

TRAFFORD BOROUGH COUNCIL

STATEMENT OF EXECUTIVE DECISION

<u>DATE OF DECISION</u>	Wednesday, 17 February 2021	<u>DECISION MAKER</u>
<u>DECISION REFERENCE</u>	E/17.2.21/3a	Executive (Virtual Meeting) (Councillors Participating: A. Western, Adshead, Freeman, Harding, Hynes, Patel, Ross, Slater, Whitham and Wright)

RECORD OF THE DECISION

EXECUTIVE'S REVENUE BUDGET PROPOSALS 2021/22 AND MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL STRATEGY (MTFS) 2022/23 - 2023/24

That it be recommended to Council that it :-

- a) Approves the 2021/22 net Revenue Budget of £179.30m.
- b) Approves the 2022/23 to 2023/24 Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) including the income and savings proposals.
- c) Approves the calculation of the Council Tax Requirement as summarised in Section 8.1 and set out in the Formal Council Tax Resolution in Annex J to the report (any update for changes in Mayoral Police and Crime Commissioner or Mayoral General (incl. Fire Services) Precepts, if any, will be tabled at the Council Meeting);
- d) Approves the proposal to increase Council Tax by 4.99% in 2021/22:
 - o 1.99% general increase in the 'relevant basic amount' in 2021/22, 2022/23 and 2023/24, and
 - o 3% for the 'Adult Social Care' precept in 2021/22.
- e) Approves the continuation of the Council Tax Hardship scheme and awards all existing working age Council Tax Support (CTS) recipients registered as at 31st March 2021 – a discretionary Hardship award equivalent to the value of their 21/22 liability;
- f) Approves the treatment of all new, post 31st March 2021, claims for CTS in accordance with the existing CTS scheme, as the vast majority of recipients will receive 100% support, and ensures direct information and advice for further discretionary support is detailed in notification letters;
- g) Approves the planned application of earmarked reserves as detailed in Section 6 of the report.
- h) Approves the Fees and Charges for 2021/22 and those relating to Registration of Births, Death & Marriages and Allotments also shown for 2022/23, as set out in the Fees & Charges booklet.
- i) Delegates authority jointly to each Corporate Director in consultation with the Council's Director of Finance and Systems to amend fees and charges which are within their respective delegated powers during 2021/22 in the event of any change in VAT rate, as appropriate.
- j) Delegates authority jointly to each Corporate Director in consultation with the Council's Director of Finance and Systems to amend fees and charges during 2021/22 which are within their respective delegated powers where the economics of the charge levels have changed (e.g. costs have risen unexpectedly), or for commercial reasons.

- k) Approves the proposal to increase the minimum level of General Reserve for 2021/22 at £8.0m, an increase of £1m from 2020/21 (Section 6.6 of the report).
- l) Approves the Capital Strategy, Prudential and Local Indicators and overall level of the Capital Programme and Asset Investment Fund of £415.40m (as detailed in the Capital Strategy, Capital Programme & Prudential Indicators 2021/24) of which £184.37m relates to 2021/22; including the proposal in relation to £10.0m of new prudential borrowing.
- m) Approves the Treasury Management Strategy 2021/22 to 2023/24, including the debt strategy (Section 3 of the report), the Treasury Investment Strategy (Section 5 of the report) and the Prudential Indicators, including the Authorised Limit (as required by Section 3(1) of the Local Government Act 2003, Operational Boundary, Minimum Revenue Provision and investment criteria as set out in Appendix 3 of the report.
- n) Approves the proposed distribution of Dedicated Schools Grant as recommended by the School Funding Forum and Executive as summarised in Section 7 of the report and detailed in Annex I.
- o) Due to the late publication of the Final Local Government Finance Settlement, Council delegates authority to the Council's designated S151 officer to vary the level of Budget Support Reserve needed to balance the 2021/22 revenue budget in the event of any change at final settlement.

and confirmed that in recommending approval of the above, the Executive has taken into consideration :

- p) The objective assessment by the Director of Finance and Systems of the robustness of budget estimates and adequacy of the financial reserves (Section 6 of the report and Annex H).
- q) The Executive's response to the Scrutiny Committee's recommendations to the budget proposals as included in a separate report on the agenda.
- r) The Council's Public Sector Equality duty.
- s) The results of the consultation on the budget proposals where required.

In addition, that it be recommended that Council note the following :

- t) The approval on 6 January 2021 under delegated powers by the Corporate Director of Finance and Systems of the Council Tax Base for 2021/22 at 75,816 Band D equivalents.
- u) The estimated Council Tax deficit for 2020/21 has been calculated at £4.06m and will be collected over the three years 2021/2022 to 2023/24 in line with the updated legislation to assist in the management of COVID-19 related pressures. Contributions towards the deficit will be made by the Mayoral Police and Crime Commissioner Precept and Mayoral General Precept (including Fire Services) in proportion to their 2021/22 precepts.
- v) The base budget assumptions as set out in the Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) as detailed in Annex A to the report.
- w) The budget gap for the two years 2022/23, £11.12m and 2023/24, £10.30m.
- x) The recurrent budget gap caused by the COVID-19 pandemic is expected to continue into 2022/23 and is estimated that £7.1m will be met from reserves.
- y) That the Capital Programme for 2021/22, 2022/23 and 2023/24 is to be set at an indicative £184.37m, £144.13m and £86.90m respectively (indicative at this stage as a number of capital grants are not yet known).

- z) That the Council Tax figures included in the report for the Mayoral Police and Crime Commissioner Precept and Mayoral General Precept (including Fire Services) are the recommended provisional amounts pending their formal approval.

REASONS FOR THE DECISION

To enable the Council to set a Budget Requirement and Council Tax level for 2021/22; to deliver a balanced budget for 2021/22 in relation to the proposals set out in the report, whilst having due regard for equality impact and risk mitigation.

ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED AT THE MEETING/BY MEMBERS

The Executive is recommending an overall increase to the level of council tax of 4.99% in 2021/22 comprising the increase of 3% for the 'adult social care precept' to be earmarked for adult social care expenditure and 1.99% general increase in the 'relevant basic amount'. An alternative option is not to increase council tax but there would be insufficient funding to pay for the Council's services in 2021/22. If this option were pursued then further savings of £5.20million would need to be identified over and above the significant level of savings already included in this budget report. Alternatively a decision could be made to increase its 'relevant basic amount of council tax' above the levels proposed in this report, however this would exceed the current permitted limits, which would mean a local referendum would be required before any higher increase could be implemented. The use of reserves has been reviewed (See report, Section 6) and an appropriate amount has been assessed for release to support these budget proposals whilst still maintaining a prudent level of reserves to manage any unforeseen risks. Any further use of reserves is not recommended as it does not provide a sustainable means of balancing the budget.

CONFLICTS OF INTEREST DECLARED AND ANY ASSOCIATED DISPENSATION

None.

Scrutiny Call in Deadline

Not applicable. This decision presents recommendations to Council, as the substantive decision-maker at its Budget Meeting, so call-in is not appropriate.

PUBLICATION DATE

22 February 2021

RECORDED BY:

Corporate Director, Governance & Community Strategy

TRAFFORD BOROUGH COUNCIL

STATEMENT OF EXECUTIVE DECISION

<u>DATE OF DECISION</u>	Wednesday, 17 February 2021	<u>DECISION MAKER</u>
<u>DECISION REFERENCE</u>	E/17.2.21/3b	Executive (Virtual Meeting) (Councillors Participating: A. Western, Adshead, Freeman, Harding, Hynes, Patel, Ross, Slater, Whitham and Wright)

RECORD OF THE DECISION

TREASURY MANAGEMENT STRATEGY 2021/22 - 2023/24

That the report be noted and that it be recommended that Council approve:

- the Treasury Management Strategy 2021/22 – 2023/24 including the:
- policy on debt strategy as set out in section 3 of the report;
- investment strategy as set out in section 5 of the report;
- Prudential Indicators and limits including the Authorised Limit (as required by section 3(1) of the Local Government Act 2003), Operational Boundary, Minimum Revenue Provision Statement and Investment criteria as detailed in Appendix 3 to the report.

REASONS FOR THE DECISION

The Financial Procedure Rules, incorporating the requirements of the CIPFA Treasury Management Code of Practice, require that the annual strategy report is provided to the Council as an essential control over treasury management activities. In it the Council approves the parameters under which officers will operate. In addition The Local Government Act 2003 requires that the Council approves an annual borrowing limit (the Authorised Limit) and MHCLG Guidance an annual investment strategy (setting out the limits to investment activities) prior to the commencement of each financial year.

ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED AT THE MEETING/BY MEMBERS

The report is mandatory, produced in order to comply with Financial Procedure Rules and relevant legislation. The MHCLG Guidance and CIPFA Code do not prescribe any particular treasury management strategy for Councils to adopt and there are an unlimited number of other options that the Council could consider as part of its treasury management activities. This report however outlines a clear and practical approach with an appropriate balance between risk management and cost effectiveness and is recommended by the Corporate Director of Finance and Systems.

CONFLICTS OF INTEREST DECLARED AND ANY ASSOCIATED DISPENSATION

None.

Scrutiny Call in Deadline

Not applicable. This decision presents recommendations to Council, as the substantive decision-maker at its Budget Meeting, so call-in is not appropriate.

PUBLICATION DATE

22 February 2021

RECORDED BY:

Corporate Director, Governance & Community Strategy

TRAFFORD BOROUGH COUNCIL

STATEMENT OF EXECUTIVE DECISION

<u>DATE OF DECISION</u>	Wednesday, 17 February	<u>DECISION MAKER</u>
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	2021	Executive (Virtual Meeting) (Councillors Participating: A. Western, Adshead, Freeman, Harding, Hynes, Patel, Ross, Slater, Whitham and Wright)
<u>DECISION REFERENCE</u>	E/17.2.21/3c	

<u>RECORD OF THE DECISION</u>	
<u>CAPITAL STRATEGY, ASSET INVESTEMENT STRATEGY, CAPITAL PROGRAMME AND PRUDENTIAL & LOCAL INDICATORS 2021/24</u>	
<p>1. That the following be approved:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Capital Programme as detailed in Appendix 2 to the report; • Schemes to be undertaken from the “block” budget allocations reported in paragraph 21 and detailed Appendix 4 to the report. In respect of the Highway Structural Maintenance Programme, that the Executive delegate authority to the Corporate Director for Place in consultation with the Executive Member for Environmental and Regulatory Services to amend the Programme in the event of any changes in overall levels of funding. <p>2. That it be recommended that Council approve:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Capital Strategy included in Appendix 1 to the report; • the overall Capital Programme in the sum of £415.40m for the period 2021/24, comprising £170.84m in respect of the General Capital Programme and £244.56m for the Investment Fund • additional prudential borrowing of £10.00m to support the general capital programme, as detailed in Paragraph 11 of the report; and • the prudential and local indicators set out at Appendix 3 to the report. 	

<u>REASONS FOR THE DECISION</u>
The Authority is regularly assessed on the performance of its Capital Programme and how delivery matches corporate policies and proposed spending plans. To reflect budgets in line with revised expectations will assist in evidencing that compliance with the above is being met.

<u>ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED AT THE MEETING/BY MEMBERS</u>
To use capital receipts to repay debt which would generate revenue savings on the Medium Term Financial Plan. However, the proposed application of the capital receipts are to schemes with mandatory requirements and schemes to protect the long-term viability of the Council’s assets; enabling efficient and effective service delivery and avoiding potential increases in maintenance costs in future years, the benefits of which are greater than just using the receipts to repay debt.

<u>CONFLICTS OF INTEREST DECLARED AND ANY ASSOCIATED DISPENSATION</u>
None.

<u>Scrutiny Call in Deadline</u>
In respect of Recommendation 1: Monday, 1 March 2021 (Decision can be implemented on the next working day, unless called in.)

<u>PUBLICATION DATE</u>
22 February 2021

In respect of Recommendation 2, Not applicable. This decision presents recommendations to Council, as the substantive decision-maker at its Budget Meeting, so call-in is not appropriate.

RECORDED BY:

Corporate Director, Governance & Community Strategy

TRAFFORD BOROUGH COUNCIL

STATEMENT OF EXECUTIVE DECISION

<u>DATE OF DECISION</u>	Wednesday, 17 February 2021	<u>DECISION MAKER</u>
<u>DECISION REFERENCE</u>	E/17.2.21/3d & 6	Executive (Virtual Meeting) (Councillors Participating: A. Western, Adshead, Freeman, Harding, Hynes, Patel, Ross, Slater, Whitham and Wright)

RECORD OF THE DECISION

STRATEGIC LAND REVIEW PROGRAMME 2021-2024 - PART I

1. That the outcome of the 2020/21 Land Sales Programmes be noted.
2. That the Strategic Land Review Programme for 2021/22 (and further) as set out in the report be approved.
3. That authority be delegated to the Corporate Director Place to:
 - a. negotiate and accept bids in consultation with the Director of Finance and Systems and Corporate Director for Governance and Community Strategy for all sites listed on the Land Review Programme, including any bid which would result in a capital receipt of £500,000 or more.
 - b. engage external resources where this will assist in implementing the programme, including a professional team where reasonably required to support a development project.
 - c. Commission, submit and/or authorise as appropriate:
 - i) any applications for planning permission on any properties included in the programme where this will assist in marketing and/or add value, or in any case where the Council is proposing to redevelop the site whether directly or in partnership with another party.
 - ii) any surveys/investigations where such surveys will reduce the risks associated with redevelopment, add value to the capital receipt /revenue return and/or assist with the preparation, submission and resolution of any planning permission application, or any other usual pre-development survey or investigation.
 - iii) any feasibility study or design for the site and or premises in association with either obtaining a planning consent or as part of options appraisal
 - iv) any demolitions or physical alterations that will either reduce the risks associated with holding the premises or accelerate the sale/redevelopment and/or add value to the capital receipt/revenue return.
 - d. offset eligible disposal costs against capital receipts in accordance with capital regulations.
 - e. advertise the intention to dispose of a site in the event that it comprises open space as defined by the Town and Country Planning Act 1990, in accordance with the relevant statutory procedure, and if any objections are received, to refer to the relevant portfolio holder for

consideration in consultation with the Executive Member for Environment, Air Quality and Climate Change.

- f. acquire adjacent land or property where the acquisition will either add value to the overall development or de-risk the disposal/development of the Council asset.
- g. add to or substitute sites into the programme during the year, including any site where the anticipated capital receipt would be £500,000 or more.
- h. Transfer sites from Category 1 to Category 2, and vice versa
- i. commission security services.
- j. authorise alternative methods of disposal where appropriate.
- k. authorise community engagement and consultations where the Corporate Director deems it necessary or advantageous.
- l. In relation to any site currently in development or any site which commences development during this programme, agree any licence or approve the grant of any easement or lease or any other disposal, including where that disposal taken in isolation would constitute a disposal at undervalue, which is designed or intended to implement or facilitate the development.
- m. In relation to the Brown Street and former Sale Magistrates sites, authorise a marketing, pricing and disposal strategy and authorise the sale of plots, either individually or in blocks, including where the anticipated or actual capital receipt exceeds £499,000.

4. That the Corporate Director of Governance and Community Strategy in consultation with the Corporate Director Place and, where appropriate, the Director for Finance and Systems, be authorised to finalise and enter into all legal agreements required to implement the above decisions.

REASONS FOR THE DECISION

The sale of surplus assets reduces the Council's overall expenditure and backlog maintenance, generates capital receipts to support the capital programme, assists regeneration and place making in strategic locations and facilitates residential development and in turn housing growth. There is a need to undertake a range of procedures to ensure that the best consideration for the sale is achieved including full exposure to the market and a transparent audit trail. The development of Council owned land allows for a greater receipt than a simple disposal and gives the Council control over how the land is developed so that it can be better aligned with the Council's strategic objectives and that the development meets Council priorities relating to affordable housing, energy efficiency and carbon reduction.

ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED AT THE MEETING/BY MEMBERS

Retention of surplus property would have consequences for the resourcing of the Capital Programme, impact on revenue savings and the delivery of a range of Council objectives. As set out in the report, alternative options are considered for each site before they are added to the Strategic Land Review Programme.

CONFLICTS OF INTEREST DECLARED AND ANY ASSOCIATED DISPENSATION

None.

Scrutiny Call in Deadline

Monday, 1 March 2021

(Decision can be implemented on the next working day, unless called in).

PUBLICATION DATE

22 February 2021

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TRAFFORD BOROUGH COUNCIL

STATEMENT OF EXECUTIVE DECISION

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RECORD OF THE DECISION

FEES, CHARGES & ALLOWANCES 2021/22

That Council be recommended to approve the following:

- The Fees and Charges for 2021/22 and those relating to Registration of Births, Death & Marriages and Allotments also shown for 2022/23, as set out in the booklet available on the Council's web site;
- That approval be delegated jointly to each Corporate Director with the Director of Finance and Systems to amend fees and charges which are within their respective delegated powers during 2021/22 in the event of any change in the rate of VAT, as appropriate;
- That approval be delegated jointly to each Corporate Director with the Director of Finance and Systems to amend fees and charges during 2021/22 which are within their respective delegated powers where the economics of the charge levels have changed (e.g. costs have risen unexpectedly), or for commercial reasons.

REASONS FOR THE DECISION

To fulfil the obligations outlined in the Council Constitution for the budget process.

ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED AT THE MEETING/BY MEMBERS

All options at an individual fee or charge basis have been considered, where appropriate, during the budget process.

CONFLICTS OF INTEREST DECLARED AND ANY ASSOCIATED DISPENSATION

None.

Scrutiny Call in Deadline

Not applicable. This decision presents recommendations to Council, as the substantive decision-maker at its Budget Meeting, so call-in is not appropriate.

PUBLICATION DATE

22 February 2021

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<u>RECORDED BY:</u> Corporate Director, Governance & Community Strategy

TRAFFORD BOROUGH COUNCIL

STATEMENT OF EXECUTIVE DECISION

<u>DATE OF DECISION</u>	Wednesday, 17 February 2021	<u>DECISION MAKER</u>
<u>DECISION REFERENCE</u>	E/17.2.21/3f	Executive (Virtual Meeting) (Councillors Participating: A. Western, Adshead, Freeman, Harding, Hynes, Patel, Ross, Slater, Whitham and Wright)

RECORD OF THE DECISION

EXECUTIVE'S RESPONSE TO SCRUTINY COMMITTEE'S RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE BUDGET PROPOSALS FOR 2021/22

That the Executive's response to the Scrutiny Committee, as set out in the report, be approved.

REASONS FOR THE DECISION

The report is in response to the review carried out by the Scrutiny Committee.

ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED AT THE MEETING/BY MEMBERS

Not applicable; the Executive is required to respond to Scrutiny recommendations.

CONFLICTS OF INTEREST DECLARED AND ANY ASSOCIATED DISPENSATION

None.

<u>Scrutiny Call in Deadline</u> Not applicable. This decision is taken to respond formally to Scrutiny recommendations, so call-in is not appropriate.
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<u>PUBLICATION DATE</u> 22 February 2021
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<u>RECORDED BY:</u> Corporate Director, Governance & Community Strategy
