

West Suffolk Council

Cabinet Decisions Notice

(Published: Thursday 9 December 2021)

The following decisions were taken by the Cabinet on Tuesday 7 December 2021 and, if not called in by councillors, will come into operation on Friday 17 December 2021. This procedure does not however, apply to decisions that have been recommended to Council for a final decision (and which are also indicated within the decisions below). An executive decision may be called in, in accordance with the Overview and Scrutiny Committee Procedure Rules contained within Part 4 of the Council’s Constitution, by at least five councillors submitting the required call-in request form to the Director (Human Resources, Governance and Regulatory) (e-mail: democratic.services@westsuffolk.gov.uk) **by 5.00 pm on Thursday 16 December 2021**. Should you have a query regarding any of the decisions taken, contact should be made with the named officer in the first instance, the relevant portfolio holder or via Democratic Services, West Suffolk Council, West Suffolk House, Western Way, Bury St Edmunds Suffolk, IP33 3YU.

Agenda item and report number	Declarations of interest	Decision(s) (including recommendations to Council)	Reason(s) for decision(s)	Other options considered and reasons for rejection	Contacts
Item 8 CAB/WS/21/055	None	<p>Recommendation of the Performance and Audit Scrutiny Committee: 18 November 2021 - Arrangements for Appointment of External Auditors</p> <p>Recommended to Council: (14 December 2021)</p> <p>That it be agreed to continue to 'opt-in' to the sector led body (Public Sector Audit Appointments Limited (PSAA))</p>	<p>Having considered the advantages and disadvantages of each of the three options available for the appointing process for external auditors from the 2023 to 2024 financial year, as set out in Report number: PAS/WS/21/021, the Cabinet supports the recommendation of the Performance and Audit Scrutiny Committee and has recommended to full Council that the Council should</p>	<p>Other options considered and rejected were:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Establish a stand-alone appointment; or 2. Set up a joint auditor panel/local joint procurement arrangements. <p>Detailed reasons as to why</p>	<p>Portfolio holder: Sarah Broughton 07929 305787</p> <p>Chair of Performance and Audit Scrutiny Committee: Ian Houlder 07597 961069</p>

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		for the independent appointment of the Council's external auditor, beginning with responsibilities for the financial year 2023 to 2024.	continue to 'opt-in' to the sector led body (Public Sector Audit Appointments Limited (PSAA)) for the independent appointment of the Council's external auditor.	neither of the above options have been recommended to Council are set out in section 3 of Report number: PAS/WS/21/021 .	Officer: Rachael Mann Director (Resources and Property) 01638 719245
Item 9 CAB/WS/21/056	None	<p>Recommendations of the Performance and Audit Scrutiny Committee: 18 November 2021 - Delivering a Sustainable Medium-Term Budget</p> <p>Recommended to Council: (14 December 2021)</p> <p>That the proposals as detailed in Section 2 and Table 1 at paragraph 3.6 of Report number: PAS/WS/21/024, be included in the medium-term financial plans to 2026.</p>	Having considered the process and approach to setting the Council's 2022 to 2023 budget and the principles and challenges faced in achieving this, the Cabinet supports the recommendation of the Performance and Audit Scrutiny Committee for including the proposals set out in section 2 and Table 1 of paragraph 3.6 of Report number: PAS/WS/21/024 and has recommended approval by Council. This includes consideration of a number of key budget assumptions proposed in	<p>Report number: PAS/WS/21/024 sets out the rationale behind the key budget assumptions for 2022 to 2023 and where relevant draws out alternative assumptions that have been considered and discounted at this stage in the budget process.</p> <p>Other approaches</p>	<p>Portfolio holder: Sarah Broughton 07929 305787</p> <p>Chair of Performance and Audit Scrutiny Committee: Ian Houlder 07597 961069</p> <p>Officer: Rachael Mann Director (Resources and Property)</p>

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			the development of the 2022 to 2023 budget and medium-term plans and the rationale behind those assumptions.	could be proposed and considered by members; however, it is important to note that the core principles such as deliverability, affordability and risk are considered.	01638 719245
Item 10 CAB/WS/21/057	None	<p>Recommendations of the Performance and Audit Scrutiny Committee: 18 November 2021 - Treasury Management Report (September 2021)</p> <p>Recommended to Council: (14 December 2021)</p> <p>That the Treasury Management Report (September 2021), as contained in Report number: FRS/WS/21/005, be approved.</p>	<p>The Cabinet is required to consider the Treasury Management Reports, prior to seeking their approval by Council. This particular report provides information on the investment activities for West Suffolk Council for the period 1 April 2021 to 30 September 2021.</p> <p>The Cabinet supports the additional recommendation of the Performance and Audit Scrutiny Committee,</p>	As it is a requirement of the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy for Council to approve the Treasury Management Report, no other options have been considered.	<p>Portfolio holder: Sarah Broughton 07929 305787</p> <p>Chair of Performance and Audit Scrutiny Committee: Ian Houlder 07597 961069</p>

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		<p>Resolved:</p> <p>That the externalisation of our underlying need to borrow in order to manage the Council's interest rate risk exposure, be agreed.</p>	<p>which arose from a discussion by the Committee regarding the externalisation of the Council's underlying need to borrow in order to manage the Council's interest rate risk exposure.</p>		<p>Officer: Rachael Mann Director (Resources and Property) 01638 719245</p>
<p>Item 11 CAB/WS/21/058</p>	<p>None</p>	<p>West Suffolk Local Council Tax Reduction Scheme (LCTRS): 2022 to 2023</p> <p>Recommended to Council: (14 December 2021)</p> <p>That:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. the Local Council Tax Reduction (LCTRS) Scheme for 2022 to 2023, as outlined in Report number: CAB/WS/21/058, be reviewed. 2. The changes to the scheme outlined in section 2 of Report number: 	<p>When reviewing the scheme in 2020 for the 2021 to 2022 year it was decided to retain the existing scheme into 2021 to 2022 as it was felt it would bring stability to customers' household budgets as they recovered or managed the impact of COVID-19. It was, however, agreed that a fuller review should be undertaken the following year to take into account learning from COVID-19, by considering a range of options for consultation, which led to a number of proposals to amend the LCTRS for the 2022 to 2023 year.</p>	<p>Two further options were considered. These were a) increasing the contribution rate to more than 8.5 per cent; and b) capping LCTRS entitlement to Band D liability.</p> <p>For both options, the possible increase in council tax collected for the Council is considered to be less than the</p>	<p>Portfolio holder: Sarah Broughton 07929 305787</p> <p>Officer: Rachael Mann Director (Resources and Property) 01638 719245</p>

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		CAB/WS/21/058, and as detailed in Appendix C, be agreed.	<p>The proposed changes have been subject to consultation with major preceptors, stakeholders and the public, details of which were contained in Appendix A attached to the report.</p> <p>Having considered the proposals, their potential impact and the outcomes of the consultation, the Cabinet is supportive of the amended scheme and has recommended its approval to Council.</p>	additional costs of recovery (additional staff, postage and enquiries to customer services), including the inability to recover the debt in year by deduction from Department for Work and Pension (DWP) benefits and therefore this has not been recommended.	
Item 12 CAB/WS/21/059	None	<p>Housing Priorities: Progress Update</p> <p>Resolved: That:</p> <p>1. an addendum to the Housing Strategy 2018-2023, as set out in</p>	The Cabinet has noted the outcomes of a mid term review of the Housing Strategy and Implementation Plan, which had resulted in considering it appropriate to add an addendum to the Housing Strategy 2018-2023	Other options considered and rejected were to continue with the Housing Strategy and Implementation Plan, the Housing Delivery	<p>Portfolio holders: Sara Mildmay-White 01359 270580</p> <p>Andy Drummond 01638 751411</p>

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		<p>Appendix A of Report number: CAB/WS/21/059, be approved.</p> <p>2. The life of the Housing Strategy be extended to 2024, be approved.</p> <p>3. The revised Housing Strategy Implementation Plan, as set out in Appendix B of Report number: CAB/WS/21/059, be approved.</p> <p>4. Progress against the Housing Delivery Action Plan (Appendix C), be noted.</p> <p>5. Progress against the Homelessness Reduction and Rough Sleeping Strategy Delivery Plan (Appendix D), be noted.</p>	<p>(Appendix A) with a revised Implementation Plan (Appendix B). The addendum provides an update to the strategy setting out significant policy changes and events that had taken place since the Housing Strategy was first adopted and members have agreed to extend the life of the Housing Strategy to 2024. Whilst the housing priorities remain relevant, some proposed changes have been made to the actions contained in the Implementation Plan.</p> <p>Progress made against the Housing Delivery Action Plan (Appendix C) and the Homelessness Reduction and Rough Sleeping Strategy delivery plan (Appendix D) have also been noted, including where actions have been completed and those that</p>	<p>Action Plan and Homelessness Reduction and Rough Sleeping Strategy. This means that the Council would not be ensuring that the documents remain relevant and fit for purpose. The Council would also not have an understanding of the progress made, the priorities that needed to be focussed on moving forward and any barriers that needed to be unblocked.</p>	<p>Susan Glossop 01284 728377</p> <p>David Roach 01440 768966</p> <p>Officers: Julie Baird Director (Planning and Growth) 01284 757613</p> <p>Jennifer Eves Director (HR, Governance and Regulatory) 01284 757015</p> <p>Davina Howes Director (Families and Communities) 01284 757070</p>

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			have created challenges.		
<p>Item 14</p> <p>CAB/WS/21/061 (with Exempt Appendices 1, 2 and 3)</p>	None	<p>Revenues Collection Performance and Write Offs</p> <p>Resolved:</p> <p>That the write-off of the amounts detailed in the Exempt Appendices to Report number: CAB/WS/21/061, be approved, as follows:</p> <p>Exempt Appendix 1: Council Tax totalling £5,918.07</p> <p>Exempt Appendix 2: Business Rates totalling £37,868.71</p> <p>Exempt Appendix 3: Housing Benefit Overpayment totalling £25,257.78</p>	<p>The detailed reasons for the decisions to write-of these amounts, were included in Exempt Appendices 1, 2 and 3 to Report number: CAB/WS/21/061.</p>	<p>There is an extensive and supportive recovery process prior to the engagement of an enforcement agency. The Council currently uses the services of the ARP Enforcement Agency to assist in the collection of business rates and council tax and also has online tracing facilities. Although this service was suspended during the lockdown and up to more recently,</p>	<p>Portfolio holder: Sarah Broughton 07929 305787</p> <p>Officer: Rachael Mann Director (Resources and Property) 01638 719245</p>

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				<p>enforcement has now been reinstated in line with Government guidance. It was not considered appropriate to pass the debts on to another agency.</p> <p>It should be noted that, in the event that a written-off debt becomes recoverable, the amount is written back on, and enforcement procedures are re-established.</p>	
<p>Item 15 CAB/WS/21/062 (with Exempt Appendix A)</p>	<p>None</p>	<p>Barley Homes: Business Plan 2021</p> <p>Resolved:</p>	<p>The business plan (Exempt Appendix A) focusses on Barley Homes' completion of the development at Stonemill Park as well as</p>	<p>The exempt business plan sets out how Barley Homes, working with the</p>	<p>Portfolio holder: Sara Mildmay-White 01359 270580</p>

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		<p>That:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. the progress update for Barley Homes and steps outlined in Report number: CAB/WS/21/062, to secure its medium term pipeline of sites, be noted. 2. The Barley Homes Business Plan 2021, attached as Exempt Appendix A to Report number: CAB/WS/21/062, be approved. 	<p>work to bring forward the site at Kingshall Street, Rougham. Progress made with the sites at School Lane, Great Barton and at College Heath Road (CHR), Mildenhall are also reported.</p> <p>A number of future sites are being explored by Barley Homes and the Council as part of the ongoing process of supplying Barley Homes with a viable development pipeline. This will enable Barley Homes to continue to utilise the agreed £14.25 million investment fund which then provides financial returns to the Council through loan interest receipts and dividend payments.</p> <p>The Cabinet is extremely pleased with progress made by Barley Homes in the last year and supports its direction for the next year</p>	<p>Council, has evaluated potential development opportunities. Opportunities that do not meet the criteria, based on the principles set out in 2.1.2 and 2.1.3 of Report number: CAB/WS/21/062, and the evaluation method established in the 2019 report CAB/WS/19/041 have been discounted.</p>	<p>Officer: Julie Baird Director (Planning and Growth) 01284 757613</p>

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			and beyond.		

Jennifer Eves
 Director (Human Resources, Governance and Regulatory)
 9 December 2021