

MEETING:	Cabinet
DATE:	Wednesday 8 February 2023
TIME:	10.00 am
VENUE:	Council Chamber, Barnsley Town Hall

MINUTES

Present Councillors Houghton CBE (Chair), T. Cave, Franklin, Frost, Higginbottom, Howard, Lamb, Makinson and Platts

Members in Attendance: Councillors Bowser, Cain, Eastwood, Osborne and Peace

179. Declaration of pecuniary and non-pecuniary interests

There were no declarations of pecuniary or non-pecuniary interests.

180. Leader - Call-in of Cabinet decisions

The Leader reported that no decisions from the previous meeting held on 25 January 2023 had been called in.

181. Minutes of the previous meeting held on 25 January 2023 (Cab.8.2.2023/3)

The minutes of the meeting held on 25 January 2023 were taken as read and signed by the Chair as a correct record.

182. Decisions of Cabinet Spokespersons (Cab.8.2.2023/4)

There were no Records of Decisions by Cabinet Spokespersons under delegated powers to report.

183. Petitions received under Standing Order 44 (Cab.8.2.2023/5)

It was reported that no petitions had been received under Standing Order 44.

184. Medium Term Financial Strategy 2023-26 (Cab.8.2.2023/6)

RECOMMENDATION TO FULL COUNCIL ON 23 FEBRUARY 2023

RESOLVED that Cabinet:-

1. Notes the contents of the updated Medium Term Financial Strategy 2023-2026; and
2. Recommends to Full Council on 23 February 2023 that the report of the Service Director Finance (S151 Officer), under Section 25 of the Local Government Act 2003 at Section 1 be noted, that the 2023/24 budget proposals be agreed and that the Chief Executive and Senior Management Team (SMT), in consultation with Cabinet Spokespersons, submit, for early

consideration, detailed plans that ensure the Council's ongoing financial sustainability in 23/24 and beyond; and

3. Recommends to Full Council on 23 February 2023 that the revised Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) and Budget Forecast for 23/24 to 25/26 contained in the budget pack attached at Section 2 (supported by the suite of background papers in Sections 2a – 2d) be noted and that these are monitored as part of the arrangements for the delivery of the MTFS; and
4. Recommends to Full Council on 23 February 2023 that provision of £35.4M to cover anticipated demographic and other cost pressures in 23/24:
 - Pay (£9.0M),
 - Energy (£5.3M),
 - Children's Social Care including the development plan costs (£7.0M),
 - Adult Social Care including hospital discharges (£6.5M),
 - Homes to School Transport (£1.2M),
 - Waste Services (£0.9M),
 - Inflation on major contracts e.g., PFI (£3.1M),
 - Funding borrowing costs (£0.6M),
 - Investment in legal resource (£0.5M),
 - Investment in car parking (£0.5M),
 - Youth zone running costs (£0.8M)

be approved for inclusion in the budget as identified at Section 2; and

5. Recommends to Full Council on 23 February 2023 that the budgetary provisions previously set aside in the 22/23 budget for demography, demand and energy costs totalling £9.2M be approved to be released to mitigate the above pressures; and
6. Recommends to Full Council on 23 February 2023 that the specific Adult Social Care grant of £2.1M received in the 2022 Local Government Finance Settlement be used to contribute to the funding of inflationary pressures in the care sector; and
7. Recommends to Full Council on 23 February 2023 that the increase in the Better Care Fund of £1.9M received in the 2022 Local Government Finance Settlement be used to fund the cost of hospital discharges; and
8. Recommends to Full Council on 23 February 2023 that £7.5M of additional general social care funding received in the 2022 Local Government Finance Settlement be set aside pending further assessment of the emerging financial risks relating to Childrens and Adults Social Care; and
9. Recommends to Full Council on 23 February 2023 that reserves totalling £5.5M be used to further mitigate the pressures above, strictly on the basis of this being a temporary bridging strategy to permanently aligning ongoing spend and income over the MTFS planning period; and

10. Recommends to Full Council on 23 February 2023 that the proposed efficiency savings in 23/24 highlighted in Section 2 and detailed at Section 4a – 4e be approved for implementation and that Members also note the development of a transformation programme to help deliver balanced budget positions over the medium term (24/25 – 25/26); and
11. Recommends to Full Council on 23 February 2023 that the Council's reserves strategy and updated reserves position at Section 2b be noted; and
12. Recommends to Full Council on 23 February 2023 that the proposed changes to the 23/24 fees and charges policy and accompanying schedule of charges set out at Section 2d be approved; and
13. Recommends to Full Council on 23 February 2023 approval of the cash limited budgets for each Service with overall net expenditure for 23/24 of £230.4M as highlighted in Section 5a; and
14. Recommends to Full Council on 23 February 2023 consideration of the budgets for all services be given and to approve the 23/24 – 25/26 budget proposals presented at Sections 5a – 5c, subject to Cabinet receiving detailed implementation reports where appropriate; and
15. Recommends to Full Council on 23 February 2023 consideration and approval be given to the changes to the schools funding formula including the transfer of funding from the schools' block to the high needs block and approve the proposed 23/24 schools block budget as set out at Section 5d; and
16. Recommends to Full Council on 23 February 2023 that the capital investment schemes totalling £12.4M (Section 6 Appendix 1), be included within the capital programme and released subject to receiving further detailed business cases where appropriate; and
17. Recommends to Full Council on 23 February 2023 that £2M is provisionally set aside for additional investment in repairing the borough's highways (principal roads/side streets) and released subject to receiving a further detailed report on plans for its use; and
18. Recommends to Full Council on 23 February 2023 that the Chief Executive and SMT, in consultation with Cabinet Spokespersons, be required to submit reports into Cabinet, as a matter of urgency, in relation to the detailed General Fund Revenue Budget for 23/24 on any further action required to achieve an appropriately balanced budget in addition to those proposals set out above; and
19. Recommends to Full Council on 23 February 2023 that the Chief Executive and SMT be responsible for managing their respective budgets including ensuring the implementation of all approved saving proposals; and
20. Recommends to Full Council on 23 February 2023 that the Authority's SMT be charged with ensuring that the budget remains in balance and report regularly into Cabinet on budget/savings monitoring including any action required; and

21. Recommends to Full Council on 23 February 2023 that Cabinet and the Section 151 Officer be authorised to make any necessary technical adjustments to form the 23/24 budget; and
22. Recommends to Full Council on 23 February 2023 that appropriate consultation on the budget proposals takes place with the Trade Unions and representatives of Non-Domestic Ratepayers and that the views of consultees be considered by Cabinet and the Council; and
23. Agrees that the budget papers be submitted for the consideration of the full Council.

185. Housing Revenue Account - 2023/24 Budget and Investment Proposals 2023-28 (Cab.8.2.2023/7)

RECOMMENDATION TO FULL COUNCIL ON 23 FEBRUARY 2023

RESOLVED that Cabinet:-

1. Notes the cost pressures on the HRA and efficiencies being proposed to mitigate these to support the longer-term investment needs of the housing stock; and
2. Notes the HRA Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) as set out in paragraphs 2.20; and
3. Recommends to Full Council on 23 February 2023 approval of the Housing Revenue Account Draft Budget for 2023/24, as outlined in paragraph 2.22 and detailed in Appendix 1, including the proposed revenue investments totalling £1.1M, [Appendix 2, paragraph 2B refers], with any final amendments being delegated to the Cabinet Spokesperson for Growth & sustainability and the Executive Director for Growth & Sustainability in consultation with the Cabinet Spokesman for Core Services and the Service Director - Finance (S151); and
4. Notes the acceleration of EPC and stock condition survey works to complete fully during 2023/24; and
5. Recommends to Full Council on 23 February 2023 approval of a rent increase of 6.5%, which is under the Government's Rent Cap of 7%; and
6. Recommends to Full Council on 23 February 2023 approval of a non-dwelling rent increase in line with CPI; and
7. Notes that both service charges and district heating charges will be subject to a separate review during 2023/24; and
8. Recommends to Full Council on 23 February 2023 approval of the 2023/24 Berneslai Homes Management Fee totalling £15.453M [Appendix 2, paragraph 2C refers], with any final amendments delegated to the Cabinet Spokesperson for Growth & Sustainability and the Service Director, Regeneration & Culture in consultation with the Cabinet Spokesman for Core Services and the Service Director -Finance (S151); and

9. Recommends to Full Council on 23 February 2023 approval of the 2023/24 Berneslai Homes Management Fee for both Gypsy Sites, and the European Social Fund (ESF) Grant totalling £0.216M, both of which are charged to the Authority's General Fund [Appendix 2, paragraph 2D refers]; and
10. Recommends to Full Council on 23 February 2023 approval of the Core Housing Capital Investment programme for 2023/24 totalling £20.394M [£14.849M to maintain decency and £5.545M supplementary works] and noting of the indicative programme for 2024/25 through 2027/28, outlined in paragraphs 2.24 – 2.25; and
11. Recommends to Full Council on 23 February 2023 approval in principle, of the proposed capital schemes totalling £42.330M, subject to individual reports as appropriate, in line with the Council's governance arrangements [paragraphs 2.26 – 2.29 refer]; and
12. Recommends the report to Full Council on 23 February 2023.

186. Lettings Policy 2023 (Cab.8.2.2023/8)

RECOMMENDATION TO FULL COUNCIL ON 30 MARCH 2023

RESOLVED that Cabinet:-

1. Endorses the final draft Lettings Policy, noting and supporting the areas of significant change, and resolves to recommend to Full Council with any minor amends to be delegated to the Service Director for Regeneration and Culture in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Growth and Sustainability.
2. Notes and supports the Implementation Plan and Timescales for the adoption of the new Lettings Policy from 1st December 2023.

187. Acceptance of National Portfolio Organisation Funding from Arts Council England for Barnsley Museums (Cab.8.2.2023/9)

RESOLVED that Cabinet:-

1. Approves the funding allocation; and
2. Approves the delivery of the agreed activity.

188. Exclusion of Public and Press

RESOLVED that the public and press be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the following items, because of the likely disclosure of exempt information as described by the specific paragraphs of Part I of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 as amended, as follows:-

<u>Item Number</u>	<u>Type of Information Likely to be Disclosed</u>
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189. Community Energy Project: Council Homes PV Project (Cab.8.2.2023/11)

RESOLVED that Cabinet:-

1. Notes the progress made in developing the Heads of Terms for the delivery of the Council Homes PV scheme and associated business model and approves the proposed changes to the Concessions Agreement (as set out in the Heads of Terms) which seeks to strengthen the governance arrangements of the partnership and better enable future delivery of projects of this nature; and
2. Notes the role that the Council has as Custodian Trustee of Energise Barnsley and supports the nomination of the Service Director of Law and Governance to represent the Council in performing this function; and
3. Delegates approval and 'sign off' of the final variations to the Concession Agreement, which will be prepared jointly between Walker Morris, the Council's Legal Team and representatives of Energise Barnsley management company, to the Service Director of Law and Governance.

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Chair