

Cabinet Decision Sheet

The following decisions were taken by the Cabinet on Tuesday 20 February 2024 and will be implemented after Wednesday 28 February 2024 unless the call in procedure has been triggered.

The below sets out a summary of the decisions that have been taken by Cabinet. It is intended to represent the formal record of the decisions taken and to facilitate the Council's call-in process. The minutes of the meeting shall be published separately, alongside this decision sheet.

Agenda Item 7

Report Title:

Budget 2024/25

Decision Made:

That Cabinet reviewed the Council's approach to balancing the budget and agreed and recommend that Council approved:

- i) The net budget for 2024/25 of £118.721m as set out in the main body of the report.
- ii) Fees and Charges for 2024/25 as set out in Appendix F to the Report.
- iii) The Flexible Use of Capital Receipts for the purposes outlined in Appendix G of the report.
- iv) The statement of MRP policy contained in Appendix H to the report under the heading Minimum Revenue Provision
- v) The Capital Strategy 2024/25 as set out in Appendix H to the report.
- vi) The consolidated Capital Programme for 2024/25 as set out in Appendix I
- vii) That delegated authority is given to the Executive Director of Place and the S151 Officer, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Finance to approve the inclusion of the proposed PSDS project, subject to business case.
- viii) The breakdown of projects with the highway resurfacing programme as detailed in Appendix J to the report.
- ix) The breakdown of projects within the footway maintenance and construction programme as detailed in Appendix J to the report.
- x) The Treasury Management Strategy for 2024/25 as set out in Appendix K to the report, including the Treasury Management Policies and Lending Counterparty Criteria
- xi) The prudential indicators as set out in Appendix K to the report, including the Operational and Authorised limits for external borrowing.
- xii) The allocation of the £165.017m Dedicated Schools Grant as set out in Appendix L to the report.
- xiii) The updated Pay Policy Statement for 2024/25 as set out in Appendix M to the report.
- xiv) An edit to the budget that showed the following lines in Fees & charges as *For Consultation* - Outdoor Facilities - Football, Rugby, Cricket, and Lawn Tennis, with the final increase in fee to be delegated to the Executive Director of Place in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Communities & Leisure.

Reason for Decision:

The Local Government Act 2000 states that it is the responsibility of the full council, on the recommendation of the executive, to approve the budget and related council tax

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demand. All councils are legally required to set and maintain a balanced budget each year and failure to do so is likely to lead to intervention from the Secretary of State under section 15 of the Local Government Act 1999

Alternative options considered and rejected at time of the decision:

Do Nothing

Any Conflicts of interest declared by any Cabinet Member:

None

Call-In Deadline:

28 February 2024

Agenda Item 8

Report Title:

Draft Affordable Housing Delivery Supplementary Planning Document

Decision Made:

That Cabinet noted the report and:

- i) Approved the publication of the draft Affordable Housing Delivery Supplementary Planning Document as set out in Appendix B for public consultation; and
- ii) Delegated authority to the Assistant Director of Planning, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Planning, Legal and Asset Management, to approve and publish any minor changes to the draft Affordable Housing Delivery Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) prior to its publication and to approve Appendix 5 of the draft Affordable Housing Delivery SPD which will set out the justification for the financial contribution's calculator.

Reason for Decision:

The SPD provides the opportunity to develop more detailed, technical planning guidance to support the delivery of affordable housing required through policies in the Borough Local Plan, helping to optimise the provision of affordable housing in a way that best meets the affordable housing needs of the Borough.

Alternative options considered and rejected at time of the decision:

Do nothing or not publish the SPD for public consultation.

Any Conflicts of interest declared by any Cabinet Member:

None

Call-In Deadline:

28 February 2024

Agenda Item 9

Report Title:

Establishment of a Joint Committee - the Berkshire Prosperity Board

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Decision Made:

That Cabinet noted the report and recommended to Full Council:

- i) To agree to the establishment of a fully constituted Joint Committee (to be known as the Berkshire Prosperity Board) from May 2024 to deliver a Berkshire-wide vision for inclusive, green and sustainable economic prosperity.
- ii) That the proposed constitution for the Joint Committee as set out in Appendix A - Functions and Procedure Rules for a Joint Committee, Appendix B - responsibilities of the accountable body and Appendix C - governance structure is approved, subject to the Monitoring Officer being authorised to make minor amendments to the Functions and Procedure Rules in conjunction with the participating authorities.
- iii) That the Chief Executive, in consultation with the Leader of the Council, be delegated to agree and enter into a legally binding agreement between the six member authorities setting out the supporting arrangements and responsibilities between the authorities - particularly that between the lead authority (known as the accountable body) - and the other member authorities and go through the relevant democratic process if required.

Reason for Decision:

The lack of a fully constituted Joint Committee - working on a Berkshire-wide footprint and involving all Berkshire local authorities - would mean that the transfer of LEP functions to local authorities from 1 April will not take place and that the county misses out of wider opportunities which are likely to arise through greater joint working between the authorities.

Alternative options considered and rejected at time of the decision:

Do nothing.

Any Conflicts of interest declared by any Cabinet Member:

None

Call-In Deadline:

28 February 2024

Agenda Item 6

Report Title:

2023/24 Month 9 Budget Monitoring Report

Decision Made:

That Cabinet noted the report and:

- i) Noted the forecast revenue outturn for the year was an overspend on services of £8.663m which reduced to an overspend of £5.273m when including unallocated contingency budgets and changes to funding budgets (para 4); and
- ii) Noted the forecast capital outturn was expenditure of £41.125m against a budget of £89.541m (para 9).

Reason for Decision:

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For the Cabinet to note the Council's outturn position.

Alternative options considered and rejected at time of the decision:

To not note the Council's outturn position.

Any Conflicts of interest declared by any Cabinet Member:

None

Call-In Deadline:

28 February 2024

Agenda Item 10

Report Title:

Determination of School Admissions Arrangements 2025-26

Decision Made:

That Cabinet noted the report and determined (approved) the proposed RBWM Admission Arrangements that were set out in Appendix A for community and voluntary controlled schools for 2025/26.

Reason for Decision:

The School Admissions Code 2021 requires the borough to consult on the arrangements where significant changes are proposed and determine the arrangements for 2025/26 on or by 28 February 2024.

Alternative options considered and rejected at time of the decision:

Do nothing.

Any Conflicts of interest declared by any Cabinet Member:

None

Call-In Deadline:

28 February 2024

Agenda Item 11

Report Title:

Special Educational Needs and Alternative Provision Capital Strategy Update

Decision Made:

That Cabinet noted the report and:

- i) Requested that officers carried out a public consultation in Spring 2024 on proposals to be included within an updated Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) and Alternative Provision (AP) capital strategy and
- ii) Requested a report back to Cabinet in May 2024, to provide the outcome of the consultation, cost estimates for the proposals and a recommended programme for capital investment.

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Reason for Decision:

The Education Act 1996 sets out a statutory duty on local authorities to provide enough school places, including provision for children with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) and alternative provision (AP). The Children and Families Act 2014 places further important statutory responsibilities for supporting children and young people with SEND, including keeping the level and scope of educational provision for them under review.

Alternative options considered and rejected at time of the decision:

Do nothing.

Any Conflicts of interest declared by any Cabinet Member:

Councillor Bermange declared that he was a trustee of Autism Berkshire, however he attended the meeting with an open mind.

Call-In Deadline:

28 February 2024