

RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE EXECUTIVE

Meeting: Council

Date Of Meeting: 12 December 2024

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Will the decision be open for call in? Yes No

Does the report contain confidential or exempt information? Yes No

1.0 Purpose of Report

1.1 The Council is invited to consider the recommendations from the meetings of the Executive held on 14 November 2024 and 5 December 2024.

2.0 The Executive – 14 November 2024

2.1 The extracts from the minutes of the meeting of the Executive are set out below.

A. Woking for All Strategy EXE24-092

The Leader of the Council, Councillor Barker, introduced the report which recommended to Council the adoption of the refreshed Woking for All Strategy (WFAS). The Executive was advised that the WFAS aimed to clearly set out the Council's priorities and objectives for the next three years and to also set out how those would be delivered through a range of specific and measurable actions. The Leader drew attention to the Council's Vision and Mission Statement in the WFAS which was designed to provide stakeholders with a clear understanding of the Council's direction of travel. The Executive noted that the WFAS was the Council's corporate plan and was underpinned by the Improvement and Recovery Plan (IRP) which had been developed in response to Government intervention. It was highlighted that the WFAS was a three year strategy to 2027/28 which aligned to the life of the Council's Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS).

The Leader explained that the WFAS was built around three core themes: Thriving Communities, High Performing Council, and Effective Partnerships. Attention was drawn to the priorities, objectives, outcomes and success measures for each theme.

The Executive welcomed the refreshed and focused WFAS, developed in consultation with Officers and Members, which would align the direction of the Council to be a high

Recommendations of the Executive

performing council focused on delivering excellent service and building thriving communities through effective partnerships.

RECOMMENDED to Council

That the new Working for All Strategy, attached at Appendix 1 to the report, be adopted.

Reason: To enable the adoption of a refreshed Corporate Plan (WFAS) which clearly sets out the priorities and objectives of the Council, including in the context of the current Government intervention in Woking.

B. Calendar of Meetings 2025/26 EXE24-061

The Executive received a report which sought approval to recommend to Council the Calendar of Meetings 2025-26. Following a question, it was confirmed that extraordinary meetings of the Executive and Full Council were required on Monday, 1 September 2025 in order to determine the outcome of the procurement exercise for the Council's leisure contract. The start time of those meetings on 1 September 2025 would be agreed in due course.

RECOMMENDED to Council

That the Calendar of Meetings 2025/26 be approved as set out in Appendix 1 to the report.

Reason: In accordance with Standing Order 1.2 of the Constitution, which states that "The date of the annual (Council) meeting and those of ordinary meetings shall be fixed by the Council in or about December of the preceding municipal year".

3.0 The Executive – 5 December 2024

- 3.1 The relevant extracts from the reports to be considered at the meeting of the Executive are set out below. The minutes of the meeting will be circulated in due course.

C. 30 Year Housing Revenue Account (HRA) Business Plan EXE24-032

RECOMMENDED TO COUNCIL THAT

- (i) the 30-Year Housing Revenue Account (HRA) Business Plan at Appendix 1 to the report be approved; and**
- (ii) the Draft Rent Policy included as Appendix 2 to the report be agreed for consultation.**

Reason: To ensure the Council has a viable long-term strategy for spending and borrowing to maintain its housing stock and operate services for its tenants and leaseholders.

D. Investment Debt Repayment and Standstill 2024-25 and 2025-26 EXE24-087

RECOMMENDED TO COUNCIL THAT

- (i) it be noted that the Council will be requesting Exceptional Financial Support for 2025/26 and this request will incorporate the interest and minimum revenue provision costs in relation to the loans made to companies and the debt standstill and debt sweep contained within the report;**
- (ii) a 2025/26 financial year investment debt repayment standstill on the Council's investment loans to the Thameswey group of companies and Victoria Square Woking Limited be approved (subject to the conditions and caveats set out in this report and subject to confirmation of Exception Financial Support from central government) for the financial year 2025/26 as set out in recommendation (i); and**
- (iii) a debt sweep for the period up to the end of December 2024 be approved and authority be delegated to the Strategic Director for Finance, the Strategic Director - Corporate Resources, the Director of Legal and Democratic Services and the Chief Executive, in consultation with the Leader and Deputy Leader of the Council, following the application of the principles, assessments and assurances provided by the actions outlined within this report to determine the value of the sweep; and**
- (iv) the findings in the Part II report set out under Agenda Item 19 of the Executive agenda titled Investment Debt Repayment and Standstill 2024-25 and 2025-26 be noted.**

Report Ends