

Agenda for a meeting of the Executive (Budget) to be held on Tuesday, 5 March 2024 at 10.30 am in the Council Chamber - City Hall, Bradford

Members of the Executive – Councillors

LABOUR
Hinchcliffe (Chair)
I Khan
Ross-Shaw
Ferriby
Jabar
Duffy

Notes:

- This agenda can be made available in Braille, large print or tape format on request by contacting the Agenda contact shown below.
- The taking of photographs, filming and sound recording of the meeting is allowed except if Councillors vote to exclude the public to discuss confidential matters covered by Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972. **Recording activity should be respectful to the conduct of the meeting and behaviour that disrupts the meeting (such as oral commentary) will not be permitted. Anyone attending the meeting who wishes to record or film the meeting's proceedings is advised to liaise with the Agenda Contact who will provide guidance and ensure that any necessary arrangements are in place.** Those present who are invited to make spoken contributions to the meeting should be aware that they may be filmed or sound recorded.
- **Members of the public are respectfully reminded that this is a meeting that is being held in public NOT a public meeting. The attendance of the public to observe the proceedings is welcome.**
- If any further information is required about any item on this agenda, please contact the officer named at the foot of that agenda item.

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Interim Director of Legal and Governance
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A. PROCEDURAL ITEMS

1. DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST

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(Members Code of Conduct – Part 4A of the Constitution)

To receive disclosures of interests from members and co-opted members on matters to be considered at the meeting. The disclosure must include the nature of the interest.

An interest must also be disclosed in the meeting when it becomes apparent to the member during the meeting.

Notes:

- (1) *Members must consider their interests, and act according to the following:*

Type of Interest	You must:
<i>Disclosable Pecuniary Interests</i>	<i>Disclose the interest; not participate in the discussion or vote; and leave the meeting <u>unless</u> you have a dispensation.</i>
<i>Other Registrable Interests (Directly Related)</i> OR <i>Non-Registrable Interests (Directly Related)</i>	<i>Disclose the interest; speak on the item <u>only if</u> the public are also allowed to speak but otherwise not participate in the discussion or vote; and leave the meeting <u>unless</u> you have a dispensation.</i>
<i>Other Registrable Interests (Affects)</i> OR <i>Non-Registrable Interests (Affects)</i>	<i>Disclose the interest; remain in the meeting, participate and vote <u>unless</u> the matter affects the financial interest or well-being</i> <i>(a) to a greater extent than it affects the financial interests of a majority of inhabitants of the affected ward, and</i> <i>(b) a reasonable member of the public knowing all the facts would believe that it would affect your view of the wider public interest; in which case speak on the item <u>only if</u> the public are also allowed to speak but otherwise not do</i>

not participate in the discussion or vote; and leave the meeting unless you have a dispensation.

- (2) *Disclosable pecuniary interests relate to the Member concerned or their spouse/partner.*
- (3) *Members in arrears of Council Tax by more than two months must not vote in decisions on, or which might affect, budget calculations, and must disclose at the meeting that this restriction applies to them. A failure to comply with these requirements is a criminal offence under section 106 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992.*
- (4) *Officers must disclose interests in accordance with Council Standing Order 44.*

2. MINUTES

Recommended –

That the minutes of the meeting held on 9 January 2024, 11 January 2024, and 6 February 2024 be signed as a correct record (previously circulated).

(Yusuf Patel / Louis Kingdom – 07970 411923 / 07890 416570)

3. INSPECTION OF REPORTS AND BACKGROUND PAPERS

(Access to Information Procedure Rules – Part 3B of the Constitution)

Reports and background papers for agenda items may be inspected by contacting the person shown after each agenda item. Certain reports and background papers may be restricted.

Any request to remove the restriction on a report or background paper should be made to the relevant Strategic Director or Assistant Director whose name is shown on the front page of the report.

If that request is refused, there is a right of appeal to this meeting.

Please contact the officer shown below in advance of the meeting if you wish to appeal.

(Yusuf Patel / Louis Kingdom – 07970 411923 / 07890 416570)

4. RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE EXECUTIVE

To note any recommendations to the Executive that may be the subject

of report to a future meeting. (Schedule to be tabled at the meeting).

(Yusuf Patel / Louis Kingdom – 07970 411923 / 07890 416570)

B. STRATEGIC ITEMS

LEADER OF COUNCIL & CORPORATE

(Councillor Hinchcliffe)

5. THE COUNCIL'S REVENUE ESTIMATES FOR 2024-25

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The report of the Director of Finance (**Document “AL”**) provides Members with details of the Council’s Revenue Estimates for 2024/25. The report also outlines feedback received through the consultation undertaken on the budget proposals that Council Executive approved for consultation at their meeting of the 11 January 2024.

Recommended –

Executive is asked to approve the recommendations set out in Section 10 of Document “AL”.

Overview and Scrutiny Committee: Corporate

(Andrew Cross – 01274 436823)

6. ALLOCATION OF THE SCHOOLS' BUDGET 2024-25

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The report of the Director of Finance (**Document “AM”**) seeks Executive approval of the recommendations of Bradford’s Schools Forum in allocating the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) for 2024/25 and subsequent recommendation to Full Council.

Recommended –

It is recommended that the Executive asks Council to:

- (1) Accept and approve the proposals for the allocation of the 2024/25 Dedicated Schools Grant, as set out in this report.**
- (2) Approve the total amount of £759.852m to be appropriated in respect of all schools covered by the Bradford Scheme for the Local Management of Schools, so as to establish the Individual Schools Budget for 2024/25.**
- (3) Note the forecasted High needs Block financial position as set out in the report and that Council raise with central**

Government the need for additional future funding for this area.

Overview and Scrutiny Area: Corporate

(Andrew Redding – 01274 432678)

7. THE CAPITAL INVESTMENT PLAN 2024-25 ONWARDS

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The report of the Director of Finance (**Document “AN”**) presents the Council’s Capital Investment Plan 2024-25 to 2027-28 in Section A. Section B presents an updated Capital Strategy for 2024-25. This strategy underpins the spending proposals within the Capital Investment Plan. Section C presents the Investment Strategy for 2024-25.

Recommended –

- (1) Executive are asked to note the contents of this report and to have regard to the information contained within this report when considering the recommendations to make to Council on the CIP for 2024-25.**
- (2) That the updated Capital Plan for 2024-28, be approved; (Appendix A). Commitments against reserve schemes and contingencies can only be made after a business case has been assessed by Project Appraisal Group and approved by Executive.**
- (3) That Members agree that the Council undertakes a review of the capital programme.**
- (4) The 2024-25 MRP Policy set out in Appendix 2 is approved.**
- (5) That the Capital Strategy (including Prudential Indicators), set out at Appendix 3, be approved.**
- (6) That the Flexible Use of Capital Receipts policy (section 8) is approved. Delegate authority to the Section 151 officer to have the option to adjust this strategy and fund transformation projects from capital receipts to ensure that the Council achieves the most advantageous financial position that derives from proposals that are not yet agreed by Government.**

Overview and Scrutiny Committee: Corporate

(Lynsey Simenton – 07582 102779)

8. **COUNCIL TAX PREMIUMS ON LONG TERM EMPTY PROPERTIES AND SECOND HOMES** 245 - 258

The Strategic Director of Corporate Resources will submit a report (**Document “AO”**) which makes recommendations for changes to Council Tax premiums for long term empty homes and second homes to incentivise occupation of property in the district and increase the housing stock.

Recommended –

- (1) **Option 2 is the preferred option. That the Council introduce increased Council Tax Premium Charges as enabled by the Levelling Up and Regeneration Act 2023. This would:**
 - **Reduce the minimum period for the implementation of a 100% Council Tax premium for empty and unfurnished properties from 2 years to 1 year from April 2024 and**
 - **Introduce a Council Tax premium of 100% in respect of second homes (properties that are empty and furnished) from April 2025.**
- (2) **Following a consultation on proposed exemptions, the Government is yet to publish the final list of exceptions. The Executive is asked to delegate the responsibility to implement the exceptions once finalised to the Strategic Director, Corporate Resources.**

Overview and Scrutiny Area: Corporate

(Caroline Lee – 07811 088655)

9. **2024-25 BUDGET PROPOSALS AND FORECAST RESERVES- S151 OFFICER ASSESSMENT** 259 - 286

The Director of Finance will submit a report (**Document “AP”**) which assesses the adequacy of forecast levels of reserves, the risks associated with the budget, the overall financial position of the Council, the developing financial strategy and actions needed and being taken to secure the Council’s long term financial stability and the robustness of the proposed budget for 2024/25.

Recommended –

- (1) **That Members have regard to Document “AP” in setting the budget, and in particular note the conclusions that provided that :**
 - **the current and planned actions are successfully concluded ie that the emerging financial strategy is agreed and**

implemented in full;

- the Government supports the Council with a “minded to” Capitalisation Direction and will agree to do so in future years;
- the recommendations in Document “AP” are agreed and actioned in full;
 - then the overall estimates are sufficiently robust for the Council to set a balanced budget for 2024/25.

(2) That Members agree:

- that the level of general reserves is inadequate at £33m and that reserves need to be replenished
- that there is accordingly no planned use of reserves to support the 2024/25 budget;
- to required implementation in full of the emerging financial strategy ie that the Council:
 - identifies an estimated £40m of revenue savings for 2025/26;
 - identifies assets to be sold to generate capital receipts;
 - undertakes a review of the capital programme;
 - considers increasing income;
 - operates expenditure control panels as set out in the report from 1 April 2024;
 - undertakes a full review of financial management and finances of the Council;
 - invests in core functions necessary and subject to business cases;
- any non delivery of planned 2024/25 revenue savings will need to be absorbed within existing cash limited Departmental budgets.

(3) That Members note:

- the assessment of the current financial position of the Council;
- that this assessment is the result of emerging and recent work. The situation will change and the estimated financial position and solutions will require continual development and refinement and will likewise vary as the year progresses;

- **the s151 officer is not minded to issue a s114 notice at this point working on the basis that the above assumptions will be supported and seen through on time and in full;**
- **given the extremely challenging financial situation the Council finds itself in, which it has in recent months started to address, if the recommendations are not agreed, or if the assumptions are not delivered as assumed then very serious consideration will be given to the issuing of a s114 notice**
- **that the 2024/25 savings are being reviewed for deliverability;**
- **as with all budgets there is the potential for amendments to be proposed/agreed which could change the overall package of proposals. In that respect, it should be highlighted that this statement would have to be amended if a decision was proposed that leads to the Council's reserves reducing below their recommended General Fund balance level. In addition, any other amendments would be considered against the scale of the overall budget and depending upon the extent and nature, may result in a revised statement.**

Overview and Scrutiny Committee: Corporate

(Andrew Cross – 01274 436823)