



Chelmsford City Council

25 July 2023

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## Reports from the Cabinet

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Report by: Leader of the Council & Cabinet Member for Connected Chelmsford

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### Officer contact:

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### Purpose

To inform Council of the decisions of the Cabinet on 6 July 2023 on the reports at Items 7.1 to 7.4 on the agenda for this meeting. To also inform Council of the decision of the Cabinet on 14<sup>th</sup> March 2023 on the report at Item 7.5 on the agenda for this meeting.

### Recommendations:

That the recommendations of the Cabinet on Agenda Items 7.1, 7.2, 7.3, 7.4 & 7.5 be approved.

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## 1. Treasury Management Outturn 2022/23

The Cabinet resolved as follows:

RESOLVED that the Treasury Management Outturn report for 2022/23 be noted and that the Council be recommended to endorse it.

## 2. Capital Programme Update and Provisions Outturn 2022/23

The Cabinet resolved as follows:

RESOLVED that the following be approved;

1. the latest proposed budgets for the Capital Schemes a net increase of **£183k** from £123.876 to £124.059m shown in **Appendix 1** and detailed in **paragraph 3.1** which includes;
  - a. the cost of the increased schemes £495k
  - b. the net reduction in the outturn of the completed schemes, -£257k
  - c. the budget removed as the spend was transferred to revenue, -£55k
2. Approve the proposed Asset Replacement Programme for 2023/24 a net increase of £222k from £5.013m to £5.235m shown in **Appendix 4** and detailed in **paragraph 4.2** which includes;
  - a. the rephasing of spend from 2022/23 £176k and
  - b. increases in budgets £46k.

RECOMMENDED to the Council that it:

1. approves the method of funding the capital expenditure incurred in 2022/23, as set out in the table in **paragraph 5** and as recommended by the S151 Officer to be the most cost effective;
2. note that changes to the budgets for the Chelmer Waterside Infrastructure project are not contained in this capital update report but dealt with in a separate report to be taken to July Council;
3. notes the proposed budget for the Capital Schemes, £124.059m and the risks associated with those budgets;
4. note the Asset Replacement Programme for 2023/24, £5.235m

## 3. Budget Framework – Medium-Term Financial Strategy 2024/25

The Cabinet resolved as follows:

RESOLVED that the following be approved;

- 1) The carry forward of budgets of £146k from 2022/23 for audit costs and initiatives which were delayed, as detailed in Appendix 4.
- 2) That a financial forecast of both revenue and capital is to be reported to Cabinet in the Autumn as part of the process to produce a balanced 2024/25 budget.

RECOMMENDED to the Council that it:

- 1) approve the Actions in Appendix 3 as the basis of financial management
- 2) Council notes Financial Risks and Potential Upsides (Appendix 1)
- 3) approve the approach to reserves in Appendix 2 of the report
- 4) approve the budget guidelines in Appendix 4

#### 4. Proposed Amendments to the Constitution

The Cabinet resolved as follows:

RECOMMENDED to Council that it approve the amendments to the Constitution detailed in Appendices 1 and 2 to the report.

#### 5. Amendments to Council Tax Premiums in respect of empty properties with effect from 1 April 2024

The Cabinet resolved as follows:

RECOMMENDED TO THE COUNCIL that

- 1) A Council Tax premium of 100% is levied in respect of empty and unfurnished properties 12 months after the property becomes empty.
- 2) A Council Tax premium of 100% is levied in respect of unoccupied dwellings, which were substantially furnished.
- 3) The application of premiums in both cases is applied from 1 April 2024 or such other date as may be permitted following the passage of the Levelling Up and Regeneration Bill through Parliament, with the implementation date delegated to the Director of Connected Chelmsford.

Background papers:

None

Appendices:

None

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#### Corporate Implications

As set out in the original reports to the Cabinet

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