

West Suffolk Council

Cabinet Decisions Notice

(Published: Thursday 10 February 2022)

The following decisions were taken by the Cabinet on Tuesday 8 February 2022 and, if not called in by councillors, will come into operation on Friday 18 February 2022. 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 17 February 2022**. 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 9 CAB/WS/22/005	None	<p>Recommendation of the Performance and Audit Scrutiny Committee: 27 January 2022 - Delivering a Sustainable Medium-Term Budget</p> <p>Recommended to Council (as part of the budget setting process): (22 February 2022)</p> <p>That the proposals detailed in Section 2 and Table 1 at paragraph 3.4 of report number PAS/WS/22/002, be included in</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 3.4 of Report number: PAS/WS/22/002 and has recommended	Report number: PAS/WS/22/002 sets out the rationale behind the key budget assumptions for 2022 to 2023 and where relevant draws out alternative assumptions that have been	<p>Portfolio holder: Sarah Broughton 07929 305787</p> <p>Chair of Performance and Audit Scrutiny Committee: Ian Houlder 07597 961069</p>

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
		the 2022 to 2023 budget.	approval by Council as part of the budget setting process. This includes consideration of a number of key budget assumptions proposed in the development of the 2022 to 2023 budget and medium-term plans and the rationale behind those assumptions.	considered and discounted at this stage in the budget process. Other approaches 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.	Officer: Rachael Mann Director (Resources and Property) 01638 719245
Item 10 CAB/WS/22/006	None	Recommendations of the Performance and Audit Scrutiny Committee: 27 January 2022 - Financial Resilience - Strategy Statement 2022 to 2023 and Treasury Management Code	The Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy's (CIPFA) Treasury Management Code of Practice requires that, prior to the start of the financial year, that the	Options for the management of the Council's investments are formally considered within the	Portfolio holder: Sarah Broughton 07929 305787

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
		<p>of Practice</p> <p>Recommended to Council (22 February 2022):</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The Treasury Management Strategy Statement 2022 to 2023 as set out in Appendix 1 to Report number: FRS/WS/22/002, be approved; and 2. The Treasury Management Code of Practice, as set out in Appendix 2 to Report number: FRS/WS/22/002, be approved, subject to an amendment within the section of the Code of Practice entitled 'Use of External Brokers / Advisors / Fund Managers', with the removal of the word 'will', to be replaced with the word 'may', to ensure that the Council has the 	<p>Council formally approves a Treasury Management Policy Statement and Investment Strategy, setting out the Council's treasury management policy and strategy for the forthcoming year.</p> <p>CIPFA also recommends that all councils adopt a Treasury Management Code of Practice based on the treasury management practices published by CIPFA and guidance issued in their Code of Practice.</p>	<p>Treasury Management Strategy Statement 2022 to 2023.</p>	<p>Chair of Performance and Audit Scrutiny Committee: Ian Houlder 07597 961069</p> <p>Officer: Rachael Mann Director (Resources and Property) 01638 719245</p>

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
		flexibility on the use of services of other organisations.			
Item 11 CAB/WS/22/007	None	<p>Recommendation of the Performance and Audit Scrutiny Committee: 27 January 2022 - Treasury Management Report (December 2021)</p> <p>Recommended to Council: (22 February 2022)</p> <p>That the Treasury Management Report (December 2021), as contained in Report number: FRS/WS/22/001, be approved.</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 December 2021.	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> <p>Officer: Rachael Mann Director (Resources and Property) 01638 719245</p>
Item 12 CAB/WS/22/008	None	Budget and Council Tax Setting: 2022 to 2023 and Medium Term Financial Strategy 2022 to 2026	The Cabinet is required to recommend to Council the budget and the level of council tax required to help fund the budget. The	The Council is required by statute to set a balanced budget and	Portfolio holder: Sarah Broughton 07929 305787

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
		<p>(Note: This item constitutes a Key Decision in part where proposed increases in fees and charges contained in the report are greater than five percent (Attachment D, Appendix 6a refers). Other decisions emanating from the report will require final approval by Council on 22 February 2022. This is reflected in this decisions notice accordingly.)</p> <p>Recommended to Council (as part of the budget setting process): (22 February 2022) That:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> the revenue and capital budget for 2022 to 2026, plus 2021 to 2022 capital projects that subsequently require to be carried forward at the year end, attached at Attachment A to Report number: CAB/WS/22/008, and as detailed in Attachment D (Appendices 1-5), 	<p>Cabinet supports the key budget assumptions and proposals for securing a balanced budget for 2022 to 2023, as previously considered and recommended by the Performance and Audit Scrutiny Committee and incorporated into Report No: CAB/WS/22/005.</p> <p>In 2022 to 2023, the Cabinet is recommending the level of Band D council tax be set at £187.11, an increase of £5 on the average West Suffolk council tax for 2021 to 2022. This recommendation is based on the option to harmonise the council tax levels of the two predecessor areas (Forest Heath and St Edmundsbury) by 2022 to 2023.</p> <p>For 2022 to 2023 this represents an average Band D weekly increase of 22 pence (for the predecessor</p>	<p>therefore there are no alternative options.</p>	<p>Officer: Rachael Mann Director (Resources and Property) 01638 719245</p>

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
		<p>Attachment E (Appendices 1-4), Attachment F and Attachment H, be approved.</p> <p>2. Having taken into account the conclusions of the Director's (Resources and Property) report on the adequacy of reserves and the robustness of budget estimates (Attachment C) and the Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) (Attachment D), particularly the Scenario Planning and Sensitivity Analysis (Attachment D, Appendix 5) and all other information contained in Report number: CAB/WS/22/008, the Cabinet recommends the level of Band D council tax for 2022 to 2023 be set at £187.11, an increase of £5 on the average West Suffolk</p>	<p>area of Forest Heath) and 3 pence (for the predecessor area of St Edmundsbury). Noting that just over 70 per cent of West Suffolk residents are in bands A to C, these will actually see a lower increase.</p> <p>A review of the Council's fees and charges have also been undertaken as part of the budget setting process. Those that are proposed to be changed are detailed in Attachment D, Appendices 6 and 6a and have been supported by the Cabinet. Those contained in Appendix 6a constitute a Key Decision and are therefore subject to call-in.</p>		

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
		<p>council tax for 2021 to 2022. This recommendation is based on the option to harmonise the council tax levels of the two predecessor areas (Forest Heath and St Edmundsbury) by 2022 to 2023. The level of council tax beyond 2022 to 2023 will be set in accordance with the annual budget process for the relevant financial year.</p> <p>3. The Director (Resources and Property), in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Resources and Property, be authorised to vire funds between existing Earmarked Reserves (as set out at Attachment D, Appendix 3) as deemed appropriate throughout the medium term financial planning period.</p>			

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
		<p>4. Approval be given to the extension of the business rate reliefs set out in paragraphs 3.12 to 3.15 of Report number: CAB/WS/22/008, in support of West Suffolk's business community.</p> <p>Resolved: That:</p> <p>5. Approval be given for the fees and charges price increases (as set out in Attachment D appendix 6a).</p> <p>Recommended to Council (as part of the budget setting process): (22 February 2022) That:</p> <p>6. Approval be given to the Flexible Use of Capital Receipts Strategy (as set out in Attachment G).</p>			

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 13 CAB/WS/22/009	None	<p>Community Chest and Theatre Royal Grants 2022 to 2023</p> <p>Resolved: That:</p> <p><u>A. Recommendations of the Grant Working Party: Community Chest</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. the allocation of Community Chest funding for 2022 to 2023, be approved, namely: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Reach Community Projects, Newmarket £5,000 b. West Suffolk Citizens Advice, West Suffolk £215,000 c. Abbeycroft Leisure, West Suffolk £10,992 d. Mildenhall and District Sea Cadets, Mildenhall £6,000 e. Moreton Hall Youth Action Group, Bury St Edmunds £12,520 	<p>The Grant Working Party has considered each of the 56 applications for Community Chest funding in detail and the Cabinet agrees that those that had been recommended for funding satisfactorily meet the eligibility and selection criteria.</p> <p>In respect of the core funding grant for the Theatre Royal, Bury St Edmunds, and having acknowledged that the Council will review the theatre's recovery plans from COVID-19, together with the Council's long-term plan to implement a phased reduction to their grant over a three to five year period from 2022 onwards in line with the wider Council's budget, the Cabinet agrees that funding should be granted at £61,000 for 2022 to 2023.</p>	<p>The Council could choose not to provide any grant funding; however, it is recognised that some support to the Voluntary, Community and Social Enterprise Sector (VCSE) is required. The Community Chest also enables the Council to commission services to support the delivery of its priorities.</p> <p>In respect of the core funding grant to the Theatre Royal, Bury St</p>	<p>Portfolio Holders: Robert Everitt 01284 769000</p> <p>Joanna Rayner (for Theatre Royal core funding grant only) 07872 456836</p> <p>Chair of the Grant Working Party: Jim Thorndyke 01359 250271</p> <p>Officer: Davina Howes Director (Families and Communities) 01284 757070</p>

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
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> f. Suffolk Accident and Rescue Service (SARS), West Suffolk £10,000 g. West Suffolk Hive CIC, West Suffolk £1,880 h. Alumah CIO, Brandon £4,058 i. Bury Women’s Aid, West Suffolk £16,225 j. Hope After Suicide Loss, West Suffolk £14,175 k. Relate, West Suffolk £3,750 l. Room 4, Haverhill £4,680 m. Suffolk Rape Crisis, West Suffolk £7,000 n. The Befriending Scheme, Haverhill £5,267 o. Homestart in Suffolk, West Suffolk £5,700 p. Homestart Mid and West Suffolk, West Suffolk £15,000 q. Sharing Parenting – Community Outreach, Newmarket £5,400 r. Sharing Parenting – SEN Parent Support, West Suffolk £12,480 		<p>Edmunds, the Council could choose not to provide funding; however, the Cabinet considers it appropriate to take a pragmatic approach, particularly in the current climate, whereby it is sensible to allow the theatre time to develop their COVID-19 recovery journey and the Council’s long-term plan to implement a phased reduction to their grant, as part of which,</p>	

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
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> s. Still Good Food CIO, Bury St Edmunds £7,400 t. Art Branches CIC, West Suffolk £10,776 u. Memories are Golden CIO, Haverhill £5,100 v. Millennium Farm Trust, West Suffolk £5,000 w. St Nicholas Hospice Trust, West Suffolk £20,000 x. Steel Bones, West Suffolk £5,500 y. The Shed, West Row £5,000 z. Bury Drop In, Bury St Edmunds £10,000 aa. Gatehouse Caring, Bury St Edmunds £10,000 bb. Our Special Friends, West Suffolk £10,000 cc. The Voluntary Network, West Suffolk £14,430 dd. Wood Monkey CIC, West Suffolk £8,400 2. No Community Chest funding be awarded for two years for the reasons outlined in paragraph 3.3 		all options will be considered.	

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
		<p>of Report number: CAB/WS/22/009.</p> <p>3. For the reasons set out in paragraph 3.5.2 of Report number: CAB/WS/22/009, no Community Chest funding for 2022 to 2023 be awarded to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Abbey 1000, West Suffolk b. All Saints Under Fives Pre-School, Newmarket c. Brandon Creative Forum, Brandon d. Bury Christian Youth, Bury St Edmunds e. Cavendish Bowls Club, Cavendish f. Clare Swimming Club, Clare g. Dance East, West Suffolk h. Mildenhall Girl Guides, Mildenhall i. St Peter's Church, Brandon j. Suffolk Young People's Health Project, West Suffolk 			

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
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> k. Brandon in Bloom, Brandon l. Greener Growth CIC, West Suffolk m. Haverhill Community Trust – Volunteer Centre, Haverhill n. SOS Bus CIO, Newmarket o. The Tree Action Society of Clare (TASC), Clare p. Beck Row Methodist Church, Beck Row q. Honington and Sapiston Village Hall, Honington and Sapiston r. Lidgate Village Hall, Lidgate s. Suffolk Building Preservation Trust Limited, Pakenham t. Freedom Bury St Edmunds CIC, Bury St Edmunds u. Restitute CIC, West Suffolk v. Suffolk Family Carers, West Suffolk w. Suffolk Mind, West Suffolk x. The Lightwave 			

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
		<p>y. Community CIO, Red Lodge and Beck Row St John's Church, Beck Row</p> <p>z. Newmarket Community Arts Centre Forum, Newmarket</p> <p><u>B. Core Funding: Theatre Royal, Bury St Edmunds</u></p> <p>That a grant of £61,000 core funding be approved for the Theatre Royal, Bury St Edmunds for 2022 to 2023, ahead of a wider review of funding in time for the 2023 to 2024 award, as set out in Appendix 2 to Report number: CAB/WS/22/009.</p>			

Jennifer Eves
 Director (Human Resources, Governance and Regulatory)
 10 February 2022