
FULL COUNCIL SUMMARY OF DECISIONS

Wednesday, 20 December 2023

Item No.	Title
6	Report of the Leader and Executive
	<p>DECISION</p> <p>PAPER A 2024/25 General Fund Revenue Budget & Capital Programme update – see Paper A and its appendices that the Executive considered and endorsed at its meeting in 6 December 2023.</p> <p>Councillor Liz Leyshon proposed the recommendations which were seconded by Councillor Bill Revans.</p> <p>Having been duly proposed and seconded, the Council RESOLVED to: Note that the Council had declared a financial emergency and accordingly endorsed the range of actions and mitigations being taken forward. Furthermore, the Council fully supported the Executive and Senior Officers to continue its discussions with the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC) and formally requests a capitalisation direction in order to set the 2024/25 budget.</p> <p>PAPER B Council Tax Reduction & Exceptional Hardship Scheme for 2024/25 – see Paper B and its appendices that the Executive considered and endorsed at its meeting in 6 December 2023.</p>

Councillor Liz Leyshon proposed the recommendations which were seconded by Councillor David Fothergill.

Having been duly proposed and seconded, the Council RESOLVED to approve:

- i. The Council Tax Reduction and Exceptional Hardship schemes set out in Appendices 4 and 5 to this report;
- ii. Option 3 in relation to the income band thresholds used within Schedule 1 of the proposed Council Tax Reduction scheme i.e. uprating in line with the 6.7% rise in state benefits announced by Government in the November 2023 Autumn Statement; and
- iii. A full review of the Council Tax Reduction scheme during the 2024/25 financial year to identify options for a revised scheme in the 2025/26 financial year. (NB. the review and consultation exercise would require funding which was anticipated to be in the region of £60k).

PAPER C

Annual Treasury Management Outturn Report 2022-23 / Annual Treasury Management Mid-Year Report 2023/24 – see Paper C1 and C2 that the Executive considered and endorsed at its meetings on 4 October 2023 and 6 December 2023.

Councillor Liz Leyshon proposed the recommendations which were seconded by Councillor Bill Revans.

Having been duly proposed and seconded, the Council RESOLVED to approve the reports as being in compliance with the CIPFA Code of Practice for Treasury Management.

PAPER D

Harbour Management Advisory Committee – see Paper D that the Executive considered and endorsed at its meeting on 6 December 2023.

Councillor Bill Revans proposed the recommendations which were seconded by Councillor Leigh Redman.

Having been duly proposed and seconded, the Council RESOLVED to approve:

- i. that a Harbour Management Advisory Committee was established as an advisory committee to the Executive under

- s102(4) of the Local Government Act 1972;
- ii. the Terms of Reference of the Harbour Management Advisory Committee attached at Appendix 1;
 - iii. the terms of the Memorandum of Understanding between the Executive and the Harbour Management Advisory Committee attached as Appendix 2;
 - iv. the appointment of 6 elected members be delegated to the Monitoring Officer, as nominated by relevant political group leaders, to the Harbour Management Advisory Committee in accordance with the political balance requirements in section 15 of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989.
 - v. delegated authority be granted to the Service Director Regulatory and Operational in consultation with the Service Director Governance, Democratic and Legal Services to conduct a skills audit for the Harbour Management Advisory Committee and to conduct the process for the recruitment of appropriately skilled co-opted members to the Committee and make recommendations to Full Council for appointment of the co-opted members

PAPER E

Proposed withdrawal and dissolution of the Heart of the South West Joint Committee – see paper E that the Executive considered and endorsed at its meeting on 6 December 2023.

Councillor Bill Revans proposed the recommendations which were seconded by Councillor David Fothergill.

Having been duly proposed and seconded, the Council RESOLVED to agree to serve notice of its withdrawal and that the Heart of the South West Joint Committee be dissolved on 31 December 2023.

PAPER F

2023/24 Housing Revenue Account Q1 – see Paper F that the Executive considered and endorsed at its meeting on 4 October 2023.

Councillor Federica Smith-Roberts proposed the recommendations which were seconded by Councillor Liz Leyshon.

Having been duly proposed and seconded, the Council RESOLVED to approve a supplementary capital budget of £3,313,829 for the in-house service to spend on Fire Safety.

7	Report of the Executive Director for Corporate and Resources - Additional Council Tax Premiums
	<p>DECISION</p> <p>Councillor Liz Leyshon proposed the recommendations which were seconded by Councillor Bill Revans.</p> <p>Having been duly proposed and seconded, the Council RESOLVED to: Reaffirm the decision taken on 23 November 2022 to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Reduce the qualifying period for the long-term empty property premium to one year effective from 1st April 2024; and ii. Implement a 100% premium for second homes (dwellings which were furnished, but unoccupied) effective from 1st April 2025. <p>Council was also recommended to delegate powers to the Council's Section 151 Officer to enable them to amend the policy and / or any associated procedures to ensure alignment with the regulations or statutory guidance relating to the exemptions from the premiums, when these were issued or subsequently amended by Government.</p>
8	Report of the Chief Executive - Somerset Council Redundancies Requiring Full Council Approval
	<p>DECISION</p> <p>Councillor Theo Butt-Philip proposed the recommendations which were seconded by Councillor Faye Purbrick.</p> <p>Having been duly proposed and seconded, the Council RESOLVED to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Approve the severance costs for 5 posts as set out in Appendix A, where Full Council approval was required for costs that exceeded £100,000. 2. Delegate authority to the Chief Executive to agree the final date of dismissal and the final redundancy packages, noting that such settlements would not exceed contractual redundancy pay, the payment required under statute to the Local Government Pension Scheme, or the requirement for Full Council approval for any severance payment that exceeded £100,000.
9	Report of the Standards Committee

	<p>DECISION</p> <p>Councillor John Bailey proposed the recommendations which were seconded by Councillor Brian Smedley.</p> <p>Having been duly proposed and seconded, the Council RESOLVED to send the report back to the Standards Committee to reconsider Section 9 (Gifts and Hospitality) of the Members Code of Conduct.</p>
10	Report of the Licensing and Regulatory Committee
	<p>DECISION</p> <p>Councillor Marcus Kravis proposed the recommendations which were seconded by Councillor Federica Smith-Roberts.</p> <p>Having been duly proposed and seconded, the Council RESOLVED to approve the Statement of Principles – Gambling Policy.</p>
11	Motions on Notice
	<p>DECISION</p> <p>Councillor Helen Kay proposed the recommendations which were seconded by Councillor Habib Farbahi.</p> <p>Having been duly proposed and seconded, the Council RESOLVED to: Write to the UK Government to call for an immediate bilateral ceasefire.</p> <p>Council also noted with deep concern the severe reverberations of this crisis in the UK, with Jewish, Muslim and Palestinian communities all fearing and grieving, and condemned the rise in antisemitism and Islamophobia since 7 October 2023.</p>