3, Cabinet received the following questions;

Question from Councillor John Lawson

“At the last meeting of Cabinet there were a series of questions relating to Kirklees Active Leisure. As part of the response, it was explained that there would be an upcoming governance review of KAL. Can I ask when that will take place and what the scope of that review will be?”

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A response was provided by the Leader of the Council.

Question from Councillor Warner

“I recently attended a consultation event at Nields J I & N School regarding a possible move to academy status with Colne Valley High School. The event included the views of a private consultant who appeared to provide a one sided view of academy conversion. Can I ask what the Council is doing to provide parents with information about conversions to academy status?”

A response was provided by the Cabinet Member for Learning, Aspiration and Communities (Councillor Carole Pattison).

Question from Councillor Warner

“Councillor Warner expressed some concerns on behalf of residents regarding a matter dealt with by the planning committee.”

A response was provided by the Leader of the Council.

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Council Budget Report 2023/24 and future years; incorporating Capital, Treasury Management, General Fund Revenue and Housing Revenue Account (The report gave notice to Cabinet Members of the requirements of Section 106 of the Local Government and Finance Act 1992 in relation to voting and participation in the meeting).

(Under the provision of Council Procedure Rule 36(1), Cabinet received representations from Councillor John Lawson).

Cabinet gave consideration to the Council Budget Report 2023/24 and future years, prior to its submission to Council on 8 March 2023. The report (i) reviewed the general fund revenue budget strategies over the medium term financial plan and budget proposals to achieve a balanced General Fund revenue budget in 2023/24, and indicative revenue budget forecasts for the following four years (ii) incorporated the Government’s announcement on the Local Government Finance Settlement for 2023/24, and considered the level of General Fund revenue budget needed for Treasury Management and Central Contingencies (iii) reviewed the current levels of General Fund revenue reserves and balances and made recommendations on the level of reserves (iv) incorporated Housing Revenue Account (HRA) budget proposals to achieve a balanced HRA in 2023/24, and indicative revenue budget plan for the following four years, informed by the HRA 30 year business plan; (v) reviewed the current levels of Housing Revenue Account reserves, and made recommendations on the level of reserves (vi) reviewed the multi-year plan for capital investment (vii) reviewed and approved the 2023/24 Treasury Management Strategy, Investment Strategy and Capital Strategy (viii) made recommendations on the Council Tax requirement for 2023/24 and (ix) incorporated a statement of assurance from the Council’s statutory s151 officer in relation to the robustness of budget estimates and adequacy of General Fund and HRA reserves.

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Having considered the content of the report and the accompanying appendices, it was agreed that the proposal budget be submitted to the meeting of Council for determination.

RESOLVED - That the Motion be submitted to the Meeting of Council on 8 March 2023 with a recommendation that;

(i) General Fund Revenue

- the draft Revenue Budget for 2023-2024, as attached at Appendix A, be approved
- the forecast spending and funding plans for the 2024-2028 period, as set out at Appendix A, be noted
- the forecast levels of statutory and other council reserves, as set out at Appendix Cii, be noted
- the strategy for the use of balances and reserves (paragraph 2.16 refers) be approved
- the Council's participation in the Leeds City Region Business Rates Pool for 2023-2024 be noted and that authority be delegated to the Chief Executive and Service Director (Finance), in consultation with the Leader and Cabinet Member (Corporate Services), to agree the governance arrangements for 2023-2024, to be approved by the Business Rates Joint Committee (paragraph 2.6.4 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 2023-2024 (paragraph 2.10.3 refers)
- the Council's anticipated Housing Support Fund Round 4 allocation, and Council Tax Support Fund for 2023-2024 be noted, and that authority be delegated to the Strategic Director (Corporate Strategy, Commissioning and Public Health), in consultation with the Cabinet Member (Corporate Services), the Cabinet Member (Learning, Aspiration and Communities) and Service Director (Finance) to agree the mechanism for how the funding will be used (paragraph 2.13.7 refers)
- approval be given to the Council's flexible capital receipts policy for 2022-2023 and 2023-2024 (paragraphs 2.14.8 to 2.14.11 and Appendix E refer)
- approval be given to the Council Tax requirement for 2023-2024 (Appendix H 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 (paragraphs 3.3.1 to 3.3.16 refer)
- 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 8 March 2023 (paragraph 3.1.3 refers)

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(ii) Treasury Management

- the borrowing strategy be approved (paragraphs 2.17 to 2.26 of Appendix I refer)
- the investment strategy be approved (paragraphs 2.27 to 2.35 of Appendix I, Appendices A and B refer)
- the policy for provision of repayment of debt (minimum revenue provision) be approved (paragraphs 2.36 to 2.39 of Appendix I and Appendix C refer)
- the treasury management indicators be approved (Appendix D refers)
- the investment strategy (non treasury investments) be approved (Appendix E refers)

(iii) Capital

- the updated Capital Plan 2022-2028 be approved (Appendix A refers)
- the Capital Strategy (including prudential indicators) be approved (Appendix F refers)

(iv) Housing Revenue Account

- the draft Housing Revenue Account Budget for 2023-2024 be approved (Appendix A refers)
- the strategy for the use of the Housing Revenue Account reserves be approved (paragraph 2.18.6 refers)