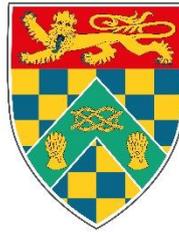


Decision Notice

CABINET
TUESDAY, 2 FEBRUARY 2021



SOUTH
KESTEVEN
DISTRICT
COUNCIL

57. Budget Proposals 2021/22

Decision:

The Cabinet recommends to Council, having considered the recommendations and feedback from both the Budget Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee and the stakeholder consultation:

1. To set a General Fund budget requirement of £13.859m for 2021/22 detailed at section 3 of this report and shown in detail at Appendix A (inclusive of special expenses).
2. To propose a Council Tax level of £168.62 for 2021/22 (Band D property).
3. To note the indicative base estimates for 2022/23 and 2023/24 as detailed in the summary at Appendix A.
4. To approve Housing Revenue Account (HRA) dwelling rent increases of 1.5 (CPI + 1%) in accordance with Government guideline rent providing an average rent of £80.78 (an average rental increase of £1.19 per a week).
5. To approve an increase in HRA garage rents of 3%.
6. To approve an average increase of 3% in HRA service charges for communal facilities and communal rooms.
7. To approve an increase in shared ownership rents by 1.5% (CPI +1%).
8. To approve the HRA Revenue Summary for the year 2021/22 shown at Appendix A.
9. To approve the General Fund Capital programme for 2021/22 to 2023/24 detailed at section 5 of this report and shown at Appendix B.
10. To approve the General Fund Capital Financing statement detailed at Appendix B.
11. To approve the Housing Investment programme for 2021/22 to 2023/24 detailed at section 5 of this report and as shown at Appendix B to include an additional £440,000 of the Section 106 monies in order to fund temporary housing in the Stamford area.
12. Approve the HRA Capital Financing statement detailed at Appendix B.
13. To approve the movements in General Fund Revenue and Capital reserves and balances detailed at section 7 of this report and shown at Appendix C.

14. To approve the movements in HRA revenue and Capital reserves and balances detailed at section 7 of this report and shown at Appendix C.
15. To approve the fees and charges detailed at section 9 of this report and shown at Appendix D subject to an amendment at page 35 to show the Stamford car parking proposed charges to read:

Up to 30 minutes	90 pence
Up to 1 hour	£1.20
Up to 2 hours	£1.90
Up to 3 hours	£2.50
Up to 4 hours	£4.10
Over 4 hours	£5.30

Considerations/reasons for decision:

- The report from the Cabinet Member for Finance and Resources, which was presented to Cabinet on 2 February 2021.
- The report of the Cabinet Member for Finance and Resources, which was considered by Cabinet on 12 January 2021.
- Comments made by the Joint Budget Overview and Scrutiny Committee at the meeting held on 13 January 2021.
- Feedback from the Council Tax consultation which ran from 16 – 26 January 2021.
- The budget proposals had been formulated within the context of the Corporate Plan ambitions and alignment to the five priorities.
- The Spending Review 2020 and the draft Local Government Finance Settlement published on 17 December 2020.
- The funding position for the General Fund (starting at paragraph 2 of the report of the Cabinet Member for Finance and Resources).
- The General Fund Budget Estimates and Council Tax proposals (paragraphs 3.4 and 3.8 of the report of the Cabinet Member for Finance and Resources).
- The Housing Revenue Account (HRA) rent proposals (paragraph 4.3 of the report of the Cabinet Member for Finance and Resources).
- General Fund Capital Programme shown at paragraph 5.2 and detailed in Appendix B of the report of the Cabinet Member for Finance and Resources.
- Capital financing for both the General Fund and HRA shown at paragraphs 6.2 and 6.3.
- Information on Reserves and Balances (paragraph 7.2 of the report of the Cabinet Member for Finance and Resources).
- Information on Budget proposals in paragraph 3.3.
- The statutory requirement to set a balanced budget for each financial year.
- Provisions within the Local Government Finance Act 1992.
- Provisions within the Local Government Act 2003.
- Amendments made to recommendations 2, 12 and 16 from those circulated in the report of the Cabinet Member for Finance and Resources.

Other options considered and rejected:

Option 1: A Council Tax increase of 3% on a Band D property.

Option 2: No Council Tax increase.

58. Cabinet Decision Call-in - Public Realm Improvements, St Peter's Hill, Grantham

Decision:

1. That Cabinet notes the content of the report from the Director of Law and Governance (Monitoring Officer).
2. That Cabinet considered the request from the Culture and Visitor Economy Overview and Scrutiny Committee: that the Committee be updated on the progress of the organisation of the event and fundraising as per the recommendation at 2.2 of the report from the Director of Law and Governance (Monitoring Officer).
3. That Cabinet reaffirms the recommendation made on 1 December 2020, to approve a budget allocation from the local priorities reserve and authorises expenditure of up to £100,000 to underwrite the statue unveiling event and any consequential works and that any fund raising from the public, businesses and others would go towards this budget allocation.

Considerations/reasons for decision:

- Report from the Director of Law and Governance (Monitoring Officer) following the call-in of the Cabinet decision made on 1 December 2020 in respect of Public Realm Improvements, St Peter's Hill, Grantham.
- Recommendations made by the Culture and Visitor Economy Overview and Scrutiny Committee at the meeting held on 5 January 2021 in respect of the financial breakdown of the £100k in relation to fundraising and anticipated on-going costs.

63. Future High Street Fund

Decision:

1. Cabinet approves the preferred option identified as Option 1 shown in the report and appendices to the report from the Deputy Leader of the Council as the final proposed scheme for the Future High Street Fund in the principle offer of £5,558,818.
2. Cabinet delegates authority to the Chief Executive Officer and the Interim Director of Finance, to sign off the final report.

Considerations/reasons for decision:

- Report from the Deputy Leader of the Council recommending the final options for the capital projects supported by the Future High Street Scheme.
- The approval of the Business Case for the Future High Street Fund taken by Cabinet in June 2020, with a bid being submitted at the end of July 2020.
- Over subscription of the scheme, South Kesteven District Council received a provisional offer of funding of up to 69% of the original request and have been asked to review the scheme due to a reduced offer.
- The Ministry for Housing, Communities and Local Government's (MHCLG) review stage ends on 26 February 2021.
- Final decisions to be announced in March 2020.

Other Options considered and rejected:

Option 2 – Scaling back or loss of Station Approach Mixed Use Development but retain Station Approach public realm works and all other projects.

Option 3 – Proportionate Scaling back of all projects.

Option 4 – Larger Station Approach Scheme. Drop all other projects.

Date decision effective:

Decisions 58 and 63 as made on Tuesday 2 February 2021 can be implemented on Wednesday 3 February 2021 and are not subject to the call-in procedure. Decision 58 was made following the original decision being called-in and decision 63 was made under urgency provisions due to timescales in relation to the Future High Street Fund.

Decision 57 stands referred to the next Council meeting on Monday 1 March 2021.