

Monday, 6 February 2023



MID SUFFOLK DISTRICT COUNCIL

DECISIONS NOTICE

**DECISIONS BY THE MID SUFFOLK CABINET
CALL IN DEADLINE 5:00PM ON 15 FEBRUARY 2023**

The following decisions have been taken by the Cabinet and will come into effect on 16 February 2023 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/22/41 GENERAL FUND BUDGET 2023/24 AND FOUR-YEAR OUTLOOK

It was **RESOLVED**: -

- 1.1 That the General Fund Budget proposals for 2023/24 and four-year outlook set out in the report be endorsed for recommendation to Council on 23 February 2023.**
- 1.2 That the General Fund Budget for 2023/24 is based on no increase to the Band D Council Tax, be endorsed for recommendation to Council on 23 February 2023.**

REASON FOR DECISION

To bring together all the relevant information to enable Cabinet Members to review, consider and comment upon the Councils General Fund budget for endorsement and recommendation to Council.

Alternative Options Considered and Rejected:

Setting a balanced budget is a statutory requirement, therefore no other options are appropriate in respect of this.

Any Declarations of Interests Declared: None

Any Dispensation Granted: None

MCa/22/42 HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT (HRA) 2023/24 BUDGET

It was RESOLVED: -

- 1.1 That the HRA Budget proposals for 2023/24 set out in the report be endorsed for recommendation to Council on 23 February 2023.**
- 1.2 That an increase of 7% for council house rents, equivalent to an average rent increase of £6.16 for social rent and £9.03 for affordable rent, a week be implemented.**
- 1.3 That the CPI increase of 10.1% in garage rents, equivalent to an average rent increase of £4.86 or £4.91 (private rental), a month be implemented.**
- 1.4 That an increase of 7% for sheltered housing service charges, equivalent to £10.83 a month, be implemented.**
- 1.5 That an increase for sheltered housing utility charges, equivalent to £27.93 a month (30% for heating and 62% for water), be implemented.**
- 1.6 That in principle, Right to Buy (RTB) receipts should be retained to enable continued development and acquisition of new council dwellings.**

REASON FOR DECISION

To bring together all the relevant information to enable Cabinet Members to review, consider and comment upon the Councils Housing Revenue Account budget for recommendations to Council.

Alternative Options Considered and Rejected:

The Housing Revenue Account Budget for 2023/24 is an essential element in achieving a balanced budget and sustainable medium-term position, therefore no other options are appropriate in respect of this.

Any Declarations of Interests Declared: None

Any Dispensation Granted: None

MCa/22/43 BUSINESS RATES RELIEF POLICIES

It was RESOLVED: -

- 1.1 That Cabinet approved the introduction of the discretionary Retail, Hospitality and Leisure and Supporting Small Business rate relief policies as set out in appendix 1 & 2 for the 2023/24 financial year.**
- 1.2 That Cabinet gave authority to the Director for Corporate Resources in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Finance to agree future changes to the discretionary Retail, Hospitality and Leisure and Supporting Small Business rate relief policies for the life of the 2023 rating list.**

REASON FOR DECISION

To provide discretionary reliefs to support Business ratepayers in Mid Suffolk.
To enable the implementation of the discretionary schemes.

Alternative Options Considered and Rejected:

- 1.1 Option 1 - Cabinet approve the introduction of the discretionary Retail, Hospitality and Leisure and Support Small Business rate relief policies as set out in appendix 1 and 2 for the 2023/24 financial year and;
- 1.2 Delegate authority to the Director for Corporate Resources in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Finance to agree future changes to the discretionary Retail, Hospitality and Leisure and Supporting Small Business rate relief policies for the life of the 2023 rating list.
- 1.3 Option 2 - There is no mandatory requirement on billing authorities to provide retail, hospitality and leisure and support small business reliefs, however the Government is funding the scheme. It would be an opportunity missed to support local retailers.

Any Declarations of Interests Declared: None

Any Dispensation Granted: None

MCa/22/44 MSDC: RINGFENCED FUNDING FOR ELECTRIC BUS RURAL TRANSPORT

It was RESOLVED: -

- 1.1 That Cabinet noted the extensive work undertaken by officers to date to consider the viability of an electric bus rural transport scheme across the District.
- 1.2 To approve the officer recommendation to pause the delivery of this project in order to allow more time to collate evidence to support the viability of a pilot scheme as limited evidence of successful schemes has been available to date across the local area and across the UK, accepting that further agreement with Gateway 14 Board may be required if the final scheme is linked to G14 delivery.

REASON FOR DECISION

The Sustainable travel officer and a sustainable travel intern carried out extensive research on existing electric vehicle passenger transport services, gathering information on different types of delivery models from local, regional and national case studies. As the rollout of electric vehicles in respect of community-based services is a relatively new concept, most of the case studies found are currently running as pilots, and evidence to support long term sustainability does not exist.

Alternative Options Considered and Rejected:

Cabinet is asked to consider whether the spending/delivery associated with this project should be paused for up to six months, for the reasons outlined in this report.

Any Declarations of Interests Declared: None

Any Dispensation Granted: None

MCa/22/45 HOMES ENGLAND COMPLIANCE AUDIT - NEEDHAM MARKET MIDDLE SCHOOL SITE

It was RESOLVED: -

That Mid Suffolk District Cabinet formally acknowledged the compliance audit received from Homes England in relation to the affordable housing development at Needham Market Middle School.

REASON FOR DECISION

To meet the obligations set out in the funding agreement between the Homes and Communities Agency (now Homes England) and Mid Suffolk District Council in relation to the Shared Ownership Affordable Homes Programme 2016-2021

Alternative Options Considered and Rejected:

There are no options to consider.

Any Declarations of Interests Declared: None

Any Dispensation Granted: None

MCa/22/46 STOWMARKET HEALTH, EDUCATION AND LEISURE FACILITIES (SHELF) SCHEME

It was RESOLVED: -

- 1.1 That Cabinet noted the work and progress made on the scheme to date, including extensive public engagement, design and cost planning and scheme viability.**
- 1.2 To also note the future gateways for decision making for the scheme including bringing the full business case, funding strategy and optimal operating model to Cabinet and Council later this year for a formal decision.**
- 1.3 To approve the recommendation to submit a full planning application and develop detailed designs for the scheme.**
- 1.4 To recommend to Council further spend of £250,000 from the Growth and Efficiency fund to enable the works outlined in 3.3 to progress.**

REASON FOR DECISION

Further work is now required to identify and secure occupiers and end users for the scheme, particularly the Wellbeing hub, to enable completion of the full business case. In addition, several external funding streams can only be submitted once a planning permission has been

secured.

Therefore, it is recommended that work continues on the scheme to enable the next set of milestones to be met, at which point the full business case detailing final draft cost plan, levels of income and expenditure for the whole site, a proposed management model and a detailed funding strategy, will be brought back for formal decision. The full business case may outline options for the phased delivery of the site.

Alternative Options Considered and Rejected:

Several options for the scheme were considered with the partners, other landowners and key stakeholders, and the option presented in this report provides for the optimum use of the land available and the right management structure to secure maximum wellbeing outcomes.

Any Declarations of Interests Declared: None

Any Dispensation Granted: None