

## RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE EXECUTIVE

### Executive Summary

The Council is invited to consider the recommendations from the meetings of the Executive held on 18 January 2024 and 1 February 2024. The extract from the minutes of the meeting of the Executive held on 18 January 2024 is set out below. The minutes of the meeting of the Executive on 1 February 2024 will be published in due course; in the meantime, the recommendations before the Executive are set out below.

### THE EXECUTIVE – 18 JANUARY 2024

#### A. Community Asset Transfer Policy

The Executive received a report which recommended to Council the adoption of the Community Asset Transfer (CAT) Policy. The Executive was advised that the Council was looking to local community organisations to run facilities such as community centres and sports pavilions, to enable the Council to create savings whilst retaining those assets for social benefit. The Leader highlighted that as community centres and sports pavilions were not considered statutory services by the Government, the Council would need to consider alternative ways to offer those facilities. It was noted that the CAT Policy had been drafted with support from Local Partnerships and the Local Government Association (LGA). The report also proposed a resource to allow the Council to work closely with local groups and help them through the CAT process, to be funded under proposals contained in the UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) item later on the agenda.

During the autumn public consultation on proposed service reduction, a number of community groups had expressed interest in the running of sports pavilions and community centres and discussions with those groups were ongoing. Examples of facilities being successfully run by the community in the Borough were highlighted, such as Old Woking Community Centre.

It was noted that a CAT Board would be established, consisting of appropriate Officers, which would identify assets for CAT and make decisions on expression of interest and business cases. Final decisions would be signed off by an Executive Member on an evidence basis.

The Executive welcomed the proposed Policy which would sustain valuable community assets, empower community enterprises and provide social and economic benefits for local areas. Due to the Council's financial situation, it was hoped to start CATs within the next year. The Executive thanked the Portfolio Holder, Councillor Nicholson and Officers for their hard work on drafting the CAT Policy.

### RECOMMENDED to Council

**That the Community Asset Transfer (CAT) Policy, as attached at Appendix 1 to the report, be adopted.**

Reason: The Council has a number of assets that have the potential to be run by community organisations (referred to as community enterprises). This would enable the Council to create savings whilst the asset is retained for social benefit. Community Asset Transfers (CATs) also have the opportunity of supporting the Borough's voluntary and

## **Recommendations of the Executive**

community sector in their development and economic growth.

### **THE EXECUTIVE – 1 FEBRUARY 2024**

#### **B. General Fund Budget 2024-25 and Proposed Savings**

##### **Recommendations**

The Executive is requested to:

##### **RECOMMEND TO COUNCIL That**

- (i) the £8.4m of savings set out in Appendix 3b to the report be agreed;
- (ii) the Equality Impact Assessment and public consultation processes on the savings proposals that are summarised in Appendix 5 to the report, with detailed reports on each resident facing saving proposal, be noted as part of the decision-making process; and
- (iii) it be noted a further report to Full Council on 4 March 2024 will receive a final report from the Director of Finance to finalise the treatment of the Council's debt and Council Tax in 2024/25.

##### **Reasons for Decision**

Reason: The contents of the report is to ensure open and transparent governance in the financial affairs of the Council in balancing the 2024/25 Budget.

#### **C. Housing Revenue Account Budgets 2024-25**

##### **Recommendations**

The Executive is requested to:

##### **RECOMMEND TO COUNCIL That**

- (i) the Final Housing Revenue Account budgets for 2024-25, as set out in Appendix 1 to the report, be agreed; and
- (ii) with effect from 1 April 2024, rents be increased by 7.7%.

##### **Reasons for Decision**

## **Recommendations of the Executive**

Reason: To approve the resources necessary to implement the Council's objectives for Housing and to enable the Council to determine charges to tenants for 2024/25.

### **D. Capital Programme 2023-24 to 2027-28**

#### **Recommendations**

The Executive is requested to:

#### **RECOMMEND TO COUNCIL That**

- (i) the Capital Programme 2023/24 to 2027/28 be approved subject to reports on projects where appropriate; and
- (ii) the proposed financing arrangements be approved.

#### **Reasons for Decision**

Reason: To recommend to Council that it approves the capital resources for 2023/24 onwards considered necessary to support the Council's service plans and objectives.

### **E. Future Of Brockhill**

#### **Recommendations**

The Executive is requested to:

#### **RECOMMEND TO COUNCIL That**

- (i) the closure of Brockhill Extra Care Housing be agreed;
- (ii) the residents of Brockhill be offered suitable alternative accommodation which best meets their needs and preferences and be paid Statutory Home Loss and Disturbance payments, where eligible; and
- (iii) authority be delegated to the Strategic Director - Communities, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Housing, to make any further decisions required in respect of the closure.

#### **Reasons for Decision**

Reason: To set out the future plans for Brockhill Extra Care Housing scheme and the support that will be available to impacted residents.

## **Recommendations of the Executive**

The Council has the authority to determine the recommendations set out above.

**Background Papers:** None.

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