

# Reigate and Banstead Borough Council

## Statement of Decisions made at a meeting of the Executive on Thursday, 17 November 2022

Published:

The following decisions were made by the Executive at its meeting on **Thursday, 17 November 2022**. These decisions will come into force on **Monday 28 November 2022**. A decision by the Executive may be called-in (in accordance with Procedure Rule 5.14 of the Council's Constitution) by **Friday 25 November 2022**. Should you have any queries about any decision that has been made, contact should be made in the first instance to Democratic Services at [democratic@reigate-banstead.gov.uk](mailto:democratic@reigate-banstead.gov.uk). Any declaration of interest made by any member of the Executive is shown below.

	Item	Reason for Decision:	Alternative options:	Lead officer:
4	<p><b>Service &amp; Financial Planning 2023/24</b></p> <p><b>RESOLVED:</b></p> <p>i. That the national and local policy context (Annex 1) and significant financial uncertainties at this stage in the budget-setting process be noted.</p> <p>ii. That the service proposals set out in this report which seek to respond to this context and deliver our corporate priorities, be endorsed.</p>	<p>To ensure that the Council continues to plan and manage its resources well, deliver high standards of service and meet the aims and objectives of its Corporate Plan for 2020-2025 and supporting Strategies.</p>	<p>Option 1: Approve the proposed budget and financial planning changes set out within the report, for consultation under the terms of the Constitution. This option is recommended for approval, to ensure that service and financial plans are agreed in good time to adopt a balanced budget for 2023/24.</p> <p>Option 2: Only approve some of the proposed budget and financial planning changes set out within the report, for consultation under the terms of the Constitution. This option is</p>	<p>Chief Finance Officer</p>

	Item	Reason for Decision:	Alternative options:	Lead officer:
	<p>iii. That the draft service business plans for 2023/24 to 2025/26 be approved, and that Heads of Service be authorised to finalise the plans for their service areas in consultation with the relevant Portfolio Holders.</p> <p>iv. That the following be approved for consultation under the Council's budget and policy framework:</p> <p>a. Medium Term Financial Plan Forecasts and proposed actions to address the forecast Revenue Budget gap (Annex 2);</p> <p>b. Service Revenue Budget growth proposals totalling £0.442 million, savings of (£0.828) million and additional income of (£1.186) million (Annex 3);</p> <p>c. Central Revenue Budget Savings proposals totalling</p>		<p>not recommended, as it would undermine the service plans and would present a risk to closure of the forecast budget gap for 2023/24.</p> <p>Option 3: Reject the proposed budget and financial planning changes set out within the report, and request that further work be undertaken to develop new proposals for consultation under the terms of the Constitution. This option is not recommended as it would delay the budget consultation process, undermine service planning and leave the Council and risk of failing to adopt a balanced budget for 2023/24.</p>	

	Item	Reason for Decision:	Alternative options:	Lead officer:
	<p>(£0.897) million (Annex 3);</p> <p>d. Revenue Issues, Risks and Opportunities totalling £2.407 million, to be funded from earmarked Reserves as necessary;</p> <p>e. Revenue Reserve Balances at 1 April 2022 of £45.596 million (Annex 6.1);</p> <p>f. A forecast balanced Revenue budget for 2023/24, subject to final confirmation of the outstanding items; and</p> <p>g. Capital Programme Growth proposals totalling £7.683 million (Annex 4).</p> <p>v. That the Fees &amp; Charges Policy (Annex 5) be approved.</p> <p>vi. That the Reserves Policy (Annex 6.2) be approved.</p> <p>vii. That the Local Council Tax</p>			

	Item	Reason for Decision:	Alternative options:	Lead officer:
	Support Scheme be reviewed during 2023/24 and the outcome reported as part of Service & Financial Planning for 2024/25.			
5	<p><b>Housing Assistance Policy - Financial Assistance for Adaptations and Repairs</b></p> <p><b>RESOLVED</b> that the amended Housing Assistance Policy – Financial Assistance for Adaptations and Repairs provided as Annex 1 be approved.</p>	<p>The Housing Assistance Policy – Financial Assistance for Adaptations &amp; Repairs ('the Policy') has been reviewed and updated to reflect current and future circumstances, particularly increases in the cost of housing assistance works due to global materials price increases. The changes recommended are in keeping with national and local policy objectives of helping to maintain independence for older and disabled residents.</p> <p>The proposals:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Benefit vulnerable residents and enable them to remain living at home safely and in their own communities for as long as possible; and</li> <li>· Make best use of the Better Care Fund, Housing Capital Grant, that is provided by central government for councils to</li> </ul>	<p>Option 1: Agree the recommendation to adopt the revised Housing Assistance Policy. This is the recommended option. The financial risk of over-spending will be managed through diligent budget review and consideration will be given to a reduced level of discretionary spending, if an overspend were forecast. Communications with our residents will be clear on what is mandatory grant policy, as well as that which is discretionary policy and therefore subject to review, in order to manage expectations.</p> <p>Option 2: Make additional amendments to the recommended Housing Assistance Policy and then agree the recommendation as set out in the revised Policy. To approve several, but not all, of the recommended Policy elements</p>	Head of Neighbourhood Operations

	Item	Reason for Decision:	Alternative options:	Lead officer:
		<p>develop local responses to meet need from residents who require practical assistance to remain living at home, primarily via the Disabled Facilities Grant ('DFG').</p>	<p>would require officers to work with Executive to ascertain which elements should be implemented immediately, and which require further action, or are to remain as current policy. To implement a number of the Policy amendments, but not the full range, would prolong current budget underspends, rather than responding to customer need.</p> <p>Option 3: To not agree the recommendation. This will significantly hinder the Council's ability to make the most effective use of the Better Care Fund grant allocation and is therefore not recommended. Not to change the Policy would miss an opportunity to target resources, also to ensure older and disabled people experience a swift decision and installation of the equipment and adaptations they require. Policies would not contribute as significantly to local social care and health objectives. The current underspend would continue to grow, but being a ring-fenced budget, could not be used for other council activity.</p>	

	Item	Reason for Decision:	Alternative options:	Lead officer:
6	<p><b>Governance of Council's charitable trusts</b></p> <p><b>RECOMMENDED:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) That, in accordance with Article 15 of the Constitution, Full Council approves the extension of the terms of reference of the Commercial Ventures Executive Sub-Committee, subject to paragraph (2) below, by incorporating the terms of reference as shown in Appendix 1 to this report.</li> <li>2) That the Monitoring Officer be authorised to take all necessary action to finalise the terms of reference to be included in the Council's Constitution and to make such other consequential amendments to the Constitution as the Monitoring Officer deems appropriate.</li> <li>3) The Commercial Ventures Executive Sub-Committee be</li> </ol>	<p>To extend the terms of reference of the Commercial Ventures Executive Sub-Committee so as to allow it to review the activities of the Council's Charities, including monitoring their performance, which will enable the Council to administer more effectively its responsibilities as the sole trustee of Charities.</p>	<p>Option 1: To make the recommendation to Full Council as set out above. This is the recommended option for the reasons set out in the report.</p> <p>Option 2: To do nothing. This is not recommended.</p>	<p>Managing Director, Strategic Head of Legal and Governance</p>

	Item	Reason for Decision:	Alternative options:	Lead officer:
	renamed as the Partner, Shareholder and Trustee Sub- Committee			