

THE ROYAL BOROUGH OF KENSINGTON AND CHELSEA
MEETING OF THE COUNCIL – 28 FEBRUARY 2024
BUDGET-RELATED SUBMISSIONS FROM THE LEADERSHIP TEAM – 7
FEBRUARY 2024

1. Introduction

1.1 The attached reports present the budget proposals for 2024/25, which were considered by the Leadership Team at its meeting on 7 February 2024 and its recommendations on each report are set out in the following paragraphs.

2. Revenue Budget, Capital Programme and Council Tax 2024/25

2.1 The Leadership Team adopted the recommendations at paragraphs 2.1 and 2.2 ([Agenda item 7, Revenue Budget, Capital Programme and Council Tax 2024-25 KD06575](#)). As the Leadership Team noted, some of the information would be updated and the track-change version of the amended report is attached at **Appendix BU-0**.

2.2 Council is asked to **approve** the recommendation at paragraph 2.1:

(1) The Council Tax resolution as set out in **Appendix BU-8**.

2.3 Council is asked to approve the recommendation at paragraph 2.2:

(1) A Council Tax requirement for 2024/25 of £104.657 million including Garden Squares special expenses.

(2) A basic amount of Council Tax for 2024/25 at Band D of £1,037.58 excluding Garden Square special expenses as set out in **Appendix BU-10**. The headline figure including Garden Square special expenses is £1,058.45.

(3) Garden Square special expenses of £2.174m as set out in **Appendix BU-9**.

(4) Council Taxes for all Bands in all areas for 2024/25 as set out in Tables 4A & B of the Leadership Team report and **Appendix BU-10**.

(5) Total Council Tax including the Greater London Authority precept for all Bands in all areas for 2024/25 as set out in **Appendix BU-11**.

(6) The Council's medium term financial position for the next four years as set out in **Appendix BU-1**, noting that there is an estimated budget gap of around £32m for the period 2024/25 to 2027/28.

(7) The Capital Programme as set out in **Appendix BU-12 and Appendix BU-13**.

(8) The continuation of the use of flexible capital receipts strategy detailed in paragraphs 27.15 and 27.16 of the Leadership Team report attached at **Appendix BU-0**.

- (9) The extension of the current three-year Council Tax Exemption policy to care leavers from 18-25 years old.

FOR DECISION

3. Housing Revenue Account Budget and Business Plan

3.1 At the same meeting, the Leadership Team adopted the recommendations at paragraph 2.1 of the main report, [Agenda Item 8, 2024/25 Housing Revenue Account Budget Setting Report and Business Planning KD1004474](#). As the Leadership Team noted, some of the information would be updated and the track-change version of the amended report is attached at a copy of which is attached at **Appendix HR-0**.

3.2 Council is asked to **approve** the recommendations at paragraph 2.1 of that report:

- (1) Approve a rent increase of 7.7% effective from Monday 1 April 2024. This equates to an average weekly rent of £151.10 (set out in section 5 of the report).
- (2) Agree to maintain the Tenant Support fund and increase the budget to £0.5 million for 2024/25 as set out in section 5 of this report.
- (3) Approve the HRA revenue budget for 2024/25 as set out in **Appendix HR-A**.
- (4) Approve the 2024/25 Fees & Charges as set out in **Appendix HR-B**.
- (5) Approve the five-year Capital Programme (2024/25-2028/29) as detailed in **Appendix HR-C**.
- (6) To consider and approve the updated Medium-Term Financial Plan for the HRA.
- (7) Agree to develop a new Non-Estate Property Disposal Policy and authorise the Executive Director of Housing and Social Investment, following consultation with the Lead Member for Housing Management, Housing Safety & Building New Homes to implement the new policy in-line with the constitution (set out in section 8 of the Leadership Team report attached at **Appendix HR-0**).
- (8) Note the key assumptions in the business plan and the inherent risks and uncertainties as set out in sections 9 to 17 of the Leadership Team report attached at **Appendix HR-0**.

FOR DECISION

4. Annual Treasury Management Strategy Statement 2024/25

4.1 At the same meeting, the Leadership Team adopted the recommendations at paragraph 2.1 of the main report, [Agenda Item 6, Annual Treasury](#)

[Management Strategy Statement 2024-25 KD06578](#). As the Leadership Team noted, some of the information would be updated and the track-change version of the amended report is attached at a copy of which is attached at **Appendix TR-0**.

4.2 Council is asked, having regard to the revised CIPFA Treasury Management in the Public Services Code of Practice, to **approve** the recommendations at paragraph 2.1 of that report:

- (1) Adopt the four clauses as part of the Council's Financial Procedure Rules as outlined in paragraph 1.1 of **Appendix TR-1**;
- (2) Approve the Treasury Management Policy Statement as set out in **Appendix TR-1**;
- (3) Approve the annual Treasury Management Strategy Statement, incorporating the Annual Investment Strategy for 2024/25, specifically:
 - a) the proposed Prudential Indicators which set maximum limits on treasury management activity as set out in **Appendix TR-2** of the report;
 - b) the Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP) Policy 2024/25 as set out in **Appendix TR-3**;
 - c) the proposed use of investment instruments as set out in Section 6;
 - d) the use of specified and non-specified investments as set out in **Appendix TR-4**;
 - e) the governance arrangements as set out in **Appendix TR-6**;

FOR DECISION

MIKE CURTIS

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