

Decisions taken by the Cabinet on 6 February 2025



Lewes District Council

Notice dated: 06 February 2025

Issued to the chairman, members of the Policy and Performance Advisory Committee and other Councillors for information.

Key decisions will be implemented after the expiry of 3 working days from the date of this notice unless “called-in” under the provisions of the council’s policy and performance advisory 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=417>

DECISIONS:

Item No	Matter:	Decision:	Reasons for decision:
8	Devolution and Local Government Reorganisation	(Non-key decision): To note the report.	The issues set out in this report are likely to have significant implications for this council alongside all other local authorities in England.
9	General Fund Revenue Budget 2025/26 and Capital Programme	Recommended to Full Council (Budget and policy framework): (1) The General Fund Base Budget 2025/26 and projected MTFS as set out at Appendix 1 to the report.	The Cabinet must recommend to Full Council the setting of a revenue budget and associated Council Tax for the forthcoming financial year by law.

		<p>(2) An increase in the Council Tax for Lewes District Council of 2.99% resulting in a gross Band D charge (including Special Expenses) of £234.99 for 2025/26.</p> <p>(3) The revised General Fund & Housing Revenue Account Capital Programme 2025/26 as set out at Appendix 3 to the report.</p> <p>(4) The rates of Fees & Charges proposed at Appendix 6 to the report, to apply from 1 April 2025 and to implement changes to statutory fees and charges for services shown within Appendix 6 as and when notified by Government.</p> <p>(5) Delegate authority to the Section 151 Officer to take account in the 2025/26 base budget of any changes to funding allocations when the Final Settlement figures are announced.</p> <p>(6) To note the Section 151 Officer's comments as outlined in the report.</p>	
<p>10</p>	<p>Treasury Management Strategy, Investment Strategy, Capital Strategy and Prudential Indicators 2025/26</p>	<p>Recommended to Full Council (Budget and policy framework):</p> <p>(1) To approve the Treasury Management Strategy and Annual Investment Strategy for 2025/26 as set out at Appendix A to the report.</p> <p>(2) To approve the Minimum Revenue Provision Policy Statement 2025/26 (Appendix A).</p> <p>(3) To approve the Prudential and Treasury Indicators 2025/26 to 2027/28 (Appendix A).</p>	<p>It is a requirement within the budget setting process for the Council to review and approve the Prudential and Treasury indicators, Treasury Strategy, Investment Strategy and Capital Strategy.</p>

		(4) To approve the Capital Strategy 2025/26 (Appendix B).	
11	Housing Revenue Account (HRA) Revenue Budget and Rent Setting 2025/26 and HRA Capital Programme 2024-29	<p>Recommended to Full Council (Budget and policy framework):</p> <p>(1) The HRA Revenue budget for 2025/26 and revised budget for 2024/25 as set out at Appendix 1 to the report.</p> <p>(2) The five-year HRA Capital Programme as set out at Appendix 2 to the report.</p> <p>(3) An increase of 2.7% to social and affordable rents (including shared ownership) with effect from 7th April 2025 in line with government policy</p> <p>(4) When social rented supported accommodation properties are relet to new tenants, the applicable rent will be increased by 10% above target rent with effect from 7th April 2025 in line with government policy</p> <p>(5) When affordable rented properties are relet to new tenants, the applicable rent is reset to the lower of 80% of market rent (inclusive of Service Charges) or Local Housing Allowance, with effect from 7th April 2025 in line with government policy</p> <p>(6) That the revised service charges as set out in paragraphs 2.4 of the report and Appendix 3 to the report are implemented with effect from 7th April 2025.</p> <p>(7) An increase of 10% to Garage rents with effect from 7th April 2025</p> <p>(8) To note that £5.982m of Major Works capital</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.

		expenditure profiled over 4 years between 2024/25 to 2027/28, is being 50% match funded by grant, subject to Government grant bids. The Government scheme aims to improve EPC ratings in HRA properties.	
12	Allocations Policy - Review of the Choice Based Lettings Model	<p>(Key decision):</p> <p>(1) To give its approval to proceed with a public consultation on a new model of allocating Council housing stock.</p> <p>(2) To approve the proposed new direct-allocations model.</p>	To provide the local authority with greater flexibility over how and to whom to allocate our limited social housing stock, to ensure the right properties are matched with the right applicants more quickly, and to help us manage false expectations about the availability and demand for these properties.
13	Local Development Scheme (January 2025)	<p>Recommended to Full Council (Budget and policy framework):</p> <p>(1) That Cabinet acknowledge the revised timetable, as set out in the updated Local Development Scheme, for the preparation of the Lewes Local Plan (ie for the planning authority area outside the South Downs National Park) and recommends it for approval by Full Council and resolve that it will come into effect the day after the Full Council meeting and be published on the council's website.</p> <p>(2) That delegated authority is provided to the Chief Executive in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Planning and Infrastructure to make minor and presentational updates to the LDS where necessary.</p>	To enable the publication of the updated Local Development Scheme outlining the revised timetable for the preparation of the Lewes District Local Plan, and other planning documents as required by Section 15 of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 (as amended).

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 Policy and Performance Advisory Committee prior to implementation.

Any Councillor is entitled to submit a request by email setting out the reason why he/she wishes any such decision to be called in by the Policy and Performance Advisory Committee for consideration by a Call-In Panel. The request must be submitted to Democratic Services within three working days of the date of this notice.

Should any request by a councillor be submitted, the Cabinet Officer will then email all members of the Policy and Performance Advisory Committee, advising them of the request for a review.

Members of the Policy and Performance Advisory Committee must decide within two working days if they support the request and if they do, they should email a response to the Committee and Civic Services Manager accordingly. If at least six members of the Committee are in favour of calling in the decision the Chair of the Policy and Performance Advisory Committee will call a Call-In Panel of the Committee within five working days where possible. The number of councillors to serve on a Panel (which shall be politically proportionate except that either the Leader of a political group may decide to offer one of their Group's places to another Group or an Independent member) shall be determined by the Chair with the councillors being nominated by the respective Group Leaders.

The decision of the Cabinet will not be implemented until:

- The time period for call-in has expired and six members of the Policy and Performance Advisory Committee have not stated they are in favour of calling in the decision; or
- A Call-In Panel of the Policy and Performance Advisory Committee considers the matter and resolves not to intervene in the decision of Cabinet; or
- A Call-In Panel of the Policy and Performance Advisory Committee resolves to refer the matter back to Cabinet for further consideration and to take account of any recommendation of the Panel, in which case the Cabinet will reconsider the decision as soon as is reasonably practicable; or

- In the case of any question relating to the budget or policy framework, a Call-In Panel of the Policy and Performance Advisory Committee has reported to the meeting of the Council that will consider the budget or policy framework or any component part of it (if there is insufficient time for the matter to be referred back to the Cabinet).

Once a decision of the Cabinet has been referred to a Call-In Panel of the Policy and Performance Advisory Committee it shall not be subject to further consideration by a Call-In Panel or the Committee itself and shall not again be referred by any individual councillor.

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: 01273 471600

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