

Cabinet Referrals

Meeting of 24th January 2023

7.1 CA/08/23 COMMITTEE TIMETABLE

Decision

That Cabinet recommends Council approve the Committee Timetable for 2023/24 as set out in Appendix A to this report.

Corporate Priorities

The various meetings of the Council, Cabinet and Committees support the achievement of all the Council's Corporate Objectives;

A clean, safe and enjoyable environment

Building strong and vibrant communities

Ensuring economic growth and prosperity

Providing good quality affordable homes, in particular for those most in need

Statutory Officer Comments:

Monitoring Officer:

This is a Monitoring Officer report.

S151 Officer:

No further comments to add.

Advice

Mark Brookes introduced the report and was happy to take questions.

Cllr Griffiths asked why we have a Full Council in January and February and suggests that they delete the January meeting, as it seemed to be a waste of resources, she understood why there was one in February for the budget agreement.

Cllr Williams asked if it was in the constitution to have a set number of Council Meetings.

Mark Brookes said it was not in the constitution it was more of an historical number and it was a decision for the members to make if they wished to remove one.

Cllr Griffiths said that her recommendation would be to remove the January Council.

Cllr Williams said that the February Council may be planned too early as it is on the 14th, this maybe before the County Council sets their budget.

Cllr Williams suggested that they have the Council in February at the end of February and switch it with the Cabinet meeting at the end of February 2024.

Mark Brookes said that they could take that away and re-do the dates.

The following changes were agreed.

Cabinet and Licensing moved from the 27th Feb to the 13th Feb

Council Moved from the 14th Feb to 28th Feb

Audit moved from 28th to the 14th to allow for Council

Group meetings moved to 27th Feb

Recommendations agreed

7.2 CA/09/23 TREASURY MANAGEMENT

Decision

That Cabinet recommends to Council acceptance of the report on Treasury Management performance for 2022/23.

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Statutory Officer Comments:

Monitoring Officer:

No comments to add to the report.

Deputy S151 Officer:

This is a Deputy S151 Officer report. Comments are contained within the body of the report

Advice

Cllr Elliot introduced the report noting that it was straightforward as usual however; the economic update was a little out of date when it went at the end of September. He said that the main thing was that after this report there was a repayment of £10.5 million pounds of debt, they had a £600k discount on the capital among which saved them a net £200k in interest per year. He passed his thanks to the finance team for working very speedily and delivering on it. He was happy to take questions.

N Howcutt added that as of next year, the guidelines would slightly change with Treasury Management and they would be getting Treasury Management information quarterly as well as the quarterly financial reports as well as the mid-year and end of year requirements. They will see a bit more information, which would make it less foreign, a little more digestible than it had been historically.

Recommendations agreed

Meeting of 14th February 2023

7.3 CA/18/23 QUARTER 3 FINANCIAL MONITORING REPORT 2022-23

Decision

1. Cabinet noted the revenue financial outturn position for the General Fund and Housing Revenue account as forecast at Quarter 3.
2. Cabinet **RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND TO COUNCIL** the following revenue reserve movements:
 - a. To draw down from General Fund revenues reserves as follows:
 - £0.719m from the Pensions Reserve to cover the cost of the 2022/23 pay award.
 - £0.284m from the Inflationary Pressures service to cover fuel costs.
 - £0.657m from the Dacorum Development Reserve between 2023/24 - 2025/26; (£0.303m in 2023/2024, £0.314m 2024/2025 and £0.04m in 25/26) to fund the Place Communities and Infrastructure restructure.
 - b. To transfer to General Fund revenue reserves as follows:
 - £0.300m to be transferred to a newly created Leisure Reserve.
3. Cabinet **RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND TO COUNCIL** that the forecast Housing Revenue Account (HRA) deficit of £4.113m be supported by a draw down from HRA revenue reserves of £0.830m. The balance of the deficit will be met by a reduction in revenue contributions to the HRA capital programme.
4. Cabinet noted the Council's capital programme is forecast on budget, with additional slippage of £2.009m on General Fund schemes and

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Statutory Officer Comments:

Monitoring Officer:

This report forms part of the Council's governance arrangements and provides an overview of the current financial position for member's review and approval.

Deputy S151 Officer:

This is a Deputy s151 Officer report.

Advice

Cllr Elliot introduced the item and the recommendations as set out in the report.

There were no questions.

7.4 CA/20/23 BUDGET REPORT

Decision

Cabinet **RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND TO COUNCIL to;**

General Fund Revenue Estimate;

1. Set a Dacorum Borough Council General Fund Council Tax requirement of £13.341m, and a provisional amount of £14.574m for the combined Borough Council and Parish Councils' requirement for 2023/24;
2. Approve a Band D Council Tax increase of £6.27 (2.9%) for Dacorum Borough Council;
3. Approve the base estimates for 2023/24, as shown in Appendix A1, and the indicative budget forecasts for 2023/24 – 2026/27, as shown in Appendix A2;
4. Approve the forecast balances of Revenue Reserves as shown in Appendix J, and approve section 11 of this report as the updated Reserves Strategy;
5. Approve increases in Fees and Charges for 2023/24 as set out in Appendices C3, D3, and E3;
6. Approve and adopt the Treasury Management Strategy for 2023/24, attached at Appendix K;
7. Approve and adopt the Capital Strategy for 2023/24, attached at Appendix L;
8. Note that this budget paper, if approved by Council, will form part of the Medium Term Financial Strategy.

Capital Programme:

9. Approve the Capital Programme for 2023/24 to 2027/28, as detailed in Appendix I;
10. Approve the financing proposals in Appendix I subject to an annual review of the financing options by the Chief Finance Officer, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Finance and Resources, during the preparation of the Statement of Accounts.

Housing Revenue Account (HRA):

11. Set dwelling rents according to the new DLUHC guidance, which provides for a rent increase of 7%. The average dwelling rent is proposed to be £118.62 in 2023/24 (based on 52 weeks);
12. Approve the HRA budget for 2023/24 as shown in Appendix F.

Employer Terms and Conditions:

13. Note that the hourly rate of all Council employees continues to exceed the rate proposed by the rates of the Living Wage Foundation, for 2023/24 (to be reviewed annually thereafter).

Statement by Chief Finance Officer:

14. Approve the statement by the Chief Finance Officer regarding the robustness of the budget estimates and level of reserves as set out in Appendix M.

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Statutory Officer Comments:

Monitoring Officer:

In accordance with the Council's Constitution, it is the responsibility of the Cabinet to agree proposals for the Budget, and to present those proposals to the full Council for approval. Once full Council approve the Budget it is the responsibility of Cabinet to implement it.

S151 Officer:

This is a s151 Officer report.

Advice

Cllr Elliot introduced the report as set out in the agenda.

NHowcutt advised this has been many months of planning for our budget for next year and has been considered by Overview & Scrutiny; this is the outcome of the hard work of both officers & Members. Provides a balanced and robust budget which is deliverable.

There were no questions

RECOMMENDATIONS AGREED

7.5 CA/24/23 RELEASE OF COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE LEVY CORE FUNDS

Decision

Cabinet **RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND TO COUNCIL to:**

1. Approve the release of 20% (£3,027,519) of CIL core funds collected to the end of financial year 2021/22 and allocate this towards the delivery of priority infrastructure projects in advance of the Local Plan;
2. Approve the proposed revised framework for assessing projects, including the amended Terms of Reference of the Infrastructure Advisory Group detailed in the report.

Cabinet agreed;

3. The recommendations of the Infrastructure Advisory Group on the first round of projects set out in section 5 of the report and determines which, if any, projects should receive Core CIL funding.

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Statutory Officer Comments:

Monitoring Officer:

Effective governance procedures are essential to ensure that CIL funds can be allocated to appropriate infrastructure in a timely and efficient manner and that spend is properly monitored. The previous governance framework was agreed by Council in January 2017 on recommendation of Cabinet and therefore a Council decision is required to amend the framework and approve the current projects set out in section 5.

If the new framework is agreed, future spending decisions will be able to be made by Cabinet without referral to Council.

S151 Officer:

The proposal to allocate core CIL to support local infrastructure requirements is in line with the core principle of CIL. The decision to allocate a small percentage of CIL collected up to the end of 21/22 reflects the length of delay in the development of the current local plan, and the IAG governance will assess each project bid against the core Infrastructure development requirements with a strong

reflection on the proportion of investment in each geographical settlement area, to reflect infrastructure requirements and wider population need.

Advice

Cllr Anderson introduced the report, advising that IAG met recently and suggested we make some changes to the recommendations, to take forward 1 of the playground schemes, rather than both, as both constitute £1.3m which is a large sum relative to the amount we are looking to release. Also feel strongly that we need to signal our intention to support the scheme to works at Long Marston Village Hall. The IAG recommendation was that more detail was required as part of the Long Marston bid; would ask Cabinet colleagues to show our intention of support to Long Marston in them doing so.

Cllr Barrett commented that it would be useful to know what playgrounds are being proposed. Could that information please be provided?

Cllr Anderson commented that officer resource would be required to deliver the playground project.

CHamilton commented that the principal of needing resource to deliver projects is a reasonable one, suggesting this could this come back to the relevant Portfolio Holder for sign off before it moves forward.

Cllr Williams suggested agreement to the schemes in this first phase, with further discussion between Portfolio Holder and Officers to ensure the funds are being spent in the correct place.

Cllr Williams advised that the IAG felt that the Long Marston bid was not robust enough and commented that it is asking a lot of them to upgrade their business case and it will give them some comfort to know that the effort they will need to put into that work will be time well spent.

JDoe raised a procedural point that this report will go on to Council so will need to pin down exactly what is in this proposed first phase ahead of the Council meeting on 22nd February.

Cllr Williams asked for confirmation that this is not a Council decision but a Cabinet one?

NHowcutt advised that the recommendation to change the process needs to go to Council and the recommendation in this report is to do so. Moving forward individual application expenditures will be decided at Cabinet level.

Cllr Barrett sought clarification; are agreeing this is how we are going to proceed in future as per the recommendations set out in this report, and then secondary to that reviewing the current bids?

Cllr Williams confirmed.

Cllr Barrett added his backing to the proposal to show support to Long Marston.

Cllr Elliot asked; what will that business plan consist of?

Cllr Andrews responded that the biggest issue for us is the funding we are putting in is not all they need, so we need assurance they can get the other resource required to deliver the project; they need to how that will be met through income of the hall and other funding, so we are reassured that we will not be putting £250k into a project that cannot be completed.

Cllr Williams concluded the proposal that recommendations as set out are agreed and a steer will be given on what bids are to go forward, reiterating the need to ensure that what is going to Council next week sets this out clearly.

RECOMMENDATIONS AGREED

