



DECISION NOTICE

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| Committee: | Community & Resources |
| Date of Meeting | 4 February, 2019 |
| Date of Decision Notice | 6 February, 2019 |

The following decisions made at the above Committee will come into force (unless marked as an Urgent Decision) on the expiry of five working days from the publication of this Notice if not called-in by the Overview & Scrutiny Committee.

Unless the Overview & Scrutiny Committee decides to refer a called-in decision either back to the relevant Committee or to Council, the decision will come into force (a) on the expiry of the five working day deadline for the Overview & Scrutiny Committee to meet to discuss the call-in or (b) on the date of the Overview & Scrutiny meeting if it is decided not to refer the decision further.

Community & Resources

4 February, 2019

Budget 2019/20, Medium Term Financial Strategy 2019-20 to 2023-24

Recommend to Full Council:

- a) That the assurance of the Chief Finance Officer (s151 Officer) of the robustness of the budget 2019/20 as set out in section 12 of the report be noted.
- b) That the assumptions and forecast applied to develop the MTFS outlined in section 14 of the report be noted.
- c) That the forecast deficit of £0.752m in the MTFS for 2023/24 be noted.
- d) That the risks associated with the Budget 2019/20 and MTFS outlined in section 16 of the report be noted.
- e) That a Joint Internal & External Scrutiny committee to review the grants made to external bodies for the financial year 2020/21 be noted.
- f) That Torridge's Band D Council Tax for 2019/20 be increased by £5 (3.15%) from £158.86 to £163.66 per year be approved.
- i) That Torridge's Net Revenue Budget 2019/20 to be £10.149m be approved.
- j) That the contributions to the Council's reserves as outlined in paragraph 10.4 of the report be approved.
- k) That the Head of Paid Service, Senior Management and the new council, review and revise the strategic plan & priorities and prepare options to achieve the savings going forward be approved.

Proposed changes to Council Tax Legislation - Long Term Empty Properties and Review Current Council Tax Local Discount Policy

Recommend to Full Council:

- i. That the 'Rating (Property in Common Occupation) and Council Tax (Empty Dwellings) Bill' be adopted and the premiums be applied from 1st April 2019;
- i. That 100% 3 month discount for unoccupied & substantially unfurnished properties be reduced to a maximum of 1 month from 1st April 2019.
- ii. That the 100% 12 month discount for properties undergoing major structural alterations be reduced as follows:
 - iii. April 2019 – 100% discount for 6 months maximum
 - 1st April 2020 - 0% discount

- iv. That a new Local Council Tax discount and premium policy to reflect changes made be agreed.

New Homes Bonus Community Grants

Recommend to Full Council:

- i. That the personal Councillor grants remain at £2,000 be approved
- ii. That £115k is top-sliced from the New Homes Bonus – Community Grants Allocation to utilise in the Revenue Budget 2019/20 be approved.

Homelessness (Temporary Accommodation)

Resolved:

- i. That the continued financial pressure and unsustainability on the Homelessness Service be noted.
- ii. That Officers continue to explore alternative, sustainable and cost effective long term options for the delivery of temporary accommodation.
- iii. That it be noted that if plans proceed with the Modular Accommodation option, suitable location(s) will be required.
- iv. That Officers be tasked with identifying suitable property that could be used to create additional hostel accommodation.
- v. That the Head of Paid Service consider extending the temporary contract for the existing Homeless Prevention Officer.

Capital Programme 2019-20 to 2025-26

Recommended to Full Council

- a) That the Capital Programme update for inflation, listed at 3.1 in the report be approved.
- b) That the inclusion of the Capital Projects (PiDs), listed at 4.3 in the report, into the Capital Programme 2019/20 to 2025/26 be approved.
- c) That the recommendations from the Member event to close the gap listed in 5.3 in the report be approved
- d) That borrowing up to £600K from the PWLB to create a revolving loan facility for CLTs to support affordable housing, listed in 7 in the report, be approved.
- e) That it be noted that even after approval of the above recommendations, there is still a shortfall in 2025/26 of £1.3m
- f) That in light of the projected deficit on the Capital program of £1.3m, that the Capital Program be reviewed by members in conjunction with officers in order to determine

options to address the capital funding gap. The deadline for the review being the 30th September 2019.

- g) That the £60k identified for replacing pay and display machines be included in the Capital Programme and funded from the reserve set up specifically for this.

Annual Review of Parking - Recommendation from Internal Overview & Scrutiny Committee

Resolved:

That the recommendation from Internal Overview and Scrutiny be refused.