



CABINET

Summary of Decisions made by Cabinet – Monday 1 February 2021

Agenda Item	Report Title	Decision	Key Decision	Date Forward Plan Published
8	Finance Monitoring Report 2020-21 P9: December 2020.	<p>Cabinet RESOLVED to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> approve proposed additional transfer of £1m to the corporate Covid Risk Reserve as set out in paragraph 2.46 of Appendix 1. approve the forecast allocation of the Contain Outbreak Management Fund (COMF) budget as set out in paragraph 5.13 of Appendix 1. (a) approve the continuation of financial support to providers as described in section 5, including specifically grants described in paragraphs 5.8 and 5.14 of Revenue Appendix 1, consistent with detailed government guidance relating to the latest lockdown and (b) delegate authority to relevant Cabinet members to make decisions relating to the ongoing measures that are still needed to support providers for the remainder of 2020-21, subject to those payments remaining within the remaining budgets, and Covid-19 funding available for that purpose. Note that the Council has received £0.602m of funding to provide support to Clinically Extremely Vulnerable individuals, and that further allocations are due to be received for the January / February 2021 lockdown period, and to agree that this will be used for the purposes set out by MHCLG in their guidance to local authorities, as summarised in Appendix 1 paragraphs 5.5-5.7. Note the period 9 general fund forecast revenue underspend of £0.165m noting also that Executive Directors will take measures to reduce or eliminate potential over-spends; Note the COVID-19 grant funding received of £104.588m, the proposed use of that funding, and the related expenditure pressures resulting in net Covid-19 pressure, of £9.838m taking into account proposed transfers to the Corporate Risk reserve. 	No	N/A

		<p>7. Note the period 9 forecast shortfall in savings of £17.580m, noting also that Executive Directors will take measures to mitigate savings shortfalls through alternative savings or underspends;</p> <p>8. Note the forecast General Balances at 31 March 2021 of £19.706m, before taking into account any over/under spends;</p> <p>9. Note the expenditure and funding of the revised current and future 2020-23 capital programmes.</p>		
9	Norfolk County Council Revenue Budget 2021-22 and Medium Term Financial Strategy 2021-25.	<p>Cabinet considered and reviewed the report and RESOLVED to:</p> <p>1) note the statements regarding the uncertain planning environment, robustness of budget estimates, assumptions and risks relating to the 2021-22 budget, and authorise the Executive Director of Finance and Commercial Services, in consultation with the Leader of the Council and the Cabinet 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. For the avoidance of doubt, to enable a final balanced Budget position to be recommended to County Council, Cabinet is asked to agree that any additional resources which become available will be added to the Corporate Business Risk Reserve, and any income shortfall will be addressed from the Corporate Business Risk Reserve (to the extent possible).</p> <p>2) note the findings of public consultation as set out in Appendix 5, and consider these when recommending the budget changes required to deliver a balanced budget as set out in Appendix 1.</p> <p>3) note the findings of equality and rural assessments, as set out in Appendix 6 to the report, and in doing so, note the council's duty under the Equality Act 2010 to have due regard to the need to:</p> <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 	Yes	31 December 2020

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it. <p>4) note that the council has responded to the consultation undertaken on the provisional Settlement.</p> <p>5) note the decision by Norfolk Leaders, acting as the Pool Board, to withdraw from 2021- 22 Business Rates pooling as set out in section 9 of Appendix 1.</p> <p>6) agree the council's assessment of compliance with the CIPFA Financial Management Code as detailed in section 15 of Appendix 1.</p> <p>7) agree to recommend to County Council:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> The level of risk and budget assumptions set out in the Robustness of Estimates report (Appendix 4), which underpin the revenue and capital budget decisions and planning for 2021-25. The principle of seeking to increase general fund balances as part of closing the 2020-21 accounts and that in 2021-22: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> any grant funding received from the Local Tax Income Guarantee scheme be added to the Corporate Business Risk Reserve to offset tax income losses resulting from COVID-19 as they arise; any further additional resources which become available during the year should be added to the general fund balance wherever possible. The findings of public consultation (Appendix 5), which should be considered when agreeing the 2021-22 Budget (Appendix 1). An overall County Council Net Revenue Budget of £439.094m for 2021-22, including budget increases of £127.170m and budget decreases of -£118.498m as set out in Table 11 of Appendix 1, 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. The budget proposals set out for 2022-23 to 2024-25, including authorising Executive Directors to take the action required to deliver budget savings for 2022-23 to 2024-25 as appropriate. 		
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		<p>f) With regard to the future years, that further plans to meet the remaining budget shortfalls in the period 2022-23 to 2024-25 are developed and brought back to Cabinet during 2021-22.</p> <p>g) note the advice of the Executive Director of Finance and Commercial Services (Section 151 Officer), in section 7 of Appendix 1, on the financial impact of an increase in council tax, and confirm, or otherwise, the assumptions that:</p> <p>i) the council's 2021-22 budget will include a general council tax increase of 1.99% and a 2.00% increase in the Adult Social Care precept, an overall increase of 3.99% (shown in section 7 of Appendix 1), and for 2022-23 a 1.00% Adult Social Care precept (being a partial deferral of the 2021-22 Adult Social Care precept), based on the current discretions offered by Government and as recommended by the Executive Director of Finance and Commercial Services.</p> <p>ii) the council's budget planning in future years will include general council tax increases of 1.99% for planning purposes, as set out in the Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS Table 4 in Appendix 2). These council tax assumptions have regard to the level of referendum threshold expected to be set for the year and take into account the Government's historic assumptions that local authorities will raise the maximum council tax available to them. Notwithstanding any decision to defer a portion of the Adult Social Care precept, the final level of council tax for future years is subject to Member decisions annually.</p> <p>iii) Beyond the 1.00% deferral of the Adult Social Care precept, no further increases in the Adult Social Care precept for 2022-23 onwards are assumed based on current Government policy, but that these will be subject to Member decisions annually within and informed by any parameters defined by the Government.</p> <p>iv) if the referendum threshold were increased in the period 2022-23 to 2024-25 to above 1.99%, or any further discretion were offered to increase the Adult Social Care precept (or similar), then it is likely that the Section 151 Officer would recommend the council take full advantage of any flexibility in view of the council's overall financial</p>		
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		<p>position as set out in the assumptions in section 6 of Appendix 1.</p> <p>h) That the Executive Director of Finance and Commercial Services 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 2021-22 Budget, to make payments, to raise and repay loans, and to invest funds.</p> <p>i) agree the Medium Term Financial Strategy 2021-25 as set out in Appendix 2, including the two policy objectives to be achieved:</p> <p>i) Revenue: To identify further funding or savings for 2022-23 to 2024-25 to produce a balanced budget in all years 2021-25 in accordance with the timetable set out in the Revenue Budget report (Table 1 of Appendix 1).</p> <p>ii) Capital: 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.</p> <p>j) The mitigating actions proposed in the equality and rural impact assessments (Appendix 6).</p> <p>k) Note the planned reduction in non-schools earmarked and general reserves of 43.0% over five years, from £113.949m (March 2020) to £64.953m (March 2025) (Reserves Table 6 in Appendix 3);</p> <p>l) Note the policy on reserves and provisions in Section 3 of Appendix 3;</p> <p>m) Agree, based on current planning assumptions and risk forecasts set out in Appendix 3:</p> <p>i) for 2021-22, a minimum level of general balances of £19.706m, and</p> <p>ii) a forecast minimum level for planning purposes of</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2022-23, £21.206m; • 2023-24, £22.706m; and • 2024-25, £24.206m. <p>as part of the consideration of the budget plans for 2021-25, reflecting the transfer of risk from Central to Local Government, and supporting recommendations;</p> <p>n) Agree the use of non-school Earmarked Reserves, as set out in Reserves Table 5 of Appendix 3.</p>		
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10	Capital Strategy & Programme 2021-22	<p>Cabinet RESOLVED to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) agree the Capital Strategy at Appendix A as a framework for the prioritisation and continued development of the Council's capital programme; 2) agree the proposed 2021-25+ capital programme of £537.660m, subject to additional amounts for schemes yet to be re-profiled from 2020-21; 3) refer the programme to the County Council for approval, including the new and extended capital schemes outlined in Appendix D; 4) recommend to County Council the Council's Flexible Use of Capital Receipts Strategy for 2021-22 as set out in Section 5; 5) note known grant settlements as summarised in Section 3 and agree that future capital grants will be added to the programme when confirmed; 6) note the estimated capital receipts to be generated, subject to market conditions, over the next four years to support schemes not funded from other sources, as set out in Table 5. 	Yes	31 December 2020
11	Annual Investment & Treasury Strategy 2021-22	<p>Cabinet RESOLVED to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • endorse and recommend to County Council the Annual Investment and Treasury Strategy for 2021-22 at Annex 1, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the capital prudential indicators included in the body of the report; • the Minimum Revenue Provision Statement 2021-22 at Appendix 1; • the list of approved counterparties at Appendix 4; • the treasury management prudential indicators detailed in Appendix 5. 	No	N/A
12	Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) Funding	<p>Cabinet RESOLVED to agree:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (i) the Dedicated Schools Grant funding including <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 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 DSG cumulative deficit; 	Yes	31 December 2020

		(ii) to delegate decision making powers to the Executive Director of Children's Services, in conjunction with the Lead Member for Children's Services, delegated authority to agree the final funding cap, or allocation of additional funds, once the final DSG calculations of individual school allocations are known and in line with the principles of Cabinet's decision.		
13	School Place Sufficiency – Schools' Local Growth and Investment Plan	Cabinet RESOLVED to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Endorse the Schools' Local Growth and Investment Plan. 	No	N/A
14	Schools' Capital Programme Update	Cabinet reviewed the report RESOLVED to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sign off the report for publishing on the Norfolk County Council website. 	No	N/A
15	Admission Arrangements for the school Year 2022/23	Cabinet reviewed the report and RESOLVED to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • agree the continuation of the current co-ordinated admission arrangements and to agree the inclusion of a priority within over-subscription rules for Community and Voluntary Controlled Schools for Service Personnel. 	No	N/A
16	Adult Learning Annual Plan	Cabinet reviewed the current performance data and RESOLVED to: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. approve the Adult Learning Annual Plan 2. commend the Adult Learning service's performance. 	No	N/A
17	Acquisition of Property for the Great Yarmouth Third River Crossing Project	Cabinet considered the report and RESOLVED to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • approve the acquisition of the leasehold interest and stock of South Denes Car Centre, South Denes Road, Great Yarmouth NR30 3LW on terms agreed and instruct the Director of Property to oversee the implementation of the acquisition. 	No	N/A
18	Reports of the Cabinet Member Delegated Decisions made since the last Cabinet meeting.	Cabinet RESOLVED to note the Delegated Decisions made since the last Cabinet meeting.		

Call-ins should be submitted to committees@norfolk.gov.uk using the call-in form by no later than 4.00pm on Monday 8 February 2021. Further information about the call-in process can be found in [Article 6.4 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 1 February 2021 will be considered at a Scrutiny Committee to be held on Wednesday 17 February 2021.