

**Report to:** Policy and Performance Advisory Committee

**Date:** 25 January 2024

**Title:** Policy and Performance Advisory Committee – Policy Input and Development.

**Exemption:** None

**Report of:** Simon Russell, Head of Democratic Services

**Ward(s):** All

**Purpose of the report:** This report outlines the responsibilities of the Policy and Performance Advisory Committee when choosing to consult on reports from the Forward Plan that are due for consideration by the Cabinet on the 1 February 2024, and provides details of the recommendations to the Cabinet for each report.

**Recommendations to the Committee:** The recommendations are detailed at 1.3 of this report

**Reasons for recommendations to the Committee:** To provide a critical friend challenge to the Cabinet decision and policy making process.

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## **1 Introduction**

- 1.1 In its role as a provider of public scrutiny and as critical friend, the Policy and Performance Advisory Committee has a duty to provide a challenge to the executive decision and policy makers.
- 1.2 The Policy and Performance Advisory Committee is able to provide this challenge through the inclusion of the Cabinet’s Forward Plan of Decisions as a standing item on each of the Committee’s agendas, allowing the Committee to request the inclusion of reports due for consideration by the Cabinet on its agenda and by asking that the relevant officers, heads of service or directors, attend the Committee meetings and discuss the content of the reports.
- 1.3 Following consideration of each item, where the Members will be able to ask questions of the relevant officers, heads of service, directors and other stakeholders, the Policy and Performance Advisory Committee will provide one of the following three recommendations to the Cabinet:

- 1) To support the recommendations in the report in full; or
- 2) To support the recommendation in the report subject to the consideration by the Cabinet of any amendments agreed by Committee; or
- 3) To not support the recommendations in the report and give reasons.

1.4 The Cabinet will be provided with the recommendations from the Policy and Performance Advisory Committee when it considers the main report.

3 The following Cabinet reports and recommendations are included in the Policy and Performance Advisory Committee agenda for the meeting on the 25 January 2024:

**Cabinet report:** **General Fund Revenue Budget 2024/25, Capital Programme**

**Purpose of the report:** **To agree the General Fund Budget 2023/24 and updated Medium Term Financial Strategy, together with the updated Capital Programme and Treasury Management position.**

**Officer recommendations to the Cabinet:** **Members are asked to recommend the following proposals to Full Council:**

- 1) **The General Fund Budget 2024/25 (original) and projected MTFS as set out in Appendix 1.**
- 2) **The General Fund Budget 2023/24 (revised) as set out in Appendices 2 & 3.**
- 3) **An increase in the Council Tax for Lewes District Council of 2.99% resulting in a gross Band D charge (including Special Expenses) of £228.17 for 2024/25.**
- 4) **The revised General Fund & Housing Revenue Account Capital Programme 2024/25 as set out in Appendix 4.**
- 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.**
- 6) **To note the Section 151 Officer's sign off as outlined in the report.**

**Reasons for the recommendations:** **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.**

**Lead Officer** **Homira Javadi, Director of Finance and Performance**

<b>Cabinet report:</b>	<b>Treasury Management Strategy, Investment Strategy, Capital Strategy and Prudential Indicators 2024/25</b>
<b>Purpose of the report:</b>	<b>To approve the Council’s Annual Treasury Management Strategy, Capital Strategy &amp; Investment Strategy together with the Treasury and Prudential Indicators.</b>
<b>Officer recommendations:</b>	<p><b>Cabinet is asked to recommend the following proposals to full Council to:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>a. Approve the Treasury Management Strategy and Annual Investment Strategy for 2024/25 as set out in Appendix A;</b></li> <li><b>b. Approve the Minimum Revenue Provision Policy Statement 2024/25 (Appendix A);</b></li> <li><b>c. Approve the Prudential and Treasury Indicators 2024/25 to 2026/27 (Appendix A);</b></li> </ul> <p><b>Approve the Capital Strategy 2024/25 (Appendix B).</b></p>
<b>Reasons for the recommendations:</b>	<b>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.</b>
<b>Lead Officer</b>	<b>Ross Sutton, Head of Financial Reporting</b>

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<b>Cabinet report:</b>	<b>Housing Revenue Account (HRA) Revenue Budget and Rent Setting 2024/25 and HRA Capital Programme 2023-28</b>
<b>Purpose of the report:</b>	<b>To agree the detailed HRA budget proposals, rent levels and service charges for 2024/25 and the HRA Capital Programme 2023-28</b>

**Officer recommendations to the Cabinet:**

**Members are asked to recommend the following proposals to Full Council:**

- i) The HRA budget for 2024/25 and revised 2023/24 budget as set out in Appendix 1**
- ii) That social and affordable rents (including Shared Ownership) are increased by 7.7% with effect from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2024, in line with government policy issued in December 2022**
- iii) That, with effect from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2024, when social-rented properties are relet to new tenants, the applicable rent will be increased by 5% above target rent**
- iv) That the revised service charges as set out in paragraph 2.3 of this report are implemented with effect from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2024**
- v) That garage rents are increased by 6.7%**
- vi) The HRA Capital Programme as set out in Appendix 2**
- vii) To note that £5.691m 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**

**Reasons for recommendations:**

**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.**

**Lead Officer**

**Helen Waring, Housing Revenue Account Consultant and Katie Haffenden, Consultant and Principal Housing Revenue Accountant.**

**Cabinet report:**

**Re-imagining Lewes District: Delivering the Vision 2024 – 2028.**

**Purpose of the report:**

**For Cabinet to consider and recommend the draft plan to Full Council for adoption**

**Officer recommendations to the Cabinet:**

- 1) To consider the ‘Reimagining Lewes District: Delivering the Vision 2024 – 2028’ plan,**
- 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**
- 3) That full council adopt the plan as its overarching corporate policy document for the next 4 years.**

**Reasons for recommendations:** To enable the Council to set out its strategic vision, objectives and priority projects for the next four years and provide a firm basis for forward planning and performance management.

**Lead Officer** Jo Harper, Head of Business Planning and Performance

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**2** Financial / Legal / Risk Management / Equality Analysis/ Environmental Sustainability Implications/ Background Papers

2.1 All implications are addressed in the Cabinet reports

**3** Appendices: None