

**DECISION NOTICE (date 24 January 2019)**  
**Published 25 January 2019**

This document lists the decisions taken by Cabinet at a meeting held on Thursday, 24 January 2019. The list covers key and non-key decisions. A decision may be implemented with immediate effect, unless it is eligible for call-in as identified below, whereupon a decision will not be implemented until five working days have elapsed.

Agenda Item No	Decision	Reasons for Decision	Any Options Rejected?	Declared Conflict of Interest	Eligible for call in?
<p><b>A10</b></p>	<p><u>Corporate Plan 2019/20</u></p> <p>Key decision? Yes</p> <p><b>RESOLVED</b> that it was recommended to Full Council that:</p> <p><b>A</b> The Corporate Plan 2019/20 – 2021/22, attached as Appendix A to the report, is adopted.</p> <p><b>B</b> Authority be delegated to the Managing Director, in consultation with the Leader of the Council, to make minor and inconsequential amendments to the Corporate Plan.</p>	<p><b>A</b> The Corporate Plan provides the Council with important context for decision making and the allocation of its resources. Approval of the Corporate Plan is reserved to Full Council.</p>	<p>None</p>	<p>None</p>	<p>No</p>
<p><b>A11</b></p>	<p><u>Medium Term Financial Strategy 2019/20 - 2021/22</u></p> <p>Key decision? Yes</p>	<p><b>A</b> To enable Cabinet to consider the current factors influencing the</p>	<p>None</p>	<p>None</p>	<p>No</p>

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	<p><b>RESOLVED</b> that it was recommended to Full Council that:</p> <p><b>A</b> The Medium Term Financial Strategy for 2019/20 to 2021/22 (attached as appendix B to the report) is adopted.</p> <p><b>B</b> The planned Council Tax increase of two per cent for 2019/20 as set out in the Medium Term Financial Plan be approved.</p> <p><b>C</b> The proposals in relation to reserves as set out in this report at paragraphs 23 to 29 and contained within Section 8 of the Medium Term Financial Strategy be approved.</p>	<p>three year Medium Term Financial Plan and agree the financial strategy for the period 2019/20 to 2021/22 in support of the overall financial plans of the Council over that period and the delivery of its priorities.</p>			
<p><b>A12</b></p>	<p><u>Capital and Treasury Report 2019</u></p> <p>Key decision? Yes</p> <p><b>RESOLVED</b> that it was recommended to Full Council that:</p>	<p><b>A</b> The Capital Strategy Report 2019/20 (attached as Appendix A to the report) covers the requirements of the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and</p>	<p>None</p>	<p>None</p>	<p>No</p>

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	<p><b>A</b> The following Capital and Treasury Reports be approved:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i) The Capital Strategy Report (attached as Appendix A to the report)</li> <li>ii) The Capital Programme Strategy Statement 2019/20 (attached as Appendix B to the report)</li> <li>iii) The Investment Strategy Report 2019/20 (attached as Appendix D to the report)</li> <li>iv) The Minimum Revenue Provision Statement 2019/20 (attached as Appendix E to the report).</li> </ul> <p><b>B</b> The proposed revised Treasury Management Strategy Statement 2019/20 (attached as Appendix C to the report) be</p>	<p>Accountancy (CIPFA) Prudential Code 2017, including the prudential indicators. The report should be approved by Full Council before the start of the new financial year.</p> <p><b>B</b> The Capital Programme Strategy Statement 2019/20 (attached as Appendix B to the report) is not a requirement of any guidance, but is included within this report to provide context for capital investment explained elsewhere. Specifically, for 2019/20, it sets out the Council's programme for building council homes.</p> <p><b>C</b> The Treasury Management Strategy Statement 2019/20 (attached as Appendix C to the report) covers the</p>			

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	approved for implementation with immediate effect.	<p>requirements of the new CIPFA Treasury Management Code of Practice 2017, including the treasury management indicators. In a departure from previous practice, where a Capital Strategy (attached as Appendix A to the report) is approved by Full Council. Approval of this report may be delegated to the committee responsible for the implementation and regular monitoring of treasury management policies and practices. For consistency it is included here for this year.</p> <p><b>D</b> The Investment Strategy Report 2019/20 (attached as Appendix D to the report) covers the requirements of the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local</p>			

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		<p>Government (MHCLG) Investment Guidance 2018, including the investment indicators.</p> <p><b>E</b> The Minimum Revenue Provision Statement 2019/20 (attached as Appendix E to the report) covers the requirements of the MHCLG Guidance on Minimum Revenue Provision 2012.</p>			
<p><b>A13</b></p>	<p><u>Housing Revenue Account Business Plan 2018 - 2048</u></p> <p>Key decision? Yes</p> <p><b>RESOLVED</b> that it was recommended to Full Council that:</p> <p><b>A</b> The Housing Revenue Account (HRA) Business Plan, as set out in Appendix A to this report, be approved.</p> <p><b>B</b> Authority be delegated to the</p>	<p><b>A</b> The HRA Business Plan 2018-2048 is a formal update on the Council's landlord service over the next 30 years. Housing stock holding councils need to demonstrate that their business is sustainable over the long term.</p>	<p>None</p>	<p>None</p>	<p>No</p>

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	<p>Managing Director, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Housing, to make minor amendments to the Plan, if necessary, following consultation.</p>				
<p><b>A14</b></p>	<p><u>Housing Revenue Account Budget 2019/20</u></p> <p>Key decision? Yes</p> <p><b>RESOLVED</b> that it was recommended to Full Council that:</p> <p><b>A</b> The rent reductions for individual dwellings as set out in paragraph 30 of this report are approved with effect from 1 April 2019. This equates to an average weekly rent of £89.84 a statutory reduction of one per cent.</p> <p><b>B</b> Service charges for individual dwellings, as set out in paragraphs 22 to 29 of this report are approved with effect</p>	<p><b>A</b> This report sets out the HRA budget for 2019/20 and forecast outturn for the current year, together with the information necessary to set a balanced budget as required by legislation.</p>	<p>None</p>	<p>None</p>	<p>No</p>

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	<p>from 1 April 2019 for both tenants and leaseholders. This equates to an average weekly service charge to tenants of £2.49.</p> <p><b>C</b> Heating charges as set out in paragraphs 31 to 38 of this report are approved with effect from 1 April 2019 for both tenants and leaseholders. Average weekly general needs charges are £9.24 per week (leaseholders £16.09 per week, equivalent) and, for sheltered accommodation, £6.83 per week.</p> <p><b>D</b> Rents for garages held within the category 'Retain and Invest' as defined in the 'Garages and Hardstanding Improvement Strategy 2015' will increase by five per cent, to £10.16 per week (for a standard garage) and proportionate increases for other garages, car ports and car spaces from 1 April 2019. Rents of garages in other</p>				

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	<p>categories will reduce by 20 per cent in order to provide an incentive, as set out in paragraphs 39 and 40 of this report.</p> <p><b>E</b> Housing related support charges are as set out in paragraphs 17 to 21 and Table 1 are approved for service users with effect from 1 April 2019.</p> <p><b>F</b> Other charges set out in paragraphs 41 to 43 of this report are approved with effect from 1 April 2019. Note the addition of two new charges from 1 April 2019 for the provision of information to facilitate Equity Release £30.80 and Re-mortgage work £20.50 (both inclusive of VAT at 20 per cent).</p> <p><b>G</b> The growth items outlined in paragraph 46 in respect of 2019/20 are approved.</p>				

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	<p><b>H</b> The Housing Revenue Account (HRA) budget (attached as set Appendix A to the report) is approved.</p> <p><b>I</b> A minimum HRA working balance shall be £4 million as at 31 March 2020, with £2.5 million being the minimum level and with an additional £1.5 million added as an allowance towards any additional expenditure required as a result of the Grenfell Tower Public Inquiry, (as set out in Appendix B of this report) is approved.</p>				
<b>A15</b>	<p><u>General Fund Budget 2019/20</u></p> <p>Key decision? Yes</p> <p><b>RESOLVED</b> that it was recommended to Full Council that:</p> <p><b>A</b> The General Fund estimates for 2019/20, as set out in Appendix A to the report, are</p>	<p><b>A</b> The Council must approve an annual budget and recommend a Council Tax charge for the forthcoming year under Government guidelines and current legislation.</p>	None	None	No

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	<p>approved.</p> <p><b>B</b> The proposed transfers between the General Fund and Earmarked Reserves, referred to in paragraphs 24 to 27 and Table 3 of this report and set out in Appendix C to the report, are approved.</p> <p><b>C</b> The proposed Fees and Charges, as set out in Appendix E to the report, are approved.</p> <p><b>D</b> The Pay Policy Statement, as set out in Appendix G to the report, is approved.</p> <p><b>E</b> The Council's Band D Council Tax for 2019/20 is set at £277.73 representing an increase in Council Tax of two per cent for the forthcoming year.</p>				

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<p><b>A16</b></p>	<p><u>Capital Programmes 2018/19 - 2019/20</u></p> <p>Key decision? Yes</p> <p><b>RESOLVED</b> that it was recommended to Full Council that:</p> <p><i>Housing Capital Programme</i></p> <p><b>A</b> The Housing Capital Programme 2018/19 revised outturn of £19,513,000, as set out in Table 2 of the report is noted.</p> <p><b>B</b> The Housing Capital programme 2019/20 of £24,044,000, as set out in Table 5 of the report is approved, including £2.7 million of external borrowing to support building council homes.</p> <p><i>Non Housing Capital Programme</i></p> <p><b>C</b> The revised Non Housing Capital Programme 2018/19 of £11,105,000, as set out in</p>	<p><b>A</b> Approval of Council’s Capital Programmes is reserved for Full Council. Such programmes are necessary for the achievement of the Council’s priorities and fulfilment of health and safety requirements.</p> <p><b>B</b> To enable Officers to make long term effective planning, procurement and resourcing decisions to deliver these programmes.</p>	<p>None</p>	<p>None</p>	<p>No</p>

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	<p>Table 6 of the report is noted.</p> <p><b>D</b> The Non Housing Capital Programme for 2019/20 £11,156,000 including the Enterprise Zone (EZ) (£5,319,000) and Prentice Place (£2,347,000) as set out in Table 7 of the report is approved.</p> <p><b>E</b> Internal borrowing is approved to support:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i) the Non Housing Capital Core Programme of £9,866,000 up to 31 March 2019, and a further £2,372,000 in 2019/20.</li> <li>ii) in respect of Prentice Place in 2019/20 of £1,755,000.</li> <li>iii) in respect of the EZ in 2018/19 of £5,790,000 and in 2019/20, £5,319,000. This will</li> </ul>				

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	bring total borrowing over the 3 years from 2017/18 to £13,707,000.				
<b>A16</b>	<p><u>Discretionary Rate Relief Policy - Retail Relief</u></p> <p>Key decision? Yes</p> <p><b>RESOLVED</b> that it was recommended to Full Council that:</p> <p><b>A</b> The proposed Retail Relief Policy (attached as Appendix A to the report) be adopted.</p>	<p><b>A</b> The Government announced in the Autumn Budget that it will provide relief to all occupied retail properties with a rateable value of less than £51,000 in each of the financial years 2019-20 and 2020-21.</p> <p><b>B</b> The value of the relief will be one third of the bill, and shall be applied after mandatory reliefs, discretionary rate relief, and all other discretionary reliefs funded by grants under Section 31 of the Local Government Act 2003. Any grant of hardship relief is to be applied after the award of retail relief.</p>	None	None	No

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		<p><b>C</b> In order to grant retail relief the Council must adopt a local scheme and, in accordance with the discretionary rate relief powers contained within Section 47 of the Local Government Finance Act 1988 (as amended), decide in each individual case when relief should be granted.</p> <p><b>D</b> The policy proposed in this report takes into account the guidance issued in November 2018 by the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG).</p>			
<b>A17</b>	<p><u>Disposal of Land Along Gilden Way to the Highways Authority</u></p> <p>Key decision? Yes</p> <p><b>RESOLVED</b> that Cabinet:</p>	<p><b>A</b> To allow Essex County Council (the Highways Authority) to progress the necessary land assembly to facilitate planned road infrastructure</p>	None	None	Yes

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	<p><b>A</b> Approved plans to dispose of the Council's freehold interest in the various land parcels (attached as Appendix A to the report).</p> <p><b>B</b> Delegated to the Head of Finance and Deputy to the Managing Director, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Regeneration, the authority to negotiate and finalise the terms of the disposal and (subject to being satisfied that it would be for the best consideration reasonably obtainable) thereafter procure the legal completion of the sale documentation and all ancillary documents.</p>	<p>improvements along Gilden Way.</p> <p><b>B</b> To enable infrastructure improvements that will promote long-term sustainable growth within the district.</p> <p><b>C</b> To generate a capital receipt to help fund the Council's Capital Programme and reduce the need for borrowing.</p> <p><b>D</b> To eliminate future costs associated with maintaining the subject land.</p>			