



CABINET

Summary of decisions made at the meeting held on Monday 29 January 2024

Agenda Item	Report Title	Decision	Key Decision	Date Forward Plan Published
8	Fee Levels for adult social care providers 2024/25	Cabinet RESOLVED to: 1. Agree to award a £23.2m fee uplift, as set out in section 3. 2. Note the risks presented in this paper due to the need to balance financial pressures for the market alongside affordability to the County Council. 3. Note mitigating actions as part of wider County Council budget setting decisions including the need to lobby Government for fair funding for Norfolk. 4. Agree the implementation of the fee uplift exercise described in section 3 of this paper.	Yes	02 March 2023
9	Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) Funding	Cabinet RESOLVED to agree: 1. the Dedicated Schools Grant funding including a. the changes to the schools funding formula; b. the changes to the early years funding entitlements formula; c. agreeing the high needs block budget, noting that it has been assessed to meet our statutory duties and it adds to the Dedicated Schools Grant cumulative; 2. to delegate decision making powers to the Executive Director of Children's Services, in conjunction with the Lead Member for Children's Services, to agree the final unit values, whilst still mirroring the National Funding Formula, once the final Dedicated Schools Grant calculations of individual school allocations are known and in line with the principles of Cabinet's decision.	Yes	2 December 2023

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10	Annual Investment and Treasury Strategy 2024-25	<p>Cabinet RESOLVED to agree and to recommend to County Council the Annual Investment and Treasury Strategy for 2024-25 as set out in Annex 1 of the report, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Capital Prudential Indicators included in the body of the report. • The Minimum Revenue Provision Statement 2024-25 in Appendix 1 of the report. • The list of approved counterparties at Appendix 4 of the report. • The Treasury Management Prudential Indicators detailed in Appendix 5 of the report. <p>For inclusion within the policy framework</p>	Yes	2 March 2023
11	Capital Strategy and Programme 2024-25	<p>Cabinet RESOLVED:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To agree the Capital Strategy at Appendix A of the report as a framework for the prioritisation and continued development of the Council's capital programme; 2. To agree the proposed 2023-28+ capital programme of £1,134.982m, subject to the planned slippage of £253.0m and additional amounts for schemes yet to be re-profiled from 2023-24; 3. To agree to recommend the programme to the County Council for approval, including the new and extended capital schemes outlined in Appendix D of the report; 4. To agree to recommend to County Council the Council's Flexible Use of Capital Receipts Strategy for 2024-25 as set out in Section 5 of the report; 5. To note known grant settlements as summarised in Section 3 of the report and agree that future capital grants will be added to the programme when confirmed; 6. To note the forecast of estimated capital receipts to be generated to achieve the target of £21.37m, subject to market conditions, over the next four years to support schemes not funded from other sources, as set out in Table 8 of the report. 	Yes	2 March 2023

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12	Finance Monitoring Report 2023-24 P8: November 2023	<p>Cabinet RESOLVED:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To agree and to recommend to the Council the increase of £6.259m to the capital programme to address capital funding requirements funded mostly from various external sources as set out in detail in capital Appendix 3, paragraph 1.4 and 4.2 of the report as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • £0.189m increase in External Funding for various Highways schemes • £0.26m allocation of NCC Capital Receipts to support the compulsory purchase of land for County Farms • (£0.160m) reduction in External funding for various Children's Services Schools schemes to reflect actual expenditure in projects nearing completion • £1.579m grant funding for 24-25 received from the Department of Education for the expansion of Childcare provision in the County • £0.330m external funding the Corporate Property scheme at Chapel Road • £0.074m for the Norfolk Fire and Rescue Services (NFRS) Vehicle Replacement Programme • £0.053m for the LMS Schools Based capital maintenance programme • £0.460m additional S106 developer contribution to Dereham, Docking, Hopton and Holt • £0.105m additional external funding from Department of Transport and S106 for various Highways maintenance schemes • £0.260m additional DfT grant allocated to the Long Stratton Bypass • £0.195m additional contribution from Revenue and Reserves for the Hethel Improvement Commission • £2.821m funding received from the National Lottery Heritage Fund to offset the inflationary cost pressures on the Castle Keep Museum project 	Yes	General Exception to 28 days published on 9 January 2024

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • £0.018m contribution from Revenue and Reserves to fund the purchase of a new car for the ASC Road Safety Scheme • (£0.075m) other minor adjustments to capital schemes. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. To agree and to recommend to Council the approval the following amendments to the P10 Capital Programme for the following schemes as set out in Capital Appendix 3 paragraph 4.3 of the report as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • £4.51m additional funding from the Department of Transport from the Road Resurfacing Fund for local highways maintenance in 2023-24 and again in 2024-25 alongside additional funding for the next 10 years as set out in Appendix 3 paragraph 4.3 of the report. 3. To note the revised current and future 2023-28 capital programme as set out in Appendix 3 of the report including the significant reprofiling undertaken to date. 4. To delegate to the Director of Procurement and the Director of Property to undertake the necessary procurement and tender processes to deliver this revised capital programme in accordance with the delegated authority awarded on 6 March 2023 in the Authority to enact Capital Programme paper - Document.ashx (cmis.uk.com). 5. To agree the period 8 general fund revenue forecast of a balanced budget, noting also that Executive Directors will take measures to reduce or eliminate potential over-spends where these occur within services; 6. To agree the period 8 forecast of 97% savings delivery in 2023-24, noting also that Executive Directors will continue to take measures to mitigate potential savings shortfalls through alternative savings or underspends; 7. To note the forecast General Balances at 31 March 2024 of £25.410m. 		
13	2024-25 Revenue Budget and Medium Term Financial Strategy 2024-28	Cabinet RESOLVED: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) To consider the statements regarding the uncertain planning environment, robustness of budget estimates, assumptions and risks relating to the 2024-25 budget, and authorise the Director of Strategic Finance, in consultation with the Leader of the Council and the Cabinet 	Yes	2 March 2023

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		<p>Member for Finance, to make any changes required to reflect Final Local Government Finance Settlement information (if available), or changes in council tax and business rates forecasts from District Councils, in order to maintain a balanced budget position for presentation to Full Council. In recognition of the budget gap forecast for 2025-26 and to enable a final balanced Budget position to be recommended to County Council, Cabinet is asked to agree the following principles:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) that any additional resources which become available should be used to delay the use of one-off funding from reserves from 2024-25 to 2025-26, or to establish a budget contingency, to add further growth items and consider the scope to remove or defer savings, or b) that any income shortfall should be addressed from the Corporate Business Risk Reserve (to the extent possible). Where the Corporate Business Risk Reserve is insufficient, to note that the ultimate source of funding to balance the Budget will be the General Fund. <p>2) To note that a number of further savings have been developed to support the preparation of a balanced budget since the initial list of proposals considered by Cabinet in October 2023, some of which may require consultation or equality impact assessment that will be undertaken as soon as possible. Cabinet is therefore asked:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) To agree that the proposals subject to further consultation will be brought back to Cabinet for final decision making during 2024-25; b) To agree that in the event that proposals cannot be implemented in 2024-25, either following consultation and equality impact assessment, or as a result of subsequent member decision making, the following approach would be adopted: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i) One-off options would be sought to deliver a balanced Budget. ii) In order to achieve a robust and sustainable financial position, service departments would be asked to identify alternative recurrent proposals to replace the one-off measures in-year; and iii) In the event that recurrent 2024-25 proposals cannot be found, service departments will be asked to bring forward ongoing replacement savings at the same level for 2025-26 and 		

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		<p>proposals that enable the one-off resources used in 2024-25 to be replenished.</p> <p>For all other proposals, Cabinet is asked:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3) To review the findings of public consultation as set out in Section 14 Appendix 1 of the report, and in full in Appendix 5 of the report, and consider these when recommending the budget changes required to deliver a balanced budget as set out in 4) To consider and comment on the findings of equality impact assessments, as set out in Appendix 6 to this report, and in doing so, note the Council's duty under the Equality Act 2010 to have due regard to the need to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other conduct that is prohibited by or under the Act; • Advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it; and • Foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it. 5) To note that the Council has responded to the consultation undertaken on the Provisional Local Government Settlement for 2024-25 as detailed in Section 3 of Appendix 1 of the report. 6) To note that the Council will continue to operate a Business Rates Pool for 2024-25 in partnership with Norfolk District Councils on the same terms as the existing 2023-24 Pool and as set out in Section 6 of Appendix 1 of the report and approve the use of 2023-24 Pool funds as set out. 7) To agree to recommend to County Council: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) The level of risk and budget assumptions set out in the Robustness of Estimates report (Appendix 4 of the report), which underpin the revenue and capital budget decisions and planning for 2024-28. b) The general principle of seeking to increase general fund balances as part of closing the 2023-24 accounts and that in 2024-25 any 		

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		<p>further additional resources which become available during the year should be added to the general fund balance wherever possible.</p> <p>c) The findings of public consultation (Appendix 5 of the report), which should be considered when agreeing the 2024-25 Budget (Appendix 1 of the report).</p> <p>d) To note the advice of the Director of Strategic Finance (Section 151 Officer), in Section 5 of Appendix 1 of the report, on the financial impact of an increase in council tax and the sustainability of the Council's medium term position.</p> <p>e) That the Council's 2024-25 Budget will include a general council tax increase of 2.99% and a 2.00% increase in the Adult Social Care precept, an overall increase of 4.99% (shown in Section 5 of Appendix 1 of the report), as recommended by the Director of Strategic Finance, and resulting in an increased overall County Council Net Revenue Budget of £527.748m for 2024-25, including budget increases of £116.024m, budget savings of £45.022m, and funding changes of £36.961m as set out in Table 15 of Appendix 1 of the report, and the actions required to deliver the proposed savings, subject to any changes required in line with recommendation 1 above to enable a balanced budget to be proposed. This would result in a budget gap of £45.927m to be addressed for 2025-26, and £132.428m over the life of the Medium Term Financial Strategy.</p> <p>f) The budget proposals set out for 2025-26 to 2027-28, including authorising Executive Directors to take the action required to deliver budget savings for 2025-26 to 2027-28 as appropriate.</p> <p>g) With regard to the future years, that further plans to meet the remaining budget shortfalls in the period 2025-26 to 2027-28 are developed and brought back to Cabinet during 2024-25 as soon as possible and in line with the proposed timetable.</p> <p>h) Noting Government's assumptions that local authorities will raise the maximum council tax available to them, and that the final level of council tax for future years is subject to Member decisions annually (informed by any referendum principles defined by the</p>		

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		<p>Government), to confirm, or otherwise, the assumptions set out in the Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS Table 2 in Appendix 2 of the report) that the Council's budget planning for 2024-25 will include for planning purposes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i) general council tax increases of 1.99% from 2025-26; ii) Adult Social Care precept increases of 1.00% 2025-26 and 0.00% from 2026-27); and iii) that if the referendum threshold were increased in the period 2025-26 to 2027-28, or any further discretion were offered to increase the Adult Social Care precept (or similar), the Section 151 Officer would recommend the Council take full advantage of any flexibility in view of the overall financial position. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i) That the Director of Strategic Finance be authorised to transfer from the County Fund to the Salaries and General Accounts all sums necessary in respect of revenue and capital expenditure provided in the 2024-25 Budget, to make payments, to raise and repay loans, and to invest funds. j) To agree the Medium-Term Financial Strategy 2024-28 as set out in Appendix 2 of the report, including the two policy objectives to be achieved: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i) Revenue: To identify further funding or savings for 2025-26 to 2027-28 to produce a balanced budget in all years 2024-28 in accordance with the timetable set out in the Revenue Budget report (Section 4 Appendix 1 of the report). ii) Capital: To continue to provide a framework for identifying and prioritising capital requirements and proposals to ensure that all capital investment is targeted at meeting the Council's priorities. k) The mitigating actions proposed in the equality impact assessments (Appendix 6 of the report). l) Note the planned reduction in non-schools earmarked and general reserves of 36.72% over five years, from £175.232m (March 2023) to £110.880m (March 2028) (Section 6 of Appendix 3 of the report); 		

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		<p>m) Note the policy on reserves and provisions in Section 3 of Appendix 3 of the report;</p> <p>n) Agree, based on current planning assumptions and risk forecasts set out in Section 5 of Appendix 3 of the report:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i) for 2024-25, a minimum level of general balances of £26.660m, and ii) a forecast minimum level for planning purposes of <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2025-26, £27.910m; • 2026-27, £29.160m; and • 2027-28, £30.410m. <p>as part of the consideration of the budget plans for 2024-28 and supporting these budget recommendations;</p> <p>o) Agree the use of non-school Earmarked Reserves, as set out in Section 6 of Appendix 3 of the report.</p>		
14	Reports of the Cabinet Member and Executive Director Delegated Decisions made since the last Cabinet meeting:	Cabinet noted the delegated decisions which had been taken, as set out in the agenda.	N/A	N/A

Call-ins should be submitted to committees@norfolk.gov.uk using the call-in form by no later than 4.00pm on **Monday 5 February 2024**. Further information about the call-in process can be found in [Part 7.4 of the Council's Constitution](#).

In circumstances where a decision is taken by Cabinet but needs to be implemented urgently, the call-in procedures will not apply. These will be identified on the Cabinet agenda and the decision notice.

Any Decisions called-in from those made by Cabinet on 29 January 2024 will be considered at a Scrutiny Committee on 15 February 2024.