

**Decisions taken at the Cabinet  
Meeting held on Thursday 9 February 2023**

In attendance Cllrs I Courts, K Grinsell, T Diccico, M Gough, K Hawkins, D Howell,  
A Mackiewicz, R Sleigh OBE M McLoughlin and K Thomas (substitute)

Title	Decision Taken
Apologies	Apologies were received from Cllr L McCarthy, Cllr Thomas substituted for her.
Declaration of Interest	Cllr Mackiewicz declared a pecuniary interest in item 6 and left the meeting when this item was considered.
Questions and Deputations	None received.
Minutes	<b>RESOLVED:</b> That the minutes of the meeting held on 12 January be received for information.
Council Tax Support Fund 2023/24	<b>RESOLVED:</b>  (i) That the Council's Council Tax Support Fund Policy for 2023/24 attached at appendix A, be approved; and  (ii) That delegated approval be granted to make any changes necessary to ensure that all the funding is allocated within the specified timeframe to the Cabinet Member for Resources in conjunction with the Acting Chief Executive.
Council Tax Premiums for Empty Properties and Second Homes	<b>RESOLVED</b>  (i) That Cabinet <b>recommended</b> that Full Council approve the changes to the long-term empty premium so that with effect from 1 April 2024 the council tax premium is applied after the property has been empty and unfurnished for 12 months rather than 24 months; and  (ii) That it be agreed that the 100% council tax premium for furnished empty properties (known as second homes) is not implemented at this stage and is instead deferred to a later date once more information is known.
Business Rates Relief 2023/24	<b>RESOLVED:</b>  (i) That the Council's Retail, Hospitality and Leisure Relief Scheme for 2023/24 attached at appendix A, be approved; and  (ii) That the Council's Supporting Small Business Relief Scheme for 2023/24 attached at appendix B, be

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	approved.
Housing Revenue Account Estimates and Rent Increases 2023/24	<p><b>RESOLVED:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(i) That rent increase for all tenures be approved at 5%;</li> <li>(ii) That increases in garage rents as recommended by the SCH Board and set out in Appendix D, from 1 April 2023 be approved;</li> <li>(iii) That the increase in Leaseholder Management Fees from £141 to £145 per annum be approved;</li> <li>(iv) That the Housing Revenue Account budget for 2023/24 including the SCH Management Fee as set out in the HRA Business Plan Financial Forecast at Appendix A be approved;</li> <li>(v) That the SCH Management Agreement for 2023/24 – 2027/28 be approved;</li> <li>(vi) That the removal of a £1.000million contribution to the HRA Future Capital Expenditure Reserve in 2022/23 be approved; and</li> <li>(vii) That the fees and charges approved by the SCH Board on 8 November 2022 set out in Appendix D be noted.</li> </ul>
Medium Term Financial Strategy Period 9 Update Report (to 31 December 2022)	<p><b>RESOLVED:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(i) That the current financial position and actions being taken to address budget variances be noted;</li> <li>(ii) That the latest Red, Amber and Green (RAG) ratings for the delivery of the (MTFS) savings 2022/23 to 2024/25, as detailed in Appendix A, be noted;</li> <li>(iii) That the budget adjustments up to Period 9 of 2022/23 as summarised in Appendix B, be approved;</li> <li>(iv) That the use of the Budget Strategy Reserve to fund the additional cost of £2.888 million for the 2022/23 Pay Award as detailed in paragraph 3.11 of the report be approved;</li> <li>(v) That the use of the Budget Strategy Reserve to fund an increase of £1.015 million in the Impairment Allowance for doubtful debts as detailed in paragraph 3.12 of the report be approved;</li> <li>(vi) That the use of the Budget Strategy Reserve to balance the</li> </ul>

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	<p>budget shortfall of £5.781 million in the Children and Education portfolio as detailed in paragraph 3.20 of the report be approved;</p> <p>(vii) That the use of £27,240 from the Commonwealth Games volunteers reserve in the Communities and Leisure Portfolio be approved to fund current Voluntary and Community Sector priorities as detailed in paragraph 3.25. of the report;</p> <p>(viii) That a contribution of £400,000 to the existing Family Hubs reserve to support development and roll out of the Family Hubs service in future years as set out in paragraph 3.27. of the report, be approved;</p> <p>(ix) That a contribution to the existing Leisure reserves of the year end surplus in relation to Commonwealth Games activities, currently forecast at £75,000, as set out in paragraph 3.28. of the report, be approved;</p> <p>(x) That a contribution of the year end surplus in relation to the Employment and Skills service, currently forecast at £87,000, to the existing Employment Learn and Engage reserve as set out in paragraph 3.29. of the report be approved; and</p> <p>(xi) That the creation of a new reserve for the Learning Disability Employment Support service be approved and that a contribution of the year end surplus for 2022/23 for the service, currently forecast at £64,000, and any surpluses for future years, to that reserve, as set out in paragraph 3.29. of the report, be approved.</p>
Budget and Medium Term Financial Strategy 2023/24 to 2025/26	<p><b>RESOLVED:</b></p> <p>(i) That the Medium Term Financial Strategy 2023/24 – 2025/26, as updated in the Leaders report, and the Capital Strategy (incorporating the Council's strategy on the flexible use of capital receipts and the annual Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP) Statement) be <b>recommended</b> for approval by Full Council;</p> <p>(ii) That the prudential borrowing requirements for the period of the MTFs, as set out at paragraph 3.32 of the report of the Acting Chief Executive be approved;</p> <p>(iii) That the fees and charges proposed within each portfolio (Appendix F of the report of the Acting Chief Executive) be <b>recommended</b> for approval by Full Council;</p> <p>(iv) That the Council's carbon budget, as outlined at</p>

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	<p>paragraph 3.36 and detailed in Appendix G of the report of the Acting Chief Executive, be <b>recommended</b> for approval by Full Council;</p> <p>(v) That an increase of 2.99% in the level of general council tax in 2023/24 (to £1,388.02 at Band D), be <b>recommended</b> to Full Council for approval;</p> <p>(vi) That an increase of 2.00% in the level of the social care precept in 2023/24 (to £204.72 at Band D), be <b>recommended</b> to Full Council for approval;</p> <p>(vii) That a budget for 2023/24 of £199.250 million funded by total Band D council tax of £1,592.74, be <b>recommended</b> to Full Council for approval; and</p> <p>(viii) That the requirement for a recorded vote on the budget and the level of council tax at the Full Council meeting on 23 February, be noted.</p>
Arden Cross Multi Storey Car Park Business Case and Land Transactions	Private report