

## MINUTES

### CABINET

11<sup>th</sup> February 2025

<b>Councillors:</b>	Adrian England	Leader of the Council
	William Allen	Portfolio Holder for Corporate and Commercial
	Simi Dhyani	Portfolio Holder for Housing
	Caroline Smith-Wright	Portfolio Holder for Climate & Ecological Emergency
	Robin Bromham	Portfolio Holder for Neighbourhood Services

Also attended: Cllr Williams

<b>Officers:</b>	A Wilkie	Strategic Director People & Transformation
	C Hamilton	Chief Executive
	D Welsh	Chief Housing Officer
	N Howcutt	Chief Finance Officer
	D Southam	Acting Strategic Director Place
	A Wilkie	Strategic Director People & Transformation
	Mark Brookes	Assistant Director Legal and Democratic Services
	L Fowell	Democratic Services

The meeting began at 7.30pm

#### **CA/13/25 MINUTES**

The minutes of the last meeting were approved.

#### **CA/14/25 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

There were no apologies for absence.

#### **CA/15/25 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest

#### **CA/16/25 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

There was no public participation.

#### **CA/17/25 REFERRALS TO CABINET**

There were no referrals to Cabinet.

#### **CA/18/25 FORWARD PLAN**

The forward plan was noted.

MBrookes advised 2 items were to be removed from the February Agenda as they were at this meeting.

#### **CA/19/25 HRA BUSINESS PLAN**

## Decision

### **RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND**

That Cabinet **recommends that Council** approves the proposed update of the HRA Business Plan at Appendix A

## Advice

Nigel Howcutt introduced the report

### **Recommendation agreed**

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

## CA/20/25 BUDGET 2025-2026

### Decision

### RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND

It is **recommended that Cabinet recommends** Council to:

#### 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

**Advice**

N Howcutt introduced the report

**Recommendation agreed**

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