

Decisions taken by the Cabinet on Monday, 10 February 2020



Notice dated: 11 February 2020

Issued to all councillors and senior officers.

Please refer to the relevant cabinet agenda and reports when reading this notice. The minutes of the meeting of the cabinet will be published in due course. To view the cabinet reports please click [here](#).

These decisions will come into force on the expiry of three working days after the publication of this decision notice unless implemented sooner for reasons of urgency.

DECISIONS:

Item No	Matter	Decision	Reason(s) for Decision
4	Draft Corporate Plan 2020/21	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. That the Cabinet recommends to the Full Council, that the content of the attached documents form the basis of the council's corporate plan 2020/24, subject to the proviso that any significant amendment made to the council's draft budget be reflected in the final corporate plan text.2. That delegated authority be given to the Director of Corporate Services and Governance, after consultation with the Deputy Leader of the Council to make further revisions as is considered necessary to the	The council needs to approve the corporate plan as its statement of Hastings Borough Council's strategic direction, mindful of the views received as part of the public consultation process on the draft corporate plan and associated budget.

Decisions taken by the Cabinet on Monday, 10 February 2020

		<p>attached plan prior to publication to reflect decisions made on the council's budget.</p> <p>3. That all those who submitted views as part of the consultation process be thanked for their contributions.</p>	
5	<p>Revenue Budget 2019/20 Revised and 2020/21, plus Capital Programme 2020/21 - 2022/23</p>	<p>Cabinet recommends that full Council:-</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Approve the revised revenue budget for 2019/20 (Appendix A). 2. Approve the draft 2020/21 revenue budget (Appendix A) 3. Approve a 1.99% increase in the Borough Council's part of the Council Tax. 4. Agree that the absolute minimum level of reserves that shall be retained be £6m (plus General Fund Balance). 5. Approve the Capital Programme 2019/20 (revised) to 2022/23 (Appendix P). 6. Approve the proposed expenditure from the Renewal and Repairs Reserve, and Information Technology Reserve (Appendices J and I respectively) and those items from other reserves shown in Appendix H that can 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The Council must by law set a balanced budget. It will have used most of its Transition Reserves to fund 2019/20 expenditure and hence must identify significant savings for 2020/21 in order to achieve a balanced budget. The redundancy provision and Redundancy Reserve will be fully exhausted. 2. Despite identifying PIER savings of £1,824,000 (£1,460,000 during this year's PIER process) these are insufficient to balance the budget in 2020/21 without the use of General and other reserves. Further service cuts need to be made throughout the year to achieve an ongoing sustainable budget and further redundancy costs can be expected.

Decisions taken by the Cabinet on Monday, 10 February 2020

		<p>proceed without further reference to Cabinet or Council.</p> <p>7. Approve that the use of the monies in the budget and Reserves for "Invest to Save" schemes be determined by the Chief Finance Officer in consultation with the Leader of the Council.</p> <p>8. Approve the transfer of £500,000 from the General Reserve to the Redundancy Reserve to meet future costs.</p> <p>9. Agree that authority be granted to enter into a Funding agreement/ Memorandum of Understanding with the government (BEIS) on Minimum Energy Efficiency enforcement subject to no adverse grant terms, and that the necessary authority is granted for expenditure up to the level of funding received (£48,600 for 2019/20).</p> <p>10. Approve the revised Land and Property Disposal Programme (Appendix L), and agree that disposals can be brought forward if market conditions make it sensible to do so.</p> <p>11. Agree that where a Capital scheme involves a net increase in overall costs to the Council, or</p>	<p>3. Under resourcing looks set to continue in 2020/21 and beyond and this impacts heavily upon the Council's ability to provide services or grants across all areas of existing activity in future years. A major overhaul of the funding mechanism along with the Government's Spending Review, postponed until 2020/21 continues to provide considerable uncertainty on funding for 2021/22 and beyond.</p> <p>4. The Council needs to be in a position to match its available resources to its priorities across the medium term and to maintain sufficient reserves and capacity to deal with potentially large and unexpected events in addition to fluctuations in income and expenditure levels. In the light of increased in-year spend on temporary accommodation (estimated at some £380,000 above budget) this requires a much greater degree of service cuts elsewhere and spend within housing areas must be</p>
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		<p>where any guarantee is to be provided which does, or could, incur costs for the Council, such decisions are now made by full Council.</p> <p>12. Agree that, with immediate effect no Council properties or land be disposed of, either by sale or long leasehold, at less than market value without further express approval by Full Council.</p> <p>13. Agree that schemes marked with an asterisk in the Capital Programme can proceed without further reference to Cabinet or Council.</p> <p>14. Agree that work on Priority Income and Efficiency Reviews (PIER) through the Strategic Oversight and Planning Board should continue, and where possible identify a sustainable budget for a period in excess of one year. A mid-year review, for members and officers, to be undertaken in the light of the continuing severe government grant reductions.</p> <p>15. Approve the detailed recommendations in Appendix M, which relate to the setting of Council Tax in accordance with Sections 31 to 36 of the Local Government Act 1992 (to be updated for full Council).</p>	<p>reprioritised. It remains a possibility that additional funding may be received to mitigate these new burden costs, but details may not be known before the budget.</p> <p>5. The Council is now exposed to a much greater degree of volatility in terms of its income from Non Domestic Rates and expenditure in terms of Council Tax Support claims – the cost falling directly on the Council and the preceptors. The potential downside risks of Brexit and the increased reliance on income streams provide greater volatility to the Council's funding.</p> <p>6. The Council has had enormous budget cuts every year since 2010, but work will need to continue to identify and make savings in order to continue to produce balanced budgets for future years – with consequential impacts on service provision.</p> <p>7. The Council values consultation</p>
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Decisions taken by the Cabinet on Monday, 10 February 2020

		<p>16. Approve that the budget be amended as necessary to reflect the final grant figures including Disabled Facility Grants - once received.</p> <p>17. Approve that the determination of eligibility and award in respect of the Business Rate Retail Relief Scheme is delegated to the Chief Finance Officer for the next financial year and any extension period thereafter.</p> <p>18. Full Council adopt the existing Council Tax Support scheme subject to amendments to allowances in line with national changes. Determination of the allowances to be delegated to the Chief Finance Officer in line with prior year practice.</p> <p>19. In light of consultation responses, the following amendments to the budget have been made:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. £10,000 grant to the Hastings Voluntary Association in respect of Community Cohesion. b. An additional £30,000 will be retained in CCTV to ensure continued operation by the police. 	<p>responses and will incorporate where possible.</p>
7	Treasury	Cabinet recommend to full Council that:	1. The Council seeks to minimise the

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<p>Management, Annual Investment Strategy and Capital Strategy 2020/21</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The Council approve the Treasury Management Strategy, Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP) Policy, Annual Investment Strategy, and the Capital Strategy. 2. The strategies listed are updated as necessary during 2020/21 in the light changing and emerging risks and the Council’s evolving future expenditure plans. 3. The Financial rules and the Financial Operating Procedures of the Council are reviewed and revised as necessary to meet the requirements of the Code of Practice. 4. The Cabinet and full Council note that there is likely to be the use of Money Market Funds in 2020/21 – as already allowed for in the investment strategy. 5. Due to the previous amendments to Agenda Item ‘Revenue Budget 2019/20 Revised and 2020/21, plus Capital Programme 2020/21 – 2022/23’, there will be minor changes to the use of reserves. 	<p>costs of borrowing and maximise investment income whilst ensuring the security of its investments. The Council continues to make substantial investments in commercial property, housing and energy generation initiatives, and this will continue to involve the Council in taking on additional borrowing.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. The sums involved are significant and the assumptions made play an important part in determining the annual budget. The CIPFA Treasury Management Code of Practice (2017 Edition), adopted by the Council last year, was released to take account of the more commercialised approach being adopted by councils and the enhanced levels of transparency required. The Code represents best practice and helps ensure compliance with statutory requirements. 3. The Council has the ability to diversify its investments and must
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Decisions taken by the Cabinet on Monday, 10 February 2020

			<p>consider carefully the level of risk against reward against a background of historically relatively low interest rates. Investments can help to close the gap in the budget in the years ahead and thus help to preserve services, assist in the regeneration of the town, provide additional housing and enhance the long term sustainability of the town. However over reliance on such income streams would involve taking unnecessary risks with the future of the Council and its ability to deliver statutory services.</p> <p>4. The Council has the option of using Money Market funds within its Investment Policy already. These are on occasion providing higher rates of return than some straight deposit accounts and as such the use of these funds is likely to occur in the near future.</p>
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For further details please contact Committee Administration:

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