

SOUTHAMPTON CITY COUNCIL
EXECUTIVE DECISION MAKING

RECORD OF THE DECISION MAKING HELD ON 6 FEBRUARY 2024

Present:

Councillor Fielker - Leader
Councillor Letts - Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Finance and Change
Councillor Bogle - Cabinet Member for Economic Development
Councillor Finn - Cabinet Member for Adults and Health
Councillor A Frampton - Cabinet Member for Housing
Councillor Kataria - Cabinet Member for Communities and Leisure
Councillor Keogh - Cabinet Member for Environment and Transport
Councillor Renyard - Cabinet Member for Safer City
Councillor Winning - Cabinet Member for Children and Learning

39. CALL-IN OF EXECUTIVE DECISION CAB 23/24 43623 - PORTSWOOD BROADWAY NEXT STEPS

Item withdrawn as no recommendations were received from Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee. The decision was therefore implemented on 1st February 2024.

40. ADULTS SOCIAL CARE CHARGING POLICY

DECISION MADE: (CAB 23/24 43676)

On consideration of the report of the Leader of the Council, Cabinet approved the following:

- (i) That the Cabinet review and approve the new Adult Social Care charging policy for April 2024, as attached at appendix 1.
- (ii) To note the eight proposed changes to the policy as listed in the report.
- (iii) Following consultation with the Leader of the Council, that the Executive Director for Wellbeing and Housing be given delegated authority to make minor amendments to the policy as appropriate.

41. ADMISSIONS ARRANGEMENTS FOR COMMUNITY AND VOLUNTARY CONTROLLED SCHOOLS 2025-26

DECISION MADE: (CAB 23/24 43649)

On consideration of the report of the Cabinet Member for Children and Learning, Cabinet approved the following:

- (i) To approve the Admissions Policies, the Published Admission Numbers (PANs) and the Supplementary Information Form (SIF) for Community and

Voluntary Controlled schools and the schemes for coordinating Infant-Primary, Junior and Secondary admissions for the school year 2025-26 as set out in appendices 1 to 5.

- (ii) To authorise the Executive Director - Wellbeing, Children and Learning to take any action necessary to give effect to the admissions policies and to make any changes necessary to the admissions policies where required to give effect to any Acts, Regulations or revised Schools Admissions or School Admissions Appeals Codes or binding Schools Adjudicator, Court or Ombudsman decisions whenever they arise.

42. OUTDOOR SPORTS CENTRE IMPROVEMENT PROGRAMME*

DECISION MADE: (CAB 23/24 43688)

On consideration of the report of the Cabinet Member for Communities and Leisure, Cabinet approved the following:

- (i) To approve the updated scheme design as outlined in Appendix 1.
- (ii) To approve that the Executive Director for Place following consultation with the Cabinet Member for Communities and Leisure is given delegated powers to make any further amendments to the scheme.
- (iii) Approval to delegate authority to the Head of Corporate Estate and Assets to authorise variations within the project budget envelope during design and construction periods as needed.
- (iv) Approval to delegate authority to the Head of Corporate Estate and Assets to authorise submission of any further necessary planning applications for the scheme following consultation with the Cabinet Member for Communities and Leisure.
- (v) Approval to delegate authority to the Head of Corporate Estate and Assets to authorise placement of any statutory orders to enable the project to progress in line with the project programme operating within the approved budget.
- (vi) Approval to delegate authority to the Head of Corporate Estate and Assets to carry out actions necessary to enable decisions required for the delivery to the project timescales and budget.
- (vii) To note that spend approval will form part of the Capital Programme budget paper planned to be reported to Council on 21st February 2024.

43. FUTURE DELIVERY OF TOWNHILL PARK PLOTS 2, 9 & 10.

CABINET DECISION: (CAB 23/24 43690)

On consideration of the report of the Leader of the Council, Cabinet approved the modified recommendations as follows:

- (i) The Council implements the contractual procedure to bring the Pre-Construction Services Agreement (PCSA) contract with Drew Smith (DS) to an end for the delivery of Plots 2, 9 & 10. (See Appendix 1 for locations).
- (ii) The Council ceases delivery itself, of the design and build contracts for Townhill Park Plots 2 and 9.

- (iii) Townhill Park Plots 2 and 9 are transferred to the council's Affordable Homes Framework (AHF) to be offered to the framework Delivery Partners by way of the mini tender process as part of the first tranche of sites approved by Cabinet in December 2022.
- (iv) The Executive Director of Place in consultation with the Executive Director of Wellbeing and Housing and following consultation with the Leader of the Council to have delegated powers to make a decision regarding the future delivery of plot 10 Townhill Park following consideration of the options.
- (v) That Cabinet notes that this report has implications for the council's ability to spend its Right to Buy Receipts in the allocated timeframe. Failure to spend in the timeframe means the money needs to be paid to Government with interest. There is therefore a need to identify alternative options to spend the Right to Buy receipts.

SOUTHAMPTON CITY COUNCIL
EXECUTIVE DECISION MAKING

RECORD OF THE DECISION MAKING HELD ON 20 FEBRUARY 2024

Present:

Councillor Fielker	-	Leader
Councillor Letts	-	Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Finance and Change
Councillor Bogle	-	Cabinet Member for Economic Development
Councillor Finn	-	Cabinet Member for Adults and Health
Councillor A Frampton	-	Cabinet Member for Housing
Councillor Kataria	-	Cabinet Member for Communities and Leisure
Councillor Keogh	-	Cabinet Member for Environment and Transport
Councillor Renyard	-	Cabinet Member for Safer City
Councillor Winning	-	Cabinet Member for Children and Learning

44. SOUTHAMPTON HEALTHY HOMES - PROCUREMENT OF A NEW CONTRACT FOR PROVIDING AN AFFORDABLE WARMTH PROGRAMME 2024-2029

DECISION MADE: (CAB 23/24 43682)

On consideration of the report of the Cabinet Member for Housing, Cabinet approved the following:

- (i) To approve the procurement of an affordable warmth service contract (Southampton Healthy Homes) to start in April 2024 until April 2027 or as soon thereafter.
- (ii) To delegate to the Executive Director for Place to select the most appropriate tender that represents Best Value and to enter into appropriate contractual arrangements
- (iii) To approve the addition and spend of £2.20M to the Warm Homes project in the Wellbeing & Housing capital programme.

45. CAPITAL FINANCIAL MONITORING FOR THE PERIOD TO THE END OF DECEMBER 2023

DECISION MADE: (CAB 23/24 43655)

On consideration of the report of the Cabinet Member for Finance and Change, Cabinet approved the following:

- (i) Note the revised General Fund Capital Programme, which totals £235.70M as detailed in paragraph 3.
- (ii) Note the HRA Capital Programme is £255.70M as detailed in paragraph 3.

- (iii) Approve the virement of £0.11M in the Place programme in 2023/24, as detailed in paragraph 7 and Appendix 1.
- (iv) Approve the addition and spend of £0.08M to the Place programme in 2023/24 and 2024/26, as detailed in paragraph 8 and Appendix 1.
- (v) Approve slippage of £14.31M within the General Fund programme, as detailed in paragraphs 9 to 11 and Appendix 3.
- (vi) Approve slippage of £2.56M within the HRA programme, as detailed in paragraphs 9 to 12 and Appendix 3.
- (vii) Note that the overall forecast position for 2023/24 at quarter 3 is £128.45M, resulting in a potential overspend of £1.52M, as detailed in paragraphs 13 to 16 and Appendix 2.
- (viii) Note that the capital programme remains fully funded up to 2027/28 based on the latest forecast of available resources although the forecast can be subject to change; most notably regarding the value and timing of anticipated capital receipts and the use of prudent assumptions of future government grants to be received. It is also important to note that in times of rising interest rates, inflationary pressures and future budget shortfalls the capital programme needs to be kept under review.

46. REVENUE FINANCIAL MONITORING REPORT FOR THE PERIOD TO THE END OF DECEMBER 2023

DECISION MADE: (CAB 23/24 43653)

On consideration of the report of the Cabinet Member for Finance and Change, Cabinet approved the following:

General Revenue Fund

- (i) Note the forecast outturn position is a £11.83M deficit, after taking account of £23.97M agreed in-year cost control measures and savings, as outlined in paragraphs 3 to 11.
- (ii) Note the performance in delivering agreed savings plans and in-year cost control measures for 2023/24 as detailed in paragraph 12.
- (iii) Note the performance of treasury management, and financial outlook in paragraphs 13 to 17.
- (iv) Note the performance against prudential indicators in paragraphs 18 and 19.
- (v) Note the forecast year end position for reserves and balances as detailed in paragraphs 20 to 22.
- (vi) Note the Key Financial Risk Register as detailed in paragraph 23.
- (vii) Note the improvement in the Dedicated Schools Grant cumulative deficit detailed in paragraph 27.
- (viii) Note the performance indicators detailed in paragraphs 30 to 31.
- (ix) Note the forecast outturn position outlined in the Collection Fund Statement detailed in paragraphs 35 to 40.

Housing Revenue Account

- (x) Note the forecast outturn position is a surplus of £0.59M as outlined in paragraphs 32 to 34.

47. THE HRA BUDGET 2024/25 AND CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2023/24 TO 2028/29

DECISION MADE: (CAB 23/24 43657)

On consideration of the report of the Cabinet Member for Finance and Change, Cabinet approved the following:

- (i) Propose to Council from 1 April 2024, an average rent increase will be applied to dwelling rents of 7.7% in line with the rent increase guidance set by Government, as detailed in paragraph 14, equivalent to an average increase of £7.15 per week in the current average weekly dwelling rent figure of £92.75 for Social rent, and £10.58 per week in the current average weekly rent for affordable rent of £151.16. Rents for Shared Ownership rents will also increase by 7.7%.
- (ii) Propose to Council that there will be no increase in weekly service charges applied from 1 April 2024, as detailed in paragraph 21, pending further work on service charges in 2024/25.
- (iii) Propose to Council the Housing Revenue Account revenue estimates as set out in Appendix 4.
- (iv) Propose to Council the 40-year Business Plan for revenue and capital expenditure set out in Appendix 1 and confidential Appendix 5 respectively, that based on current assumptions are sustainable, maintaining a minimum HRA balance increasing from £2.0M in 2023/24 to £7.0M by 2027/28, following a review of policy undertaken in 2023/24 for future budgets to provide a sufficient and necessary buffer against financial risks.
- (v) Propose to Council the increase in landlord-controlled heating charges set out in paragraph 25, which represent a 5% increase (reduced from the 10% increase previously anticipated in the MTFS update in July 2023)
- (vi) Propose to Council the revised Housing Revenue Account (HRA) capital programme, which totals £280.01M (as detailed in paragraph 60 & 61 and the associated use of resources.
- (vii) Propose to Council the capital projections in the HRA Capital Programme for 2023/24 to 2028/29 as detailed from paragraph 60, and that spend between 2023/24 and 2027/28 has been increased following the decision of Cabinet on 6 February 2024 on the future delivery of Plots 2,9 and 10 Townhill Park, to deliver plots 2 and 9 through the Affordable Homes Framework and adjusted for known slippages at Quarter 3.
- (viii) Propose to Council an increase in the HRA working balance from the current £2m, to £7m by 2027/28

SOUTHAMPTON CITY COUNCIL
EXECUTIVE DECISION MAKING

RECORD OF THE EXTRAORDINARY DECISION MAKING HELD ON 5 MARCH 2024

Present:

Councillor Fielker	-	Leader
Councillor Letts	-	Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Finance and Change
Councillor Bogle	-	Cabinet Member for Economic Development
Councillor Finn	-	Cabinet Member for Adults and Health
Councillor Keogh	-	Cabinet Member for Environment and Transport
Councillor Renyard	-	Cabinet Member for Safer City
Councillor Winning	-	Cabinet Member for Children and Learning

Apologies: Councillor A Frampton and Kataria

48. THE 2024/25 BUDGET AND MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL STRATEGY

DECISION MADE: (CAB 23/24 43661)

On consideration of the report of the Cabinet Member for Finance and Change, Cabinet approved the following:

GENERAL FUND REVENUE

- (i) Recommend to Council the Medium-Term Financial Strategy 2024/25 to 2027/28 as set out in table 1 and Appendix 1.
- (ii) Recommend to Council the Revenue Budget for 2024/25 as set out in table 2 and Appendices 1 and 2.
- (iii) Recommend to Council the inclusion in the budget General Fund pressures totalling £42.03M in 2024/25, increasing to £51.21M in 2027/28, as detailed in paragraph 33.
- (iv) Recommend to Council the inclusion of new commitments totalling £0.86M in 2024/25, increasing to £4.89M in 2027/28, as detailed in paragraph 36.
- (v) Recommend to Council the inclusion of savings proposals totalling £22.68M in 2024/25 General Fund Revenue Budget, reducing to £20.94M in 2027/28, as detailed in paragraph 40.
- (vi) Note that the Government is minded to provide Exceptional Financial Support (EFS) to the Council. This will be in the form of capitalisation direction, to ensure the council can agree a balanced budget for 2024/25 has sufficient resources to pay for transformation and other work needed to ensure the council is on a sustainable financial footing in future, and meet other potential liabilities.
- (vii) Recommend to Council the establishment of a comprehensive Transformation Programme as detailed in paragraphs 59 to 63 and

associated funding of up to £10.62M from a combination of capital resources and Transformation Reserve. To further recommend to delegate to the Chief Executive (after consultation with the Leader of the Council) the drawdown of funding and the establishment of a resource plan as required for the Transformation Programme.

- (viii) Recommend to Council the adoption of the Business Planning and Budget Framework set out at paragraph 64 and Appendix 6.
- (ix) Recommend to Council an increase in the 'core' council tax of 2.99% and an increase in the Adult Social Care precept of 2.00%, allowable under general powers to increase council tax without a referendum.
- (x) Recommend to Council that it sets the Band D Council Tax for Southampton City Council at £1,812.69 for 2024/25, a Net Budget Requirement of £239.24M and the Council Tax Requirement for 2024/25 at £121.43M as per Appendix 9. The Council Tax increase comprises a core increase of 2.99% and 2.00% specifically for Adult Social Care.
- (xi) Note the summary of changes to fees and charges set out in paragraph 89 and Appendix 12 and recommend Council to approve the increase in Careline charges set out in Appendix 12.
- (xii) Recommend to Council the endorsement of the Statement of the S151 Officer as set out in paragraphs 118 to 124 on the robustness of the budget and the adequacy of the council's reserves.

Other Recommendations

- (xiii) Recommend to Council the content of the procurement pipeline 2024-29 contained at Appendix 7.
- (xiv) Recommend the delegation of authority to the Executive Director Corporate Services & S151 Officer and the Executive Director of Place (after consultation with the relevant Cabinet Member) everything that is necessary to prepare a specification, carry out a procurement process or other route to market and to appoint a single provider(s) for the delivery of highways and associated services for a maximum period of 15 years, including approving the utilisation of any contractually permitted extension as set out in Appendix 8.
- (xv) Recommend to Council the adoption of the draft corporate debt policy and combined council tax and business rates recovery policy at annexes 6 and 7 to the MTFS (Appendix 1).
- (xvi) Approve the acceptance of 2024/25 Rough Sleeper Initiative Funding of circa £0.80M.
- (xvii) Recommend to Council the application of Council Tax premiums on properties empty for 12 months or more (from 2024/25) and second homes (from 2025/26).

49. THE GENERAL FUND CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2023/24 TO 2028/29

DECISION MADE: (CAB 23/24 43665)

On consideration of the report of the Cabinet Member for Finance and Change, Cabinet approved the following:

- (i) Recommend to Council the Capital Strategy, as detailed in Appendix 1.
- (ii) Recommend to Council the Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP) Strategy as detailed in Appendix 2.
- (iii) Recommend to Council the Non-Treasury Investment Strategy as detailed in Appendix 3.
- (iv) Recommend to Council the Treasury Management Strategy as detailed in Appendix 4.
- (v) Recommend to Council the Flexible Use of Capital Receipts Strategy as detailed in Appendix 5.
- (vi) Recommend to Council the revised fully funded General Fund Capital Programme, that totals £264.81M (as detailed in paragraphs 18 to 21) and the associated use of resources.
- (vii) Recommend to Council the addition of £31.09M to the General Fund programme, with approval to spend. These additions are detailed in paragraphs 24 to 48 and Appendix 7.
- (viii) Recommend to Council the removal of schemes from the capital programme totalling £2.18M, set out in paragraphs 40 and 48 and detailed in Appendix 7.
- (ix) Recommend to Council the approval to spend £39.66M for the SEND Expansion Programme, as set out in paragraph 32.
- (x) Recommend to Council the approval to spend £27.03M for the Outdoor Sports Centre, as set out in paragraph 37.