

Contact Officer: Andrea Woodside

KIRKLEES COUNCIL

CABINET

Tuesday 13th February 2024

Present: Councillor Cathy Scott (Chair)
Councillor Moses Crook
Councillor Paul Davies
Councillor Viv Kendrick
Councillor Mussarat Pervaiz
Councillor Elizabeth Reynolds
Councillor Jackie Ramsay
Councillor Graham Turner

Observers: Councillor Bill Armer
Councillor David Hall

- 131 Membership of Cabinet**
Councillor Butt was not present at the meeting.
- 132 Declaration of Interests**
No interests were declared.
- 133 Minutes of Previous Meeting**
RESOLVED – That the Minutes of the Meeting held on 23 January 2024 were approved as a correct record.
- 134 Admission of the Public**
It was noted that all agenda items would be considered in public session.
- 135 Deputations/Petitions**
No deputations or petitions were received.
- 136 Questions by Members of the Public**
No questions were asked.
- 137 Questions by Elected Members (Oral Questions)**
No questions were asked.
- 138 Our 2024/25 Council Plan**
Cabinet gave consideration to the 2024/2025 Council Plan, which set out the strategic framework for the allocation of resources and summarised the Council's long term commitments, mid-term priorities and annual deliverables, prior to its submission to Council on 6 March 2024.

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The plan confirmed the Council's commitment to the long term vision, shared outcomes and key partnership strategies, and provided a summary of areas of focus and indicators for measuring progress against shared outcomes. In the context of the current economic and financial challenges the plan set out the following four priorities over a three year period (i) to address the financial position in a fair and balanced way (ii) to strive to transform services to become more modernised, efficient and effective (iii) to continue to deliver a greener, healthier Kirklees and address the challenges of climate change and (iv) continue to invest and regenerate towns and villages, supporting diverse places and communities to flourish. It was noted that a set of deliverables for each of these priorities were set out over the next twelve month period to enable progress to be monitored and that six and twelve monthly reports would be submitted to Cabinet.

RESOLVED - That the 2024/2025 Council Plan be approved and referred to the meeting of Council on 6 March 2024, with a recommendation that the Council Plan be adopted as part of the Policy Framework.

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Council Annual Budget Report 2024-25 and following 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 a representation from Councillor D Hall).

Cabinet gave consideration the Council Budget Report 2024/2025 and future years, incorporating Capital, Treasury Management, General Fund Revenue and Housing Revenue Account, prior to its submission to Council on 6 March 2024. The report provided a summary of the overall budget position along with information on the financial strategy and medium term financial strategy update 2024/2025 to 2026/2027. The report (set out an on overview of spending plans in each Directorate and provided information in regards to (i) central budgets (ii) flexible capital receipts (iii) treasury management (iv) schools funding – dedicated schools grant (v) funding within the Medium Term Financial Strategy (vi) budget savings (vii) reserves (viii) housing revenue account (ix) capital strategy and capital (x) council tax referendum principles and the (xi) business rates pool.

Paragraph 21 of the report set out the Section 25 Statement from the Section 151 Officer.

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

RESOLVED - That the Motion be submitted to the Meeting of Council on 6 March 2024 with a recommendation that;

- (i) General Fund Revenue

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- 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 2024-2054 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)

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(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)