

Decisions taken by the Cabinet On 7 February 2024



Working in partnership with **Eastbourne Homes**

Notice dated: 08 February 2024

Issued to the Chairman, members of the Scrutiny Committee and other Councillors for information.

Key decisions will be implemented after the expiry of 5 working days from the date of this notice unless “called-in” under the provisions of the council’s scrutiny procedure rules (see end of document for call-in procedure) or implemented sooner by reason of urgency.

Please refer to the relevant cabinet agenda and reports when reading this notice. The minutes of the meeting of the cabinet containing a full record of the proceedings will be published in due course. To view on-line follow this link to the relevant pages on [the Council's website: https://democracy.lewes-eastbourne.gov.uk/mgCommitteeDetails.aspx?ID=125](https://democracy.lewes-eastbourne.gov.uk/mgCommitteeDetails.aspx?ID=125)

Item No	Matter:	Decision:	Reasons for Decision:
7	General fund budget 2024/25 and capital programme	<p>Recommended to Full Council (Budget and policy framework):</p> <p>(1) Continue to lobby the UK Government for additional funding in recognition of the exceptional financial pressures placed on Local Councils in tackling the cost of homelessness, which in Eastbourne is projected to be £4.9m for 23/24 to pay for temporary accommodation.</p> <p>a) In this circumstance, EBC Council Tax would increase for a Band D property to 2.99% and deliver £3.8m of savings over two years as per previous MTFS and reporting. This is</p>	The Cabinet has to recommend to Full Council the setting of a revenue budget and associated Council Tax for the forthcoming financial year by law.

Eastbourne Borough Councils preferred option.

- b) Our preference is that the Government recognise the extreme pressures placed on Councils of all political persuasions, and agrees, as they have done with social care, to provide exceptional, emergency support to Councils to cover the costs of EA/TA in the Budget.
- c) However, in appreciation that this may be unlikely, the Council have put forward three other alternatives as we continue dialogue with DLHUC to provide support for this authority.

(2) To give delegated authority to the Section 151 Officer and Chief Executive in consultation with the Leader of the Council and the Cabinet Member for Finance to approve to Full Council, one of the following options in respect to the General Fund Budget 2024/25 dependent on the outcome of the Councils application to the Department of Levelling Up Housing & Communities for Exceptional Financial Support.

- a) Option A is based on Department of Levelling Up Housing & Communities recognising and directly funding the increased number of homelessness and temporary accommodation placements activity from 2023/24 onwards (Appendices 1A, 2A, 3A & 4A).
- b) Option B which assumes the acceptance of Exceptional Financial Support by Department of Levelling Up Housing & Communities but does not include additional Council Tax setting powers over and above the existing pre-referendum limit of

		<p>2.99% (Appendices 1B, 2B, 3B & 4B).</p> <p>d) Option D which assumes the refusal of Exceptional Financial Support by Department of Levelling Up Housing & Communities (Appendices 1D, 2D, 3D & 4D).</p> <p>(3) To give delegated authority to the Section 151 Officer and Chief executive in consultation with the Leader of the Council and the Cabinet Member for Finance to approve an increase in the Council Tax for Eastbourne Borough Council dependent on the options described above.</p> <p>a) Option A, B & D- An increase of 2.99% resulting in a gross Band D charge of £277.74 for 2024/25 an increase of £8.06 per annum.</p> <p>(4) The revised General Fund & Housing Revenue Account Capital Programme 2024/25 as set out at Appendix 5 to the report.</p> <p>(5) The rates of Fees and Charges proposed within Appendix 5 to apply from 1 April 2024 and to implement changes to statutory fees and charges for services shown within Appendix 5 as and when notified by Government.</p> <p>(6) To note the Section 151 Officer's sign off as outlined in the report.</p>	
8	Treasury Management	Recommended to Full Council (Budget and policy	It is a requirement within the budget

	<p>Strategy, Investment Strategy, Capital Strategy and Prudential Indicators 2024/25</p>	<p>framework):</p> <p>(1) To approve the Treasury Management Strategy and Annual Investment Strategy for 2024/25 as set out in Appendix A;</p> <p>(2) To approve the Minimum Revenue Provision Policy Statement 2024/25 (Appendix A);</p> <p>(3) To approve the Prudential and Treasury Indicators 2024/25 to 2026/27 (Appendix A);</p> <p>(4) To approve the Capital Strategy 2024/25 (Appendix B).</p>	<p>setting process for the Council to review and approve the Prudential and Treasury indicators, Treasury Strategy, Investment Strategy and Capital Strategy.</p>
<p>9</p>	<p>Housing Revenue Account (HRA) Revenue Budget and Rent Setting 2024/25 and HRA Capital Programme 2023-28</p>	<p>Recommended to Full Council (Budget and policy framework):</p> <p>(1) The HRA budget for 2024/25 and revised 2023/24 budget as set out at Appendix 1 to the report.</p> <p>(2) That social and affordable rents (including Shared Ownership) are increased by 7.7% with effect from 1st April 2024 in line with government policy.</p> <p>(3) That, with effect from 1 April 2024, when social-rented properties are relet to new tenants, the applicable rent will be increased by 5% above target rent.</p> <p>(4) That the revised service charges as set out in paragraphs 2.3 to 2.6 of the report are implemented with effect from 1st April 2024.</p> <p>(5) That Garage rents are increased by 6.7%.</p>	<p>The Cabinet must recommend to Full Council the setting of the HRA revenue and capital budget and the level of social and affordable housing rents for the forthcoming year.</p>

		<p>(6) To grant delegated authority to the Chief Executive, in consultation with the Cabinet Portfolio holder for Finance and Resources and the Chief Finance Officer to finalise Eastbourne Homes' Management Fees and Delivery Plans for both 2023/24 and 2024/25.</p> <p>(7) The HRA Capital Programme as set out at Appendix 2 to the report.</p> <p>(8) To note that £871.5k of Major Works expenditure is shown in the Capital Programme in 2024/25 and 2025/26 to improve EPC ratings in HRA properties, this expenditure being the subject of a Government grant bid to secure 50% match-funding.</p>	
<p>10</p>	<p>Local Council Tax Reduction Scheme 2024/25</p>	<p>Recommended to Full Council (Budget and policy framework):</p> <p>(1) Cabinet recommend to Full Council that the 2023/24 Local Council Tax Reduction Scheme is adopted as the 2024/25 scheme.</p> <p>(2) Subject to Full Council approval Cabinet grants the Chief Executive delegated authority:</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">(a) to implement the Scheme, such delegated authority to include any measures necessary for or incidental to its management and administration; and</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">(b) if necessary, and in accordance with paragraph 2.3, to amend the Scheme in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Finance and Resources</p>	<p>The Council must review the scheme each year and adopt a scheme for the coming year.</p>

		<p>(3) That the Exceptional Hardship Scheme continues in 2024/25 subject to funds being available.</p> <p>(4) That an initial £25,000 be added to the Exceptional Hardship Scheme with this coming from the additional income raised from changes to Council Tax Discounts and Exemptions.</p> <p>(Key decision):</p> <p>(5) That Cabinet with the objective of implementing a revised Local Council Tax Reduction Scheme in future years:</p> <p>(a) authorise the Chief Finance Officer to enter into consultation with the major precepting authorities.</p> <p>(b) authorise the Chief Executive to produce a draft scheme that calculates a Council Tax Reduction of 100% of a person’s council tax liability, removes the Minimum-Income Floor for the self-employed and removes the £5.00 minimum award.</p> <p>(c) on completion of the consultation and drafting authorised under (a) and (b) above, authorise the Chief Executive to consult with other interested parties.</p>	
11	Corporate Plan 2024 -	(Key decision):	To enable the Council to set out its

	2028	<p>(1) To consider the Corporate Plan.</p> <p>(2) That any final minor amendments arising from the consultation responses be delegated for amendment to the Chief Executive, in consultation with the Leader, and</p> <p>Recommended to Full Council (Budget and policy framework):</p> <p>(3) That full council adopt the Plan as its overarching corporate policy document for the next 4 years.</p>	strategic vision, objectives and priority projects for the next four years and provide a firm basis for forward planning and performance management.
12	Your Eastbourne Business Improvement District Renewal proposal 2024/25	<p>(Key decision):</p> <p>(1) To approve the BID ballot and the Council’s Returning Officer (as ‘ballot holder’) to proceed with the ballot.</p> <p>(2) To give the Director of Finance and Performance delegated authority to vote in the ballot on behalf of the Council.</p> <p>(3) To give the Director of Finance and Performance delegated authority to approve the BID proposal and Operating agreement.</p> <p>(4) To agree the expected costs of the ballot (c.£5,485) will be met by the Council.</p> <p>(5) To agree that the Council will pay the estimated annual BID levy cost (c.£10,197) for Council owned properties within the BID boundary.</p> <p>(6) To note that the Council’s reasonable costs of</p>	To set out the specific role of the Council and its responsibilities in relation to the ballot and to note and agree the associated costs of the ballot as well as the ongoing administration of the BID levy.

	<p>collecting the levy and the associated financial management costs will be recoverable from the BID levy monies.</p>	
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	<p>(7) To note that the Council's Returning Officer is permitted to delegate his responsibilities to others and that he has engaged the services of Civica to undertake the ballot on his behalf.</p>	
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Call-in procedure

Call-in is the procedure whereby a decision of the Cabinet, the Leader or a portfolio holder, or a member or officer with delegated authority (an executive decision), taken but not implemented, may be examined by the Scrutiny Committee prior to implementation.

In order to ensure that call-in is not abused, nor causes unreasonable delay, certain limitations are to be placed on its use. These are:

- (a) Only decisions involving new operational policies or strategic initiatives, unbudgeted expenditure or reductions in service may be called in.
- (b) A recommendation of the Executive to the Full Council is not a decision that may be called-in.
- (c) A minimum of three members of the Scrutiny Committee from at least two political groups must request that a decision be called in.
- (d) Substitute members of the Scrutiny Committee shall not be entitled to call-in decisions except when the call-in request is made at a meeting of the Committee and when the substitute member is taking the place of another member in accordance with Rule 4.4 of the Council Procedure Rules; and
- (e) Written notice of a request to call-in a decision shall be given to the Chief Executive and the notice shall be signed by the Councillors making the request.

Democratic Services

For any further queries regarding this document or you require any further information please contact Democratic Services.

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