

Decisions taken by the Cabinet On 13 December 2023



Working in partnership with **Eastbourne Homes**

Notice dated: 14 December 2023

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	Interim Medium Term Financial Strategy 2024/25 to 2027/28	<p>(Non-key decision):</p> <p>(1) To note the updated Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) forecasts and the requirement to identify additional savings of £2.1m for the period 2024/25 to 2027/28.</p> <p>(2) To note that this forecast could change significantly based upon government funding settlement announcements and demand for services and pressures upon the council.</p> <p>(3) To note that at this stage a forecast £1.6m of savings</p>	To provide Cabinet with and update and early sighting of key MTFS and budgetary implications in preparation for the setting of a revenue budget and associated Council tax for the forthcoming financial year by law.

		are required to balance the 2024/25 budget; and (4) To note the planned annual review of earmarked reserves which aims to reallocate them in line with the emerging risks.	
8	Revenue and Capital Financial Monitoring Report Quarter 2 - 2023-24	(Non-key decision): (1) To note the forecast outturn position for 2023-24 and associated risks. (2) To delegate authority to the Director of Finance and Performance and the portfolio holder for finance to apply the required budget virements to support effective management of the overall budget. (3) To note Appendix 1 and 2 to the report.	To update members on the financial position of the Council and ensure that the authority complies with its financial regulations.
9	Corporate performance - quarter 2 - 2023/24	(Non-key decision): To note progress and performance for Quarter 2 2023/24.	To enable Cabinet members to consider specific aspects of the Council's progress and performance.
10	Housing Services - Current Operating Pressures	(Non-key decision): (1) To note the contents of the report and the activities that Council teams are taking to address these. (2) To express thanks to Council teams for their ongoing work and efforts in response to the current operating pressures.	To provide information about the current operating context.
11	Council tax and	(Key decision):	Cabinet is required to approve the Tax

	business rate base 2024/25	<p>(1) To agree the provisional Council Tax Base of 35,687.2 for 2024/25</p> <p>(2) To agree that the Chief Finance Officer, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Financial Services, determine the final amounts for the Council Tax Base for 2024/25.</p> <p>(3) To agree that the Chief Finance Officer, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Finance, determine net yield from Business Rate income for 2024/25.</p>	Base which will be used for the purposes of calculating the 2024/25 Council Tax.
12	Council Tax Discounts and Premiums	<p>Recommended to Full Council (Budget and policy framework):</p> <p>(1) From 1 April 2024</p> <p>(a) The adoption of a standard 0% discount for all Class C and D chargeable dwellings; and</p> <p>(b) Levying the maximum level of premium i.e.:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Premium of 100% for dwellings which are unoccupied and substantially unfurnished (Empty Homes Premium) after 1 years up to 5 years of becoming empty; • Premium of 200% for dwellings which are unoccupied and substantially unfurnished (Empty Homes Premium) between 5 years and up to 10 years; and • Premium of 300% for dwellings which are unoccupied and substantially unfurnished (Empty 	<p>(a) To reduce the number of empty homes within the Borough in line with the Council's Empty Homes Strategy; and</p> <p>(b) To encourage the use of premises as main residences by local residents rather than second homes.</p>

		<p>Homes Premium) for 10 years or more.</p> <p>(2) From 1 April 2025</p> <p>(a) The continued application of 0% discount for Class C & D and Empty Homes premiums at 100% effective when dwellings have been unoccupied and substantially unfurnished for 1 year; and</p> <p>(b) The application of a premium (Second Homes Premium) of 100% for all dwellings that are not one's sole or main residence and which is substantially furnished.</p> <p>(3) Exception to premiums</p> <p>Where premiums are to be applied, the Council is mindful of the current consultation by government which recommends exceptions in certain circumstances outlined within the report. Subject to the outcome of that consultation, it is recommended that the Section 151 Officer is given delegated powers to implement the Council's policy on premiums in line with statute, the Council's requirements and any guidance given by the Secretary of State.</p>	
13	Eastbourne Carbon Neutral 2030: Annual Report	<p>(Key decision):</p> <p>(1) To approve the 'Eastbourne Carbon Neutral 2030' Annual Update as attached at Appendix 1 to the report for publication on the website.</p> <p>(2) To note progress to date on the strategy and action plan</p>	To progress towards the aims of achieving Eastbourne Carbon Neutral 2030, as resolved in July 2019.

		<p>as contained within Appendix 1 to the report.</p> <p>(3) To approve to delegate authority to the Deputy Chief Executive and Director of Planning and Regeneration, in consultation with the Lead Member for Climate Change, to complete a thorough refresh of the Climate Change Strategy and action plan in readiness for the new financial year 2024/5.</p>	
14	Eastbourne Borough Council Asset Strategy	<p>(Key decision):</p> <p>(1) To agree the strategy, as detailed at Appendix 1 to the report, to inform future asset related decisions.</p> <p>(2) To authorise the Director of Regeneration and Planning to adopt the strategy and produce a formatted version for public release.</p>	There was a need to update and replace previous related documentation in light of Assurance Review recommendations.

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.

Email: committees@lewes-eastbourne.gov.uk

Telephone: 01323 410000

Website: <http://www.lewes-eastbourne.gov.uk/>