

Decision Notice (10 September 2020)

Published 11 September 2020

This document lists the decisions taken by Cabinet at a meeting held on Thursday, 10 September 2020. 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>A10</p>	<p><u>Year End 2019/20 Finance Report</u></p> <p>Key decision? No</p> <p>RESOLVED that Cabinet:</p> <p>A Acknowledged the outturn position set out in within the report in respect of General Fund, Housing Revenue Account (HRA) and Capital Programmes for the year ending 31 March 2020.</p> <p>B Noted working balances at 31 March 2020 of £15,751,000 in respect of the HRA and nil in respect of the Major Repairs Reserve (MRR).</p> <p>C Approved:</p>	<p>A To ensure that Cabinet reviews performance against the Council's approved General Fund, Housing Revenue Account and Capital budgets for 2019/20.</p> <p>B To seek approval for the recommendations set out in the report in relation to transfer to reserves (paragraphs 15 to 18) and carrying forward underspends to ensure that the resources remain to provide services or carry out works in 2019/20 (paragraph 14).</p>	<p>None</p>	<p>None</p>	<p>No</p>

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	<p>i) The carrying forward of £162,720 of budgets from 2019/20 to 2020/21 in respect of the General Fund as set out in Appendix B to the report.</p> <p>ii) The transfer to reserves of £1,104,000 as set out in Appendix C to the report.</p> <p>iii) The contribution of £150,000 into a Covid-19 Earmarked Reserve as set out in Paragraph 17 of the report.</p> <p>iv) The carrying forward of £180,172 of budgets from 2019/20 to 2020/21 in respect of the Housing Revenue Account as set out in Appendix E to the report.</p> <p>v) The carrying forward of</p>	<p>C To note the application of the Council's MRR, highlighting its relationship with the Housing Capital Programme.</p> <p>D To approve the acquisition of properties up to the value of £12.6 million for inclusion in the Housing Revenue account to ensure that retained receipts are utilised for the provision of social housing.</p>			

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	<p>£1,739,197 of budgets from 2019/20 to 2020/21 in respect of the Non Housing Capital Programme as set out in Appendix I to the report.</p> <p>vi) The carrying forward of £6,894,672 of budgets from 2019/20 to 2020/21 in respect of the Housing Capital Programme as set out in Appendix J to the report.</p> <p>vii) the acquisition of properties up to the value of £12.6 million for inclusion in the Housing Revenue account to ensure that retained receipts are utilised for the provision of social housing.</p>				

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A11	<p><u>Joint Finance and Performance Report, Quarter 1 2020/21</u></p> <p>Key decision? No</p> <p>RESOLVED that:</p> <p>A Cabinet acknowledged the outturn position for the first quarter (April – June) of 2020/21 as follows:</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">i) Financial – The forecast as currently predicted is for an in year pressure of £513k driven as a result of the Covid crisis and the impact it has had mainly on the Councils income streams but also as a result of additional costs incurred as a result of the crisis. This will be managed through the year and further updates provided to Cabinet in the normal way.</p>	<p>To ensure that Cabinet receives a position statement on the impact of Covid-19 on reporting performance against the Council's approved General Fund Budget and Corporate Plan for 2020/21.</p>	None	None	No

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	<p>ii) Risk -The report highlights the key corporate risks facing the Council at the current time and inevitably this includes the Covid 19 Crisis and the ongoing impacts it has and continues to have on the Council and the wider town.</p> <p>iii) The impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on the completion of the Council business and operational performance planning for 2020/21.</p>				
<p>A12</p>	<p><u>Housing Revenue Account, Quarter 1 Finance Report 2020/21</u></p> <p>Key decision? No</p> <p>RESOLVED that Cabinet noted:</p> <p>A The HRA Quarter 1 Budget Monitoring Report 2020/21</p>	<p>A The report compares the Quarter 1 profiled budget with actual income and expenditure in order to identify operational variations and provides explanations for those variances.</p>	<p>None</p>	<p>None</p>	<p>No</p>

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	<p>(attached as Appendix A to the report).</p> <p>B That the forecast HRA general working balance as at 31 March 2021 will be reduced to £11.873 million following the decision to finance part of the capital programme from revenue contributions.</p>	<p>B The report also provides details of the Housing Revenue Account (HRA) capital receipts available as at 30 June 2020. This information will be used to update investment decisions for the delivery of the new affordable housing. This much needed development will help to reduce waiting list times and help tackle homelessness.</p>			
<p>A13</p>	<p><u>Capital Programmes, Quarter 1 Finance Report 2020/21</u></p> <p>Key decision? No</p> <p>RESOLVED that:</p> <p>A Cabinet noted the progress in the delivery of the Council's Housing and Non Housing Capital Programmes as at Quarter 1 (30 June 2020) as follows:</p> <p>i) The Housing Capital</p>	<p>A To ensure that Cabinet reviews the performance against the approved 2020/21 current HCP and NHCP budgets.</p> <p>B The report compares the current capital budget with the actual expenditure at the end of Quarter 1 and highlights the significant delay in the start of capital work in 2020/21. Due the significant backlog of work, priorities will need to be</p>	<p>None</p>	<p>None</p>	<p>No</p>

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	<p>Programme (HCP) current budget is £34.635 million which includes £6.896 million carried forward from 2019/20. Due to the delay in the start of capital work in 2020/21 it is anticipated that further re-profiling will be required with future reports detailing proposed programme changes into 2021/22 and subsequent years.</p> <p>ii) The Non-Housing Capital Programme (NHCP) current budget is £14.129 million which includes £3.075 million carried forward from 2019/20. Due to the delay in the start of capital work in 2020/21 it is estimated that capital expenditure will be £13.685 million with the balance re-profiled into</p>	<p>reassessed in order to re-profile the programme into 2021/22 and beyond.</p>			

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	2021/22.				
A14	<p><u>Annual Treasury Management Report 2019/20</u></p> <p>Key decision? Yes</p> <p>RESOLVED that:</p> <p>A Cabinet noted the annual Treasury Management Report for 2019/20 (Appendix A to the report), including that the Council operated within the Treasury Management Strategy Statement during 2019/20, and that the report is recommended to Full Council for approval.</p>	<p>A In complying with latest Codes of Practice, Full Council is required to receive an annual report on the prior year's treasury management functions of the Council, which should also receive review by Cabinet in advance of its presentation to Full Council.</p> <p>B The Prudential Indicators are also required to be reported to Full Council. These are included within the annual treasury management report.</p>	None	None	No
A16	<p><u>Report of the Covid-19 Recovery Working Group</u></p> <p>Key decision? No</p> <p>RESOLVED that Cabinet:</p> <p>A Approved the Covid-19</p>	<p>A The Council has taken steps to respond, and begin the process of social and economic recovery of Harlow as the country continues to deal the Covid-19 pandemic. It has established a Working</p>	None	None	No

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	<p>Recovery Working Group's final Terms of Reference (attached as Appendix A to the report).</p> <p>B Agreed the Vision Statement and Corporate Themes, and Action Plan (attached as appendices B and C to the report).</p> <p>C Recommended to Full Council that a further Corporate Priority of 'Resilience and Recovery' is introduced into an amended Corporate Plan with the associated Action Plan.</p>	<p>Group to work with Officers on a recovery action plan. This report brings forward proposals for the action plan.</p> <p>B The report also recommends the adoption of the terms of reference for the Working Group and a vision of the recovery of Harlow.</p>			