

Cabinet Referrals

21 November 2023

CA/99/23 FINANCIAL MONITORING REPORT

Decision

1. That Cabinet notes the financial position for 2023-24 as at Quarter 2.

RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND

2. That Cabinet **recommends that Council** approve the following supplementary capital budgets representing growth to the Capital Programme:
 - £0.025m for additional works relating to Leisure Courts improvements.
 - £0.195m to support enhancements to the Council's Leisure facilities. This includes £0.102m for the refurbishment of the lighting at Jarman Park, £0.070m to replace the lift at the Berkhamsted Leisure Centre and a £0.022m contribution towards Building Energy Management System upgrades.

These supplementary capital bids will be financed in line with the Council's approved Capital Strategy.

3. That Cabinet notes the following slippage on the capital programme into future years:
 - General Fund £4.114m
 - Housing Revenue Account £4.523m

Corporate Priorities

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

Ensuring efficient, effective and modern service delivery

Climate and ecological emergency

Statutory Officer Comments:

Monitoring Officer:

This report is part of the Council's financial governance and gives assurance on the financial position at the end of quarter 2 for members to review and note. No further comments to add to the report.

Deputy S151 Officer:

This is a S151 Officer report

Advice

N Howcutt introduced the report.

Recommendation agreed

12TH December 2023

CA/106/23 VCS COMMISSIONING – GRANT APPROACH

Decision

Cabinet to:

1. Endorse the principle of a direct award grants based approach to funding the Voluntary and Community Sector as set out in the report
2. That awards be made to the following organisations for a three year period, with an option to extend for a further two years upon review, for the sums set out in section 5.1:
 - (a) Citizens Advice Dacorum
 - (b) Community Action Dacorum
 - (c) Herts Age UK
 - (d) Relate Dacorum, Watford and Three Rivers with Mediation Hertfordshire
3. Delegate any decision to implement the two year extension to the Portfolio Holder for Place

RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND

4. **Recommend to Council** that authority be delegated to the Monitoring Officer and the Head of Commercial Development to amend the Procurement and Commissioning Standing Orders to allow for a direct award approach to grant funding

Corporate Priorities

Building strong and vibrant communities

Ensuring efficient, effective and modern service delivery

Statutory Officer Comments:

Monitoring Officer:

The terms of the funding will be documented in a formal grant funding agreement to ensure that the funding is applied to the particular purpose of the organisation and can be monitored by the Council.

The proposal for direct award of the grant funding will require an amendment to the Council's Procurement and Commissioning Standing Orders if the recommendations in this report are agreed.

Deputy S151 Officer:

The 2024/25 budget setting process will set a budget in line with the grant awards for VCS and future annual budget setting cycles provide relevant inflation in line with the approved MTFS.

Advice

Recommendation agreed

CA/108/23 COUNCIL TAX BASE REPORT AND SUPPORT SCHEME

Decision

RESOLVE TO RECOMMEND

1. To **recommended that Council** change the council tax support scheme from April 2024 to:
 - a. increase the backdating period for working age CTS applications to three months in line with pension age applications;
 - b. remove the restriction for residents in properties from bands E to H for maximum CTS to be calculated using band D.
2. Approved an additional one off payment of support to Council Tax Support Claimants.
3. Cabinet approved the Collection Fund surplus estimate of £665,115.33 as at 31 March 2024. The Dacorum Borough Council share of this surplus is £77,517.77.

RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND

4. Cabinet **recommended to Council** that Dacorum's share of the Council tax surplus (£77,517.77) be transferred to the funding equalisation reserve, specifically to manage fluctuations in the collection fund position.
5. Cabinet approved the payment profile for the surplus identified at 3) above and contained at section 2.39 to this report (Table 4).
6. Cabinet approved the calculation of the Council's tax base for the year 2024/25 incorporating an estimated collection rate of 98.5%.
7. Agreed that, in accordance with the Local Authorities (Calculation of Tax Base) Regulations 2012, the amount calculated by the Council as its tax base for the year 2024/25 shall be 60,276.5 and its constituent elements shall be

Table 1 Taxbase 2024/25

Part of Area - Parished and Non Parished	100% Tax base	98.5% Tax base
Hemel Hempstead	32,886.6	32,393.3
Aldbury	477.0	469.8
Berkhamsted	8,715.3	8,584.6
Bovingdon	2,165.9	2,133.4
Chipperfield	911.2	897.6
Flamstead	671.5	661.5
Flaunden	182.2	179.5
Great Gaddesden	463.5	456.6
Kings Langley	2,406.1	2,370.0
Little Gaddesden	638.2	628.6
Markyate	1,346.8	1,326.6
Nash Mills	1,241.2	1,222.6
Nettleden with Potten End	815.2	803.0
Northchurch	1,415.0	1,393.8
Tring Rural	728.6	717.7
Tring Town	5,450.4	5,368.7
Wigginton	679.5	669.3
Total Taxbase	<u>61,194.4</u>	<u>60,276.5</u>

Corporate Priorities

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

Ensuring efficient, effective and modern service delivery

Climate and ecological emergency

Statutory Officer Comments:**Monitoring Officer:**

No comments to add to the report.

Deputy S151 Officer:

This is a Section 151 officer report. Comments contained within the body of the report.

Advice

Recommendation agreed

30TH January 2024

CA/09/24 TREASURY MANAGEMENT MID-YEAR REVIEW

Decision

RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND

Cabinet **recommends to Council** acceptance of the 2023/24 Treasury Management performance report

Advice

Recommendation agreed

Please refer to the video minutes to view this item in full.

13th February 2024

CA/18/24 BUILDING SAFETY POLICY

Decision

1. Approved the Building Safety Policy.

RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND

2. **Recommended to Council** that the Chief Executive be designated as the Accountable Person within the Council's constitution and scheme of delegation and the Monitoring Officer is given delegated authority to make the required amendments to the Council's Scheme of Delegation.

Advice

Recommendation agreed

Please refer to the video minutes to view this item in full.

CA/19/24 COMMITTEE TIMETABLE

Decision

RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND

Cabinet **recommended that Council** approves the Committee Timetable for 2024/25 as set out in Appendix A to this report.

Advice

Recommendation agreed

Please refer to the video minutes to view this item in full

CA/20/24 HRA BUSINESS PLAN REFRESH

Decision

RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND

4. **Recommend that Full Council** adopt the HRA Business Plan at Appendix A.
5. **Recommend that Full Council** approve the Acquisitions and Disposals policy at Appendix B.
6. **Recommend that Full Council** approve the Rent Policy at Appendix C.

Advice

Recommendation agreed

Please refer to the video minutes to view this item in full

CA/23/24 BUDGET

Decision

RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND

Cabinet recommends that Council:

General Fund Revenue Estimate

1. Set a Dacorum Borough Council General Fund Council Tax requirement of £13.821m, and a provisional amount of £15.144m for the combined Borough Council and Parish Councils' requirement for 2024/25;
2. Approve a Band D Council Tax increase of £6.66 (2.99%) for Dacorum Borough Council;
3. Approve the base estimates for 2024/25, as shown in Appendix A1, and the indicative budget forecasts for 2024/25 – 2027/28, as shown in Appendix A2;
4. Approve the forecast balances of Revenue Reserves as shown in Appendix J, and approve section 10 of this report as the updated Reserves Strategy;
5. Approve increases in Fees and Charges for 2024/25 as set out in Appendices C3, D3, and E3;
6. Approve and adopt the Treasury Management Strategy for 2024/25, attached at Appendix K;
7. Approve and adopt the Capital Strategy for 2024/25, 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 2024/25 to 2028/29, 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 DLUHC guidance, which provides for a rent increase of CPI plus 1% which equates to 7.7%. The average dwelling rent is proposed to be £127.73 per week in 2024/25 (based on 52 weeks);

12. Approve the HRA budget for 2024/25 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 2024/25 (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.

Advice

Recommendation agreed

Please refer to the video minutes to view this item in full

CA/24/24 CHILTERN BEECHWOODS SPECIAL AREA OF CONSERVATION MITIGATION STRATEGY AND SUITABLE ALTERNATIVE NATURAL GREENSPACE UPDATE

Decision

1. That the update on CBSAC Mitigation Strategy matters presented be noted.
2. That Gadebridge Park, Margaret Lloyd Park, Howe Grove, and an extension to Bunkers Park, be considered and, if appropriate, taken forward as the next phase of Council SANG sites.
3. That the relevant Ward members and Town and Parish Councils be involved in the drafting and finalising of SANG Management Plans for Council owned sites.
4. That a Dacorum SANG Strategy be prepared to support identified future needs for Council led SANG arising from development.
5. That authority be delegated for the CBSAC Mitigation Strategy decisions, Section 106 Legal Agreements for appeals and Development Consent Orders as set out in table 2.

RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND

6. Cabinet **recommended that Council** delegates authority to the Monitoring Officer to amend the Constitution to give effect to recommendation 5 above.

Advice

Recommendation agreed

Please refer to the video minutes to view this item in full.

CA/25/24 FINANCIAL MONITORING REPORT

1. That Cabinet notes the financial position for 2023-24 as at Quarter 3.

RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND

2. That **Cabinet recommends to Council** to approve the following Reserve Drawdowns:
- a. £0.100m Funding for Luton Airport Legal costs - £0.050m from the Dacorum Development reserve and £0.050m from the Local Development Framework reserve.
 - b. £0.025m drawdown to fund additional Customer Support Unit (CSU) support for Garden waste renewals from the Management of Change reserve

RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND

3. That **Cabinet recommends to Council** to approve the following reserve transfer:
- a. £0.020m for funding of an update to the Council Human Resources System Itrent in 2024-25. There is one off provision in 2023-24 budgets for this upgrade, work on which has now slipped to 2024-25.

RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND

4. That **Cabinet recommends to Council** to approve the following supplementary capital budgets representing growth to the Capital Programme:
- £2.265m relating to a payment to Hightown Housing Association for the provision for affordable housing in the borough at 66 Books, Wood End Lane. This expenditure was approved by Cabinet in February 2023. Full Council approval is now required to increase the capital programme budget accordingly.
 - Provision of Electric Vehicle Charging Points (EVCP) in the borough, funded entirely by government grant £0.415m.
5. That Cabinet notes the following additional slippage on the capital programme to future years:
- General Fund £1.404m
 - Housing Revenue Account £6.804m