

CHELMSFORD CITY COUNCIL CABINET

SUMMARY OF DECISIONS – 30 January 2024

CALL-IN BY MONDAY, 5 February 2024, 5pm

Subject

Local Council Tax Support (LCTS) Scheme 2024/25

Decision

RECOMMENDED TO THE COUNCIL that the Local Council Tax Support Scheme for 2023-24 be retained as the Scheme for 2024-25.

Status

No call-in as yet.

Reason for Decision

The existing scheme would be affordable to the Council and fair to recipients of Council Tax support.

Action by

R Hawes

Subject

Amendments to Council Tax Premiums in respect of empty properties

Decision

RECOMMENDED TO THE COUNCIL that

1. That the imposition of a Council Tax premium of 100% after a property has been empty and unfurnished for 12 months is effective from 1 April 2024.
2. That the imposition of a Council Tax Premium of 100% in respect of unoccupied dwellings, which are substantially furnished and nobody's main residence (second homes), is effective from 1 April 2025.

RESOLVED THAT Cabinet notes the proposed statutory exceptions to the imposition of Council Tax premiums and agrees an additional local exception in respect of second homes where planning constraints do not permit sale or lease of a property.

Status

No call-in as yet.

Reason for Decision

The changes would use financial penalties as a method to encourage owners to bring under-used accommodation back into general residential use. Having declared a housing crisis in February 2022. The Council is obliged to use appropriate available methods to increase the supply of residential accommodation to its residents.

Action by

R Hawes

Subject

Private Rented Sector Offer Policy

Decision

RESOLVED that the Private Rented Sector Offer Policy be approved as presented.

Status

No call-in as yet.

Reason for Decision

The policy provides the Council with the opportunity to discharge homelessness duties through offers of accommodation into the private rented sector and extending accessible housing options outside of the District.

Action by

P Gayler

Subject

Revocation of Air Quality Management Areas

Decision

RESOLVED that the Director of Public Places be authorised to revoke the two Air Quality Management Areas within the Chelmsford City Council area.

Status

No call-in as yet.

Reason for Decision

Following a review of the air quality monitoring data and the air quality technical guidance it was considered appropriate to revoke both the AQMAs at The Army and Navy and at A414 Maldon Road, Danbury.

Action by

L Mould

Subject

Travelling Showperson Sites Planning Advice Note – Consultation Feedback and Proposed Changes

Decision

RESOLVED that the Travelling Showperson Sites Planning Advice Note set out at Appendix 2 of the report with the changes set out in Appendix 3 be approved for publication.

Status

No call-in as yet.

Reason for Decision

To agree the proposed changes to the Planning Advice Note attached at Appendix 3 of this report and approve the publication of the Travelling Showperson Sites Planning Advice Note in accordance with those changes, pending any subsequent minor textual, presentation or layout amendments to the final version.

Action by

A Stock

Subject

Budget Report 2024/25

Decision

RECOMMENDED TO THE COUNCIL that:

1. the contents of Appendix 1 to the report to the meeting, the Budget Report, be approved, and specifically the following be agreed:
 - i. The new Capital investments in Council services shown in **Section 5**

- ii. The delegations to undertake the new capital schemes identified in **Section 5**, Tables 13 and 13a.
- iii. The Revenue Budgets in **Section 10** and Capital Budgets in **Section 11**
- iv. An increase in the average Band D level of Council Tax for the City Council to £221.52, the maximum allowed before a referendum, in **Section 9**
- v. The movement in reserves shown in **Section 7**
- vi. The Budget forecast in **Section 7** and **Section 8** the s151 officer's review of the budget, which Members are required to note.
- vii. Special expenses, parish and Town Council's precepts as identified in **Section 9**, Table 22 (Parish precepts are not available until Full Council).
- viii. Delegation to the Chief Executive to agree, after consultation with the Leader of the Council, the pay award for 2024/25 within the normal financial delegations.

RESOLVED that:

1. A delegation to the S151 Officer to update the budget report for parish precepts, changes to final Government settlement, Business Rate Retention income, following completing of NNDR1 statutory return to Government, and new Parish precepts after consultation with the Cabinet Member for a Fairer Chelmsford.
2. A delegation to S151 officer to prepare a legal resolution for submission to Council for consideration after consultation with the Cabinet Member for a Fairer Chelmsford.
3. A delegation to S151 officer in consultation with the leader, authority to amend the budget report to Council, should the extra Government funding for 2024/25 exceed £95,000 then the proposal to reduce Street Care frequencies proposed in the budget should not be implemented. The saving will be removed. Any of the extra funding not utilised will reduce the use of unearmarked reserves in 2024/25.

Status

No call-in as yet.

Reason for Decision

The recommended budget would be prudent and in the best financial interests of the city.

Action by

P Reeves

Subject

Capital, Treasury Management and Investment Strategies 2024/25

Decision

RECOMMENDED TO THE COUNCIL that the Capital, Treasury and Investment Strategies 2024-25 as submitted to the meeting be approved.

Status

No call-in as yet.

Reason for Decision

The proposed Strategies met statutory requirements for the production of a treasury management strategy that achieved an acceptable balance between risk and return and capital and investment strategies that ensured the proper financial management of the Council's resources.

Action by

P Reeves