

Monday, 7 January 2019



MID SUFFOLK DISTRICT COUNCIL

DECISIONS NOTICE

DECISIONS BY THE MID SUFFOLK CABINET CALL IN DEADLINE 5:00PM ON WEDNESDAY 16 JANUARY 2019

The following decisions have been taken by the Cabinet and will come into effect on 17 January 2019 unless the call-in procedure is activated. For clarity, where an item is 'to be noted', 'received' or recommended to Council for a decision, this is deemed not to be a formal Executive decision and so the call-in provisions will not apply.

MCa/18/52 DRAFT GENERAL FUND BUDGET 2019/20 AND FOUR YEAR OUTLOOK

It was RESOLVED:-

- 1.1 That the draft General Fund Budget proposals for 2019/20 and four year outlook set out in the report be endorsed for recommendation to Council on 21 February 2019, subject to further consideration at the next Cabinet meeting on 4 February 2019.
- 1.2 That the draft General Fund Budget for 2019/20 is based on an increase to Council Tax of 2%, which equates to £3.26 per annum (6p per week) for a Band D property, to support the Council's overall financial position, which will be considered further at the February Cabinet meeting.
- 1.3 That a further £25m be invested in CIFCO as set out in paragraph 8.20 of the report.
- 1.4 That a discretionary Care Leavers Council Tax discount of up to 100% be introduced from the 1st April 2019 as set out in section 11 of the report.

Reason for Decision: To bring together all the relevant information to enable Cabinet Members to review, consider and comment upon the Council's General Fund budget before the February Cabinet review and recommendations to Council.

Alternative Options Considered and Rejected: The General Fund Budget for 2019/20 and four-year outlook is an essential element in achieving a balanced budget and sustainable medium-term position. Setting a balanced budget for the coming year is a statutory requirement, therefore no other options are appropriate in respect of this.

Any Declarations of Interest declared: Councillor Horn declared a non-pecuniary interest in CIFCO.

Any Dispensation Granted: Yes

MCa/18/53 DRAFT HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT (HRA) BUDGET AND FOUR YEAR OUTLOOK

It was RESOLVED:-

- 1.1 That the HRA Budget proposals set out in the report be approved.
- 1.2 That the Housing Revenue Account (HRA) Capital Programme 2019/20 to 2022/23 and HRA Budget for 2019/20 be agreed.
- 1.3 That the mandatory decrease of 1% in Council House rents, equivalent to an average rent reduction of £0.82 a week as required by the Welfare Reform and Work Act, be implemented.
- 1.4 That garage rents are kept at the same level as last year.
- 1.5 That Sheltered Housing Service charges be kept at the same level as last year.
- 1.6 That Sheltered Housing utility charges be increased by 5% (average £0.61 increase per week).
- 1.7 That in principle, Right to Buy receipts be retained to enable continued development and acquisition of new council dwellings.
- 1.8 That the revised HRA Business Plan in Appendix B be noted.

Reason for Decision: To bring together all the relevant information to enable Cabinet Members to review, consider and comment upon the Council's Housing Revenue Account budget before the February Cabinet review and recommendations to Council.

Alternative Options Considered and Rejected: The Housing Revenue Account Budget for 219/20 and four-year outlook is an essential element in achieving a balanced budget and sustainable medium-term position, therefore no options are appropriate in respect of this.

Any Declarations of Interest declared: None

Any Dispensation Granted: Yes

MCa/18/54 HOMELESS PREVENTION FUND POLICY

It was RESOLVED:-

- 1.1 That the introduction of the Homeless Prevention Fund Policy for 2019/20 be approved.

Reason for Decision: By approving the implementation of the policy, it will enable the Housing

Solutions Officers to prevent or relieve homelessness in more cases and reduce the demands on temporary accommodation.

Alternative Options Considered and Rejected: An alternative option is to not have a Homelessness Prevention Fund and use the money for alternative things such as staff salaries or temporary accommodation but the lack of one is likely to increase demands on temporary accommodation and increase budgetary demands due to accessing more Bed and Breakfast placements.

Any Declarations of Interest declared: None

Any Dispensation Granted: None

MCa/18/55 JOINT COMMUNITIES STRATEGY

It was RESOLVED:-

- 1.4 That the consultation approach and timetable for the Joint Communities Strategy described in paragraphs 10.5 and 10.6 of the report be agreed.
- 1.5 That the Assistant Director for Planning and Communities, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Communities, be given delegated authority to make any minor changes as necessary to the consultation version of the draft Joint Communities Strategy prior to the Strategy going out for consultation.

Reason for Decision: To ensure that Mid Suffolk District Council have an up to date Joint Communities Strategy which provides:

- Strategic leadership on the key community issues facing the districts;
- Coherent and joined up approaches to the way we work with our communities and with partners;
- Greater local accountability for decision making; and
- A more focused approach to community development which has the greatest impact.

Alternative Options Considered and Rejected:

- To create a Joint Communities Strategy and publish it for consultation.
- To create a Joint Communities Strategy and not publish it for consultation.
- Not to create a Joint Communities Strategy.
- The Council has prioritised the creation of its Joint Communities Strategy and therefore the question is whether to consult with stakeholders or not. Given the nature of the Strategy it is considered vital that there is appropriate consultation prior to its formal adoption by Full Council.

Any Declarations of Interest declared: None

Any Dispensation Granted: None

MCa/18/56 EXTENSION OF SERCO CONTRACT 2021 - 2028

It was RESOLVED:-

- 1.6 That the current Household waste and Recycling contract with Serco be extended for a further 7-year period from 2021 to 2028.
- 1.7 That the Assistant Director, Environment and Commercial Partnerships, in consultation with the Cabinet Members for Environment be delegated authority to finalise the extension agreement and enter into contract with Serco for an additional 7years from 2021-2028.

Reason for Decision: The decision to extend the current contract offers good value to the Councils and has a lower cost than any other option.

Alternative Options Considered and Rejected:

- 1.8 The options available to the councils are:-
- 1.9 Option 1 -Extension of the current Serco contract: based upon the extension proposal provided to MSDC and BDC by Serco.
- 1.10 Option 2 - Outsourcing: conduct a new procurement exercise and engage an external contractor to deliver the environmental services, this could of course be Serco again.
- 1.11 Option 3 - In-house: bring the services in-house, or in-sourcing, is another common service delivery model to deliver environmental services.
- 1.12 Option 4 - Local Authority Company (LAC): deliver the environmental services through a LAC (commonly referred to as a Teckal company), either by setting up a new company or use an existing company founded by another authority to deliver the services. This service delivery model is growing in popularity, although it is still relatively uncommon.

Any Declarations of Interest declared: None

Any Dispensation Granted: None

MCa/18/57 THE ADOPTION OF A SET OF PRINCIPLES FOR THE MANAGEMENT OF COUNCIL OWNED TREES

It was RESOLVED:-

- 1.1 That the set of principles for the management of Council owned trees detailed in appendix A of the report be approved.

That the increase in operational budgets outlined in 6.3 of the report be approved subject to a

more detailed justification of the increase in costs being submitted and approved by the Portfolio Holder.

Reason for Decision: The decision to agree the principles will allow the Councils to adopt a fair and consistent approach to the management of Council owned trees enabling clear guidance on how the tree resource is to be more sustainably managed.

Alternative Options Considered and Rejected: Both Councils have the option of not agreeing a set of principles subject to the direction of Cabinet.

Any Declarations of Interest declared: None

Any Dispensation Granted: None