

Thursday, 8 February 2024



BABERGH DISTRICT COUNCIL

DECISIONS NOTICE

**DECISIONS BY THE BABERGH CABINET
CALL IN DEADLINE 5:00PM ON 16 FEBRUARY 2024**

The following decisions have been taken by the Cabinet and will come into effect on 19th February 2024 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.

BCa/23/39 GENERAL FUND BUDGET 2024/25 AND FOUR-YEAR OUTLOOK

It was **RESOLVED**: -

- 1.1 That the General Fund Budget proposals for 2024/25 and four-year outlook set out in the report for both the revenue and capital budgets and the level of reserves be endorsed for recommendation to Council on 20 February 2024.
- 1.2 That the General Fund Budget for 2024/25 presented in this report assumes an increase in the Band D Council Tax of 2.99% for endorsement for recommendation to Council.
- 1.3 That three budget items were updated in the tabled papers for financing costs (see paragraph 5.10 of the report), costs arising from likely regulatory changes in accounting for loan impairments (paragraph 5.13 of the report) and final grant income figures from central government (paragraph 5.18 of the report) and endorsed to Council.
- 1.4 That the Cabinet considered options for balancing the budget for endorsement and recommendation to Council as set out in the tabled papers.
- 1.5 That the new income bands and contribution rates for the 100% Local Council Tax Reduction (Working Age) Scheme, as set out in 5.27 of the report, are endorsed for recommendation to Council.
- 1.6 That Cabinet endorses for recommendation to Council:
 - a. The options for balancing the budget as detailed in Table 3 of the tabled

papers.

- b. The creation of Expected Credit Loss Reserve of £937,850 as explained in paragraphs 3.4 to 3.12 in the tabled papers.
- c. The creation of a Financial Sustainability Reserve of £1,341,640 as proposed in paragraph 4.3 in the tabled papers.

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 for endorsement and recommendation to Council.

Alternative Options Considered and Rejected:

Setting a balanced budget is a statutory requirement: the budget figures presented in this report currently show a gap between forecast expenditure and income which needs to be resolved. Options for balancing the budget will be tabled at Cabinet for its consideration.

Any Declarations of Interests Declared: None

Any Dispensation Granted: None

BCa/23/40 HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT BUDGET 2024/25 AND FOUR-YEAR OUTLOOK

It was **RESOLVED:** -

- 1.1 That the HRA Budget proposals for 2024/25 set out in this report, be endorsed for recommendation to Council on 20 February 2024.
- 1.2 That a CPI + 1% increase of 7.7% for social rents, equivalent to an average rent increase of £7.92 and a RPI + 0.5% (9.4%) increase for affordable rent of £11.13, a week be implemented.
- 1.3 That the RPI increase of 8.9% in garage rents, equivalent to an average rent increase of £3.83 or £4.71 (private rental), a month be implemented.
- 1.4 That an increase of for sheltered housing service charges, equivalent to £49.12 a month, be implemented.
- 1.5 That an increase for sheltered housing utility charges, equivalent to £28.95 a month, be implemented, following no utility increase for 3 years (from 2019/20).
- 1.6 That in principle, Right to Buy (RTB) receipts should be retained within the Housing Revenue Account, to enable continued development and acquisition of new council dwellings.

1.7 That it is recommended that the £6m PWLB loan due to be repaid in 2024/25 is repaid rather than refinancing at a higher interest rate.

1.8 That the Revenue Contribution to Capital be increased from £4.48m to £5.572m

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 for endorsement and recommendation to Council

Alternative Options Considered and Rejected:

Setting a balanced budget is a statutory requirement: the budget figures presented in this report currently show a gap between forecast expenditure and income which needs to be resolved. Options for balancing the budget will be tabled at Cabinet for its consideration.

Any Declarations of Interests Declared: None

Any Dispensation Granted: None