

CC1

LEADER

A record of decisions made by the Executive Cabinet Member with responsibility for Strategy, External Relations, Strategic Budget, Public Service Reform, Partnerships with Public, Private and Voluntary Sectors at a Strategic Level, Corporate Support Services, Financial Services and Budget Development, Registration Services and the Coroner's Service:-

MONDAY 13TH MARCH, 2023

Following consideration of the matters detailed below in the presence of:-

- | | |
|--------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Councillor Cox | - Executive Cabinet Member – Leader |
| Councillor Peel | - Major Opposition Spokesperson |
| Councillor Hayes | - Minor Opposition Spokesperson |
| Councillor Sanders | - Minor Opposition Spokesperson |
| Councillor Grant | - Minor Opposition Spokesperson |
| Councillor Heslop | - Minor Opposition Spokesperson |

Officers

- | | |
|----------------|---|
| Mr. L. Fallows | - Director of Corporate Resources |
| Ms. J. Pollard | - Head of Finance – Corporate Resources and Place |
| Mrs. V. Ridge | - Democratic Services Manager |

42. MONITORING OF EXECUTIVE CABINET MEMBER DECISIONS

The Borough Solicitor submitted a report which provided an update on decisions taken at previous meetings of the Executive Cabinet Member.

The Executive Cabinet Member NOTED the report.

**43. DIRECTORATE OF CORPORATE RESOURCES –
BUDGET REPORT 2023/24**

The Borough Treasurer submitted a report which outlined the Portfolio Revenue Budgets and Capital Programme within the Directorate of Corporate Resources for the period 2023/24 to 2024/25.

The report represented the final stage of the Corporate Business Planning Process for 2023/24 and outlined the Revenue Budget for the Directorate of Corporate Resources. In addition, the report included the Capital Programme for the period 2023/24 to 2024/25.

Section 3 of the report provided details the changes between the original Revenue Budget for 2022/23 and the proposed Revenue Budget for 2023/24 for the Directorate of Corporate Resources.

Section 4 of the report provided the breakdown of the 2023/24 Directorate of Corporate Resources budget, both by service area and expenditure type.

The report advised that in the recent budget consultation report of 12th December 2022, a budget reduction of £1.019m (including Libraries, Museums and Corporate Property) had been identified for the Directorate of Corporate Resources.

In this regard, the report went on to set out the initial plans, expected report dates, cashflow for each savings option and the approach to managing the associated work programme. Appendix D to the report provided a detailed analysis of the proposed £1,019,000 savings options for 2023/24. Section 5 of the report provided comments relating to each option.

In this regard, approval was sought for the following options:

- Financial Services (£100k)

CC3

- Revenue Benefits, Customer Services, Policy, and Partnerships (£131k)
- Legal and Democratic Services (£40k)
- Human Resources, Organisational Development and Marketing and Communications (£100k)
- Technology/Transformation (£220/£180k)
- Corporate Property Services (£113k)

With regard to fees and charges, the report advised that the Corporate Budget guidance for 2023/24 had provided for an assumed increase of 2% on income budgets. However, inflationary pressures on expenditure were currently well above this level with CPI recording a 10.5% increase in December 2022.

It was therefore proposed to increase fees and charges within the Corporate Resources Directorate by an additional 7%, making a total of 9% from 1st April, 2023, except for those services that fell into the following categories or for which specific alternative tariff changes were given below:

- fees and charges subject to statutory determination by central government
- fees and charges set to maintain cost recovery
- Registrars increase charge by 2%

With regard to the Anti-Poverty Budget, the report sought approval to agree the proposed budget for Anti-Poverty Services in 2023/24 at £195.6k, on the basis detailed in Table Two of the report. The costs could be met from Reserves held and brought forward for Anti-Poverty Services as at 31st March, 2023.

Appendix E to the report provided details of the Directorate of Corporate Resources Capital Programme 2023/24 to 2024/25, which totalled £6,522,000 for 2023/24 and £2,000,000 for 2024/25 and 2025/26.

The Executive Cabinet Member NOTED -

CC4

- (i) The proposed Revenue Budget of £32,436,000 prior to the adoption of savings options;**
- (ii) The savings options outlined in Appendix D to the report now submitted totalling £1,019,000 after which the Strategic Budget will amount to £31,417,000; and**
- (iii) The 2023/24 Capital Programme.**

The Executive Cabinet Member APPROVED -

- (iv) The £979,000 of savings options, which fall within this portfolio, as detailed in Appendix D of the report now submitted.**
- (v) The increases in fees and charges made by the Directorate, which fall within this portfolio, on the basis outlined in the report now submitted.**
- (vi) The proposed Anti-Poverty Budget for 2023/24 of £195,569, to be funded from funds held in the Anti-Poverty Reserve.**