

## RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE EXECUTIVE

The Council is invited to consider the recommendations from the meeting of the Executive held on 6 February 2020, as set out in this report. The minutes of the Executive will be published in due course.

### **Procedure to be followed.**

The Mayor will take the report on Council Tax 2020-21 (Agenda Item 7) first, together with the recommendations of the Executive meeting on 6 February 2020 relating to the following:

- a. General Fund, Service Plans, Budgets and Prudential Indicators 2020-21.
- b. Housing Revenue Account Budgets 2020-21.
- c. Investment Programme 2019-20 to 2023-24.
- d. Capital, Investment and Treasury Management Strategies.

The items above will be debated after the Leader of the Council's Budget Statement.

The remaining recommendations from the meeting of the Executive, as set out in this report, will be considered once the Council Tax for 2020-21 has been agreed.

- e. Recommendation from Climate Change Working Group – Climate Emergency – Planning for Carbon Neutrality
- f. Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy
- g. Housing Infrastructure Fund – Funding Allocation of £95Million to Woking Town Centre

## Recommendations of the Executive

EXECUTIVE – 6 FEBRUARY 2020

**A. GENERAL FUND, SERVICE PLANS, BUDGETS AND PRUDENTIAL INDICATORS 2020-21**

**RECOMMEND TO COUNCIL That**

- i) the Revenue Estimates and Human Resource requirements for 2020/21 be approved;**
- ii) a Band D Council Tax for the Borough of Woking for 2020/21 of £245.46 be approved;**
- iii) the charge for overnight car parking in the town centre car parks be amended to apply from 6pm from 1 April 2020;**
- iv) a long-term empty premium of 200% be added to the Council Tax payable for properties empty and substantially unfurnished for between 5 and 10 years from April 2020, and of 300% to be added to the Council Tax payable for properties empty and substantially unfurnished for over 10 years from April 2021;**
- v) the Prudential Indicators at Appendix 3 to the report be approved, subject to any changes arising from consideration of the Investment Programme, revenue budgets and Final Government Settlement;**
- vi) the Service Plans for 2020/21 at Appendix 4 to the report be approved; and**
- vii) the Food Safety Plan and Health and Safety Plan at Appendix 4a and 4b to the report be approved.**

**B. HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT BUDGETS 2020-21**

**RECOMMEND TO COUNCIL That**

- i) the Housing Revenue Account budget for 2020/21 as set out in Appendix 1 to the report be approved; and**
- ii) with effect from 6 April 2020, rents be increased by 2.7%.**

**C. INVESTMENT PROGRAMME 2019-20 TO 2023-24**

**RECOMMEND TO COUNCIL That**

- i) the Investment Programme 2019/20 to 2023/24 be approved subject to reports on projects where appropriate;**
- ii) the proposed financing arrangements be approved;**
- iii) additional loan facility of £500,000 to Thamesway Energy Ltd be approved on the same basis as previous loans; and**
- iv) capital and revenue grants for Brookwood Cemetery for 2021/22 be approved.**

**D. CAPITAL, INVESTMENT AND TREASURY MANAGEMENT STRATEGIES**

**RECOMMEND TO COUNCIL That**

- i) the Capital and Investment Strategies for 2020/21 be approved; and**
- ii) the Treasury Management Prudential Indicators set out in table 1 of Section 4 of the Treasury Management Strategy and the MRP policy set out in Appendix A be approved, subject to any changes arising from consideration of the Investment Programme, revenue budgets and Revenue Support Grant Settlement.**

**E. RECOMMENDATION FROM CLIMATE CHANGE WORKING GROUP – CLIMATE EMERGENCY – PLANNING FOR CARBON NEUTRALITY**

**RECOMMEND TO COUNCIL That**

- i) officers be authorised to implement initial actions for 2019/20 and 2020/21 as recommended in the report; and**
- ii) delegated authority be given to the Assistant Director (Place) in consultation with the Portfolio Holder and Shadow Portfolio Holder for Environment and Sustainability to agree new actions as they are identified.**

**F. HOMELESSNESS AND ROUGH SLEEPING STRATEGY**

**RECOMMEND TO COUNCIL That**

- i) the Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy 2020-2024 be approved; and**
- ii) the Director of Housing, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Housing, be delegated authority to make minor amendments to the Strategy and to update the action plan as required.**

**G. HOUSING INFRASTRUCTURE FUND – FUNDING ALLOCATION OF £95MILLION TO WOKING TOWN CENTRE**

**RECOMMEND TO COUNCIL That**

- i) the £95m grant awarded to the Council by Homes England be accepted, and that delegated authority be given to the Chief Executive to agree the terms of the contract in consultation with the Leader and Portfolio Holder, and to undertake necessary prerequisite work to develop the project;**
- ii) the Council accepts that it will be responsible for any project cost overruns;**
- iii) any underspend of the grant award, and/or any surplus funds from the sale of the Triangle site, will be made available to fund project cost overruns, with any balance to be reinvested into local infrastructure that supports housing delivery;**

## Recommendations of the Executive

- iv) the Council authorises advance funding of £10m, in the form of a 15 year annuity loan from the PWLB for the scheme, to be recovered from a proportion of Community Infrastructure Levy and from site specific S.106 tariffs, over the next 15 years;
- v) the Council commits to use reasonable endeavours, including use of Compulsory Purchase Order powers, to acquire the Triangle site, land required for the replacement of Victoria Arch, land required for widening of the A320, and land required for development sites as outlined in the bid, if not brought forward by current owners;
- vi) the Council commits to the delivery of homes, as outlined in the bid, on the sites owned by it or its subsidiary Thamesway;
- vii) the Council approves the Recovery Strategy set out at Appendix 7 to the report; and
- viii) the Deputy Chief Executive be authorised to undertake a review of Community Infrastructure Levy and to establish a Section 106 Tariff for town centre infrastructure associated with the HIF project.

### Background Papers:

None.

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