



Decisions taken by the Cabinet on Tuesday, 9 February 2021

Agenda Item No	Topic	Decision	Reasons	Alternative Options
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Part A – Items considered in public

<p>A5</p>	<p>Medium Term Financial Strategy and Budget Update Report 2021/22 to 2024/25</p>	<p>Cabinet note:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) The revised Medium Term Financial Strategy 2021/22 to 2024/25 as detailed in Appendix 1 of the report. 2) The aims and objectives of the Medium Term Financial Strategy which will be presented to Council for approval on 25 February 2021. 3) The formal budget public consultation began on 11 November 2020 and ended on 3 January 2021. The internal consultation on staffing proposals commenced on 14 December 2020 and ended on 22 January 2021. Following the consultation, the budget proposals have been revised as shown in paragraph 1.6 and the outcome of the consultation is summarised in section 20 and Appendix 6 of the report. 4) The budget proposals are based on the 	<p>The MTFS continues the development of a robust and flexible financial framework that plans for the delivery of a balanced budget in the medium term and sets a financial approach to support the council’s priorities during a period of considerable uncertainty and challenging public sector funding. The budget for the period of the MTFS 23.3 provides additional funding for executive commitments and corporate priorities and proposes a multi stranded approach to balancing future year budgets. Alongside this it has provided for adequate reserves to support the financial resilience</p>	<p>A budget must be set as determined in legislation, however in doing so alternative financial strategy options, scenarios and MTFS assumptions have been considered and form an integral part of the development of the overall MTFS.</p>
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		<p>assumptions detailed within the Medium Term Financial Strategy and that this includes a Council Tax increase of £5.00 in 2021/22, allowable under general powers to increase Council Tax without a referendum.</p> <p>5) That further proposals will need to be considered to address future years budget gap in 2022/23, 2023/24 and 2024/25.</p> <p>6) That the Financial Policies have been reviewed and the updated Financial Policies are detailed in Appendix 4 of the report.</p> <p>Cabinet Recommend Council to</p> <p>Note:</p> <p>7) The S151 Officer's (Executive Director of Corporate Services) statutory report regarding the robustness of the estimates and the adequacy of reserves detailed in section 13 of the report.</p> <p>8) That the Executive Director of Corporate Services (S151 Officer) on the 8 January 2021 calculated the Council Tax base for the whole Council area at 66,627.2 Band D equivalents</p>	<p>of the council over the medium and longer term.</p>	

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		<p>and for dwellings in those parts of its area to which a parish precept relates as per Appendix 2 (available for final report to Council).</p> <p>9) The county, police and fire authority precepts detailed in Appendix 3 (available for final report to Council).</p> <p>10) That as the billing authority, the Council has not been notified by any major precepting authority that its relevant basic amount of Council Tax for 2021/22 is excessive and the billing authority is therefore not required to hold a referendum, in accordance with section 52ZK of the Local Government Finance Act 1992.</p> <p>11) The risks and sensitivities within the financial forecasts highlighted in section 10 and in Appendix 5 of the report.</p> <p>12) That the final government grant settlement figures may not be finalised before the budget is approved and therefore any adjustments to the final figures will be matched by an allocation to or from the MTFS Risk Reserve in accordance with financial policies.</p> <p>Determine:</p>		

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		<p>13) That for the purposes of section 35 (2) (d) of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, any expenses incurred by the Borough Council in the financial year 2021/22 in performing functions in a part of the district which elsewhere in the district are performed by a Parish Council, shall not be special expenses of the Borough Council.</p> <p>14) That its relevant basic amount of Council Tax for 2021/22 (£131.42 at Band D) reflects a £5.00 (3.96%) increase which is not excessive in accordance with principles approved under Section 52ZB of the Local Government Finance Act 1992.</p> <p>Approve:</p> <p>15) The net Council Tax requirement of £8.76M for 2021/22, the revenue estimates including the budget proposals in section 6 of the report and contributions to and from reserves as summarised in sections 7 and 9 of the report.</p> <p>16) The Medium Term Financial Strategy, as shown in Appendix 1 of the report.</p>		

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		<p>17) The updated financial policies set out in Appendix 4 of the report including the revised New Homes Bonus Grant allocation policy.</p> <p>18) That the requirement for Council Tax for Borough purposes for 2021/22 be £131.42 Band D equivalent as set out in Appendix 3 (available for final report to Council).</p> <p>19) The 2021/22 net income budget of £0.08M for the Joint Manydown Committee as set out in section 15 of the report and that the net income is shared equally between the Council and Hampshire County Council.</p> <p>20) The Council Tax Resolution as set out in Appendix 3 (available for final report to Council) which brings together the Borough's Council Tax Requirement and that of the other major preceptors (Hampshire County Council, Hampshire Fire and Rescue and The Police and Crime Commissioner for Hampshire) and sets the Council Tax charges for 2021/22.</p> <p>21) That the S151 Officer (Executive Director of Corporate Services) be given delegated authority to implement any variation necessary to the overall level of 2021/22 Council Taxes in</p>		

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		<p>the event that any of the precepting authorities change their precept calculation from that expected and reported at the Council meeting.</p> <p>22) The updated Financial Regulations as detailed in Appendix 7 of the report for inclusion in the council's constitution.</p> <p>23) The Summary Priority Plans and updated Council Plan as shown in Appendices 8 and 9 of the report.</p>		
A6	Capital Programme Update and Strategy 2020/21 to 2024/25	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Note the addition of £20.934M to the capital programme requiring approval to spend and the removal of capital scheme savings of £0.406M, which gives rise to a net increase of £20.528M to the overall capital programme as detailed in sections 4 to 5 and Appendix 2 of the report. 2) Note the revised capital programme which totals £89.638M as detailed in sections 2 to 8 and Appendix 1 of the report and the associated use of resources. 3) Note the rephasing and slippage as set out in section 6 and as detailed in Appendix 3 of the report. 4) Note the capital programme remains fully 	In accordance with the Prudential Code for Capital Finance in Local Authorities, the council produces a Capital Programme Strategy to ensure that all of the priorities within the Council Plan are accounted for in the prioritisation and allocation of resources to the capital programme. It is a requirement that the strategy is reviewed and approved annually by Council.	The update of the capital programme is undertaken within the resource constraints imposed on it. No new schemes can be added unless specific additional resources are identified. Alternative options for new capital spending are considered as part of the budget setting process in the light of the funding available and the overall financial

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		<p>funded up to 2024/25 based on the latest forecast of available resources.</p> <p>5) Note that a review of the Capital Programme Strategy has been undertaken as detailed in section 9 and the updated Capital Programme Strategy is attached as Appendix 4 of the report.</p> <p>Recommend that Council:</p> <p>6) Agree the addition of £20.934M to the capital programme and the removal of scheme savings of £0.406M, which gives rise to a net increase of £20.528M to the overall capital programme as detailed in sections 4 to 5 and Appendix 2 of the report.</p> <p>7) Approve the revised capital programme, which totals £89.638M (as detailed in paragraphs 2 to 8 and Appendix 1 of the report) and the associated use of resources.</p> <p>8) Approve expenditure being incurred on capital schemes in accordance with the revised capital programme and Financial Procedures.</p> <p>9) Approve the slippage and rephasing as set out in section 6 and as detailed in Appendix 3 of the</p>		<p>position.</p>

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		<p>report.</p> <p>10) Note that the capital programme remains fully funded up to 2024/25 based on the latest forecast of available resources.</p> <p>11) Approve the Capital Programme Strategy detailed in Appendix 4 of the report.</p>		
A7	Property Investment Strategy Annual Property Plan 2021/22	That the Property Investment Strategy Annual Property Plan 2021-22 be approved.	Implementation of the Plan will build on the work commenced in 2017/18 to increase the council's rental income and to work towards ensuring a more balanced & efficient property investment portfolio, providing a stable long term source of income which will contribute to the generation of additional income to meet the council's Medium Term Financial Strategy.	The alternative options considered are to either discontinue or to amend the Property Investment Strategy approved in February 2017.
A8	Adoption of the Climate Change and Air Quality Strategy	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Note the responses to the consultation on the draft strategy and resultant amendments. 2) Recommend that Council adopt the final Climate Change and Air Quality Strategy and the 20/21 Action Plan. 	The Council declared a Climate Emergency in 2019, setting ambitious targets in the process. Adopting this Climate Change and Air Quality Strategy provides a framework	It is considered that only small scale changes are required to the Climate Change and Air Quality Strategy,

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			<p>for action moving forward, with key areas of focus.</p>	<p>based on the consultation responses, most of which were more about adding detail or suggestions for additional actions. As such, the option of making wholesale changes has been considered but rejected. It is, however, proposed to update the action plan on an annual basis to respond to more detailed work being undertaken in a number of areas.</p> <p>The council could choose not to adopt the Climate Change and Air Quality and associated action plan, or take any action to tackle the Climate Emergency at</p>

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				all. However, this would be contrary to their own declaration and the majority view of respondents to this consultation.