



Woking Borough Council

Decisions taken by the Council on Thursday, 27 February 2025

The following decisions were made by Council on Thursday, 27 February 2025. This decision sheet is not intended to represent the formal record of the meeting. The formal minutes will be published in due course.

Should you have any questions about any decision that has been made, please email the Democratic Services Team at democratic.services@woking.gov.uk

Agenda Item	Decisions Taken
Part 1 – Items Considered in Public	
10.	Final Accounts Report 2023/24 WBC25-009. RESOLVED That the 2023/24 Final Accounts be approved and submitted to the External Auditors, Grant Thornton.
11.	Exclusion of Press and Public. The Mayor moved and Councillor Boote seconded that the press and public should be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the agenda item 12K in the event any Member wished to discuss the confidential details of the supporting document, Strategic Options Appraisal. RESOLVED That in the event any Member wished to discuss the confidential Strategic Options Appraisal for the Joint Waste Collection Services Contract Retender under agenda

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		<p>item 12K, the press and public be excluded from the meeting during consideration of that item in view of the nature of the proceedings that, if members of the press and public were present, there would be disclosure to them of exempt information as defined in paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A, to the Local Government Act 1972.</p> <p>Paragraph 3 – Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information).</p>
12A	<p>General Fund Budget 2025-26 EXE25-001</p>	<p>RESOLVED</p> <p>That (i) the £2.5m of savings in 2025/26, rising to £4.7m by 2027/28 as set-out in Appendix 1 to the report be agreed, subject to any comments received from Resource and Finance Scrutiny Committee;</p> <p>(ii) the £2.4m of growth pressures in 2025/26, rising to £3.2m by 2027/28 as set-out in Appendix 2 to the report be agreed, subject to any comments received from Resource and Finance Scrutiny Committee;</p> <p>(iii) the Equality Impact Assessment on the savings proposals that are summarised in Appendix 6 to the report, with detailed reports on each resident facing saving proposal, be noted as part of the decision-making process;</p> <p>(iv) the position of the Business Rates and Council Tax Collection Fund, including the brought forward surplus/deficit position and the Council Tax and Business Rates bases for 2025/26 as set out in Section 14 of the report be noted and</p>

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		<p>agreed;</p> <p>(v) the Management of Change and Flexible Use of Capital Receipts budgets proposed at Appendices 3 and 4 to the report be supported; and</p> <p>(vi) it be noted that Full Council on 3 March 2025 will receive a final report from the Strategic Director of Finance to seek final, formal approval of the Council’s budget, the Exceptional Financial Support and Council Tax for 2025/26.</p> <p>Reason: The contents of the report is to ensure open and transparent governance in the financial affairs of the Council in balancing the 2025/26 Budget, and the Medium Term Financial Strategy.</p>
12B	Fees and Charges 2025-26 EXE24-060	<p>RESOLVED</p> <p>That (i) the proposed guiding principles in relation to setting fees and charges, set out in section 4 of the report, be approved; and</p> <p>(ii) the discretionary fees and charges for 2025/26, as set out in Appendices 1-3 of the report, be approved.</p> <p>Reason: The review of discretionary charges ensures that the Council maintains its income base and generates additional resources for the provision of services.</p>
12C	Housing Revenue Account Budgets 2025-26 EXE25-002	<p>RESOLVED</p>

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		<p>That (i) the Final Housing Revenue Account budgets for 2025-26, as set out in Appendix 1 to the report, be agreed; and</p> <p>(ii) with effect from 7 April 2025, rents be increased by 2.7%.</p> <p>Reason: To enable a decision to be made by Council on the Housing Revenue budget for 2025 and approval of the increase in rents from 7 April 2025.</p>
12D	Capital Programme 2024-25 to 2028-29 EXE25-003	<p>RESOLVED</p> <p>That (i) the Capital Programme 2024/25 to 2028/29, as summarised in Appendices 1 to 4 to the report, be approved subject to reports on projects where appropriate; and</p> <p>(ii) the proposed financing arrangements at Appendix 2 to the report be approved.</p> <p>Reason: To recommend to Council that it approves the capital programme and the proposed financing arrangements for 2024/25 onwards considered necessary to support the Council’s service plans and objectives.</p>
12E	Housing Resident Engagement Strategy EXE25-021	<p>RESOLVED</p> <p>That the Housing Resident Engagement Strategy be approved.</p>

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		Reason: The decision will ensure that there is a focus on Housing Resident Engagement, its importance, key areas of focus and the baseline of engagement opportunities that Woking Borough Council Housing Service commit to providing between 2025 and 2028.
12F	Pay Policy Statement 2025/26	RESOLVED That the Pay Policy Statement for 2025/26, as set out in the report, be approved.
12G	Pay Award 2025/26	RESOLVED That (i) the Real Living Wage is implemented from 1 April 2025; (ii) pay progression for employees who meet the set criteria is implemented from 1 April 2025; and (iii) the pay award for 2025/26 is deferred until National Joint Council (NJC) for local government proposed offer is made.
12H	Review of the Audit and Governance Committee Terms of Reference STA25-007	RESOLVED That the amended Terms of Reference for the Audit and Governance Committee be adopted, as amended by the Committee.

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12I	Annual Review of the Audit and Governance Committee STA25-008	<p>RESOLVED</p> <p>That (i) the Annual Review of the Audit and Governance Committee for 2024/25 be received; and</p> <p>(ii) Audit and Governance committee reports over four pages long should include an Executive Summary at the start.</p>
12J	Joint Waste Collection Services Contract Re-tender EXE25-016	<p>RESOLVED</p> <p>That (i) the procurement and contract strategy for waste collection services be approved:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. To reprocure a joint contract with Mole Valley District Council, Elmbridge Borough Council and Surrey Heath Borough Council based on the current baseline service specification (outlined in 6.1 of the report) for waste collection with an initial term of seven years commencing on expiry of the current contract in 2027 and expiring in 2034, with two further options to extend up to a maximum of fourteen years. b. The contract management function will continue to be delegated by the four authorities to one client team. <p>(ii) authority be delegated to the Head of Environmental Services in consultation with the Strategic Director – Place, Director of Legal and Democratic Services, Section 151 Officer and the Portfolio Holder with responsibility for Waste as a member of the Joint Waste Collection Services to take all actions</p>

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		<p>necessary to give effect to the decision in (i) including but not limited to;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. The final specification. b. The price/quality split and the detailed evaluation criteria and weightings. <p>Reason: The Council has a statutory duty to arrange for the collection of household waste (Environmental Protection Act 1990). A strategic review of the options for succeeding the existing contract, concludes that reprocurement offers the best value at least risk.</p>
12K	Joint Waste Collection Services Contract Re-tender EXE25-022	<p>RESOLVED</p> <p>That the Strategic Options Appraisal, attached at Appendix 1 to the report, be noted.</p> <p>Reason: The Council has a statutory duty to arrange for the collection of household waste (Environmental Protection Act 1990). A strategic review of the options for succeeding the existing contract, concludes that reprocurement offers the best value at least risk.</p>

Part 2 – Items Considered in Private

A brief discussion on the Strategic Options Appraisal under Agenda Item 12K took place in Part II (press and public excluded). The decision, as set out above, was taken in Part I.