



Reigate and Banstead Borough Council Statement of Decisions made at a meeting of the Executive on Thursday, 16 November 2023

Published: 21 November 2023

The following decisions were made by the Executive at its meeting on **Thursday, 16 November 2023**. These decisions will come into force on **Wednesday, 29 November 2023**. A decision by the Executive may be called-in (in accordance with Procedure Rule 5.14 of the Council’s Constitution) by **Tuesday, 28 November 2023**. 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. Any declaration of interest made by any member of the Executive is shown below.

	Item	Reason for Decision:	Options:	Lead officer:
5	<p>Service & Financial Planning 2024/25</p> <p>RESOLVED – that the Executive agreed:</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 – Recommended - Approve the proposed budget and financial planning changes set out within the report, for consultation under the terms of the Constitution. Recommended to ensure that service and financial plans are agreed in good time to adopt a balanced budget for 2024/25.</p> <p>Option 2 – Not Recommended – Only approve some of the proposed budget and financial planning changes set out within the report, for consultation under the terms of the Constitution. Not recommended, as it would undermine the service plans and would present a risk to closure</p>	<p>Chief Finance Officer</p>

	Item	Reason for Decision:	Alternative options:	Lead officer:
	<p>(iii) That the draft service business plans for 2024/25 to 2026/27 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 £0.943 million, savings of (£1.719) million and additional income of (£0.540) million (Annex 3);</p> <p>c. Continued funding support for Banstead Commons Conservators for a further</p>		<p>of the forecast budget gap for 2024/25.</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 Constitution. Not recommended as it would delay the budget consultation process, undermine service planning and leave the Council at risk of failing to adopt a balanced budget for 2024/25.</p>	

	Item	Reason for Decision:	Alternative options:	Lead officer:
	<p>three years (2024/25 to 2026/27);</p> <p>d. Central Revenue Budget savings and growth proposals totalling (£0.376) million, and £1.75m provision for the 2024/25 pay award (Annex 3);</p> <p>e. Agreement of a new 10 year Section 136 agreement with Horley Town Council;</p> <p>f. Revenue Issues, Risks and Opportunities totalling £0.964 million, to be funded from earmarked Reserves as necessary;</p> <p>g. Revenue Reserve Balances at 1 April 2023 of £35.474 million (Annex 6.1); and</p> <p>h. A forecast balanced Revenue budget for 2024/25, subject to final confirmation of the outstanding items.</p> <p>(v) That the Capital Programme Growth proposals totalling</p>			

	Item	Reason for Decision:	Alternative options:	Lead officer:
	<p>£3.976 million (Annex 4) be approved.</p> <p>(vi) That the Fees & Charges Policy (Annex 5) be approved.</p> <p>(vii) That the Reserves Policy (Annex 6.2) be approved.</p> <p>(viii) That the following changes to the Local Council Tax Support Scheme be approved and adopted from 2024/25:</p> <p>a. Removal of the maximum award of 90% Council Tax liability for 1,800 households and increasing the award to 100%;</p> <p>b. Removal of the minimum requirement for a household to qualify for £5 per week before support is provided;</p> <p>c. Expansion of support awards to cover full Council Tax liability for residents in Bands F to H;</p> <p>(ix) That the following changes Council Tax premiums on empty properties be approved</p>			

	Item	Reason for Decision:	Alternative options:	Lead officer:
	<p>and adopted from 2024/25:</p> <p>a. Removal of the empty homes discount of 28-days where a property becomes empty and unfurnished;</p> <p>b. For empty and furnished second homes – charge 200% council tax after the first 12 months; and</p> <p>c. For long-term empty properties – commence charging the 100% premium after 12 months.</p>			
6	<p>A23 Great Street Design Code Draft SPD</p> <p>RESOLVED – that the Executive:</p> <p>(i) Approve the A23 Great Street Design Draft Code Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) for public consultation;</p> <p>(ii) The Head of Planning in consultation with the Executive Member for Place, Planning and Regulatory Services, be</p>	<p>The draft Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) will provide a set of rules and guidance material to help improve the design of development along the stretch of the A23 corridor between Redhill and Horley. It will give developers and decision makers the tools to improve the design quality of new developments. The Design Code will help support the Local Plan as a SPD. Consultation on the draft SPD is planned to start from December 2023 for a minimum of 4 weeks.</p>	<p>Option 1: Approve the A23 Great Street Design Code Draft SPD for consultation, and to allow the Head of Planning in consultation with the Executive Member to make any necessary minor amendments prior to consultation. Recommended option as it would enable the Council to move towards adoption of up-to-date guidance to provide clarity and certainty for developers, development management and others, making best use of the work undertaken.</p>	Head of Planning

	Item	Reason for Decision:	Alternative options:	Lead officer:
	<p>authorised to make any necessary minor amendments to the A23 Great Street Design Draft Code Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) prior to consultation.</p>		<p>Option 2: To not approve the A23 Great Street Design Code Draft SPD for public consultation and not allow the Head of Planning in consultation with the Executive Member to make any necessary minor amendments prior to consultation. Not recommended option as it would reduce the benefits associated with the design work undertaken.</p>	