

Item 8 – Cabinet referrals

8.1 CA/103/24 TREASURY MANAGEMENT OUTTURN AND PERFORMANCE INDICATORS 2023/24

19th November 2024

RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND

Cabinet **recommended that Council** accept the report on Treasury Management performance and the Prudential Indicators for 2023/24.

Corporate Priorities

Community Engagement
Service Improvement and Delivery
Vibrant Communities
Sustainable Future
Clean, Safe and Green
Homes to be Proud of
Proud and Thriving Borough

Statutory Officer Comments

Monitoring Officer:

The outturn report provides an overview of activity and performance against the Council's Treasury Management Strategy and demonstrates a responsible approach to borrowing, lending and investment activity. I am satisfied that decisions made during the period were sound, aligned with Council policies and adequately managed within approved risk parameters.

Deputy S151 Officer:

This is a Deputy S151 Officer report.

Advice

Nigel Howcutt introduced the report

Recommendation agreed

8.2 CA/111/24 TREASURY MANAGEMENT 2024/25 MID-YEAR PERFORMANCE REPORT

10th December 2024

Decision

RESOVLED TO RECOMMEND

Cabinet **recommended that Council** accept the 2024/25 Treasury Management performance report.

RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND

Cabinet **recommended that Council** not include balances held in the reserve account as part of investment balances in the short term.

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:

No further 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

Nigel Howcutt introduced the report

Recommendation agreed

8.3 CA/118/24 COUNCIL TAX BASE REPORT

10th December 2024

Decision

RESOVLED TO RECOMMEND

1. That cabinet **recommends to Council** the making of the determination in paragraph 2.17 of this report, to widen the categories of unoccupied properties on which an additional council tax premium is charged with effect from 1 April 2026.

RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND

2. That Cabinet **recommends to Council** that there be no changes made to the Local Council Tax Support scheme for 2025/26.

3. That Cabinet approves the Collection Fund surplus estimate of £220,092.83 as at 31 March 2025. The Dacorum Borough Council share of this surplus is £25,272.97.

RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND

4. Cabinet **recommends to Council** that Dacorum's share of the Council tax surplus (£25,272.97) be transferred to the funding equalisation reserve, specifically to manage fluctuations in the collection fund position.

5. That Cabinet approve the payment profile for the surplus identified at 3) above and contained at section 2.27 to this report (Table 3).

6. That Cabinet approves the calculation of the Council's tax base for the year 2025/26 incorporating an estimated collection rate of 98.5%.

7. 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 2025/26 shall be 60,009.4 and its constituent elements shall be:

Table 1 Taxbase 2025/26

Part of Area - Parished and Non Parished	100% Tax base	98.5% Tax base
Hemel Hempstead	32,533.0	32,045.0
Aldbury	480.0	472.8
Berkhamsted	8,722.3	8,591.4
Bovingdon	2,170.3	2,137.7
Chipperfield	919.2	905.5
Flamstead	692.0	681.7
Flaunden	179.0	176.3
Great Gaddesden	463.1	456.1
Kings Langley	2,401.6	2,365.6
Little Gaddesden	640.2	630.6
Markyate	1,370.6	1,350.1
Nash Mills	1,247.3	1,228.6
Nettleden with Potten End	827.1	814.7
Northchurch	1,422.0	1,400.6
Tring Rural	735.0	724.0
Tring Town	5,435.2	5,353.7
Wigginton	685.2	675.0
Total Taxbase	60,923.1	60,009.4

Corporate Priorities

Engage with residents and partners to have a real say on our services and the borough
Running the Council efficiently and putting residents at the heart of everything we do
Foster arts, culture and leisure opportunities
Take action on the Climate and Ecological Emergency
Provide a clean, safe and green-focussed environment
Enable well-maintained and affordable homes, where people want to live
Realise our potential as a great place to live and work with a thriving business community.

Statutory Officer Comments

Monitoring Officer:

No comments to add to the report.

S151 Officer:

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

Advice

Nigel Howcutt introduced the report

Recommendation agreed

8.4 CA/08/25 REVIEW OF SCRUTINY BY THE CENTRE FOR GOVERNANCE AND SCRUTINY

28th January 2025

Decision

RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND

(1) **Recommended that Council** consider and agree the action plan supporting each recommendation in the report.

RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND

(2) **Recommended that Council** agree the proposed revised committee timetable (Appendix 3)

Corporate Priorities

Community engagement: Engage with residents and partners to have a real say on our services and the borough.

Service improvement and delivery: Running the Council efficiently and putting residents at the heart of everything we do.

Statutory Officer Comments

Monitoring Officer:

This is a report of the Monitoring Officer in his service capacity as Assistant Director, Legal and Democratic Services and therefore comments have been incorporated within the report.

S151 Officer:

The proposed action plan and revised committee timetable is not expected to have an impact on major financial decision-making processes going forward, with the standard Cabinet and Council authorisations and approval processes unchanged

Advice

Mark Brookes introduced the report

Recommendation agreed

8.5 CA/10/25 CLIMATE AND ECOLOGICAL EMERGENCY SPENDING PROPOSAL

28th January 2025

Decision

RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND

Cabinet **recommended that Council** approve the release of £1.16m of New Homes Bonus, currently held in reserve, for spend on sustainability projects as detailed in the report.

Corporate Priorities

Sustainable future: Take action on the Climate and Ecological Emergency

Clean, safe and green: Provide a clean, safe and green-focussed environmentCommunity engagement:

Engage with residents and partners to have a real say on our services and the borough

Statutory Officer Comments

Monitoring Officer:

Officers will need to agree appropriate reporting to Overview and Scrutiny Committees so that the impact of the funding can be measured against the Council's Climate Change Commitments. It is suggested that this is done annually as a minimum

S151 Officer:

The proposed outcomes and outputs from the projects outlined in this report are aligned with the strategic rationale set out for the Climate Change and Resilience reserve, hence it is appropriate to utilise these funds to finance these projects.

Advice

Aidan Wilkie introduced the report

Recommendation agreed

8.6 CA/11/25 TRANSFORMING PUBLIC PROCUREMENT UPDATE & IMPACT – PROCUREMENT ACT 2023

28th January 2025

Decision

RESOVLED TO RECOMMEND

Cabinet **Recommend that Council** agree the following:

1. To the updates to the Commissioning & Procurement Standing Orders (CPSOs) as set out below
 - a) That the content of the proposed CPSOs is separated out so that the principles, objectives, and ambitions remain, but the technical guidance is removed.
 - b) That the CPSOs are redrafted to simplify and improve the strategic governance and operational effectiveness as set out in section 2.3.2 of the main report.
 - c) That the 'Supplementary Instructions' attributed to the CPSOs, that set out the technical aspects of the commissioning and procurement activities for officer compliance, are drafted as separate documents as set out in section 2.3.3 of the main report.
 - d) That any future amendments to the CPSOs will be subject to the amendment protocol as set out in section 2.3.4 of the main report.
 - e) That the content of the CPSOs shall be based upon the procurement principles, objectives, and ambitions as set out in section 2.3.5 of the main report.
2. That the Constitution will be updated to ensure that the Financial Regulations align with the financial thresholds stated on the CPSOs as set out below
 - a) Part 8 – Annex 1 Financial Regulations (Annex D Schemes of Delegation) increase value for Head of Service for contract letting from £75k to £99,999 and for Team Leaders from £25k to £29,999, and to increase approvals on Unit 4 for Team Leaders from £25k to £29,999.
 - b) Section 5: The acquisition of assets (Regulation E.5) increase value for Head of Service for total asset purchase price from £75k to £99,999 and for Team Leaders from £25k to £29,999
3. That the Constitution will be updated as set out below:
 - a) Part 8 – Annex 2 Procurement Standing Orders replace the existing CPSOs with the new updated version that incorporates the changes brought about by the implementation of the PA23.

RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND

4. Cabinet **recommended that Council** delegated authority to the Monitoring Officer to make any consequential amendments to the Constitution to give

Corporate Priorities

Community engagement:

Engage with residents and partners to have a real say on our services and the borough.

Service improvement and delivery:

Running the Council efficiently and putting residents at the heart of everything we do
Sustainable future:
Take action on the Climate and Ecological Emergency
Proud and thriving borough:
Realise our potential as a great place to live and work with a thriving business community

Statutory Officer Comments

Monitoring Officer:

The amendments proposed will ensure that the Council complies with the Procurement Act 2023 but will also provide more useable technical guidance to ensure that officers follow standing orders in all procurements and achieve value for money for the Council.

S151 Officer:

The proposal is to ensure that the Council complies with the Procurement Act 2023 and no direct financial implications are expected because of these changes.

The proposals include changes to the financial thresholds for Heads of Services and Team Managers that are both appropriate and considered. These changes are the first recent significant change in these thresholds and reflect the medium-term inflationary increases impacting the council

Advice

The report was introduced by Ben Hosier

Recommendation agreed

8.7 CA/12/25 COUNCIL TAX SETTING COMMITTEE

28th January 2025

Decision

RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND

1. Cabinet **recommended that Council** agree the creation of a Council Tax Setting Committee.

RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND

2. Cabinet **recommended that Council** agree to the terms of reference for the Committee as set out in section 2 of the report and delegates authority to the Monitoring Officer to make the required changes to the Constitution to incorporate the Committee

Corporate Priorities

Community engagement
Service improvement and delivery
Vibrant communities
Sustainable future
Clean, safe and green
Homes to be proud of
Proud and thriving borough

Statutory Officer Comments

Monitoring Officer/S151 Officer

This is a joint report of the Monitoring Officer and Chief Finance Officer and comments have been incorporated in the report

Advice

Mark Brookes introduced the report

Recommendation agreed

8.8 CA/19/25 HRA BUSINESS PLAN

11th February 2025

Decision

RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND

Cabinet **recommended that Council** approve the proposed update of the HRA Business Plan at Appendix A

Corporate Priorities

Community engagement: Engage with residents and partners to have a real say on our services and the borough

Service improvement and delivery:

Running the Council efficiently and putting residents at the heart of everything we do

Vibrant communities: Foster arts, culture and leisure opportunities

Sustainable future: Take action on the Climate and Ecological Emergency

Clean, safe and green: Provide a clean, safe and green-focussed environment

Homes to be proud of: Enable well-maintained and affordable homes, where people want to live

Proud and thriving borough: Realise our potential as a great place to live and work with a thriving business community

Statutory Officer Comments

Monitoring Officer:

The annual review provides a robust mechanism to monitor the business plan to ensure that it takes account of changes in government policy, law and the economy and will thereby assist the Council to meet its statutory requirements.

S151 Officer:

The HRA business plan is built on a robust financial model, based on a large number of demand and supply side drivers that are reviewed annually. The assumptions included in the HRA business plan are evidence-based assumptions, utilising both housing sector specialist advice, and independent economic and treasury guidance.

As a result of the volume of drivers included in the HRA business plan, that have an impact on the housing strategy and service delivery to tenants, this plan is accurate at the point of development but requires an ongoing review and assessment of the assumptions included, hence the requirement to undertake annual reviews.

The most significant risk to the current sustainability of the HRA business plan is the recommissioning of the asset management contract in 2026, which will shape future HRA business planning.

Advice

Nigel Howcutt introduced the report

Recommendation agreed

8.9 CA/20/25 BUDGET 2025/2026

Decision

RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND

Cabinet recommended that Council agree the following:

General Fund Revenue Estimate

1. Set a Dacorum Borough Council General Fund Council Tax requirement of £14.172m, and a provisional amount of £15.565m for the combined Borough Council and Parish Councils' requirement for 2025/26.
2. Approve a Band D Council Tax increase of £6.86 (2.99%) for Dacorum Borough Council.
3. Approve the base estimates for 2025/26, as shown in Appendix A1.
4. Approve the forecast balances of Revenue Reserves as shown in Appendix J1, J2, and J3, and approve section 9 of this report as the updated Reserves Strategy.
5. Note proposed Fees and Charges for 2025/26 as set out in Appendices C3, D3, and E3.
6. Approve and adopt the Treasury Management Strategy for 2025/26, as detailed in Appendix K.
7. Approve and adopt the Capital Strategy for 2025/26, as detailed in 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 2025/26 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 Corporate and Commercial, 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 2.7%. The average dwelling rent is proposed to be £130.07 per week in 2025/26 (based on 52 weeks).
12. Approve the HRA budget for 2025/26 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 2025/26.(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.

Corporate Priorities

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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 an s151 Officer report.

Advice

Nigel Howcutt introduced the report

Recommendation agreed