

TRAFFORD BOROUGH COUNCIL

STATEMENT OF EXECUTIVE DECISION

<u>DATE OF DECISION</u>	Wednesday, 18 February 2015	<u>DECISION MAKER</u>
<u>DECISION REFERENCE</u>	E/18.02.15/3	Executive (Councillors Anstee, Cornes, Hyman, Lamb, Myers, Williams and M. Young)

RECORD OF THE DECISION

Executive's Revenue Budget Proposals 2015/16

It is recommended that Council approve:

- The net Revenue Budget for 2015/16 at £148.914m, a decrease of £(5.638)m, or (3.6)%, when compared to the 2014/15 base budget of £154.552m;
- The calculation of the Council Tax Requirement as summarised in Section 10 and set out in the Formal Council Tax Resolution (Green Sheets to be circulated at Council);
- That there is no increase in the proposed Council Tax level for Trafford related services in 2015/16 (valuation bands are detailed at Annex E;
- The Fees and Charges for 2015/16, as set out in the booklet available on the Council's website (subject to the amendment set out in the supplementary paper presented to the meeting) :-
 - Approval is given to Corporate Directors and the Director of Finance with the joint delegation to amend fees and charges during 2015/16 in the event of any change in the rate of VAT, as appropriate
 - Approval is given to the Corporate Director, Economic Growth, Environment and Infrastructure, and the Director of Finance with joint delegation to amend fees and charges in line with commercial negotiations with the Joint Venture Partner(s) (if approved).
- That the minimum level of General Reserve for 2015/16 be set at £6.0m, the same as in 2014/15 (Section 5 of the report);
- The overall Capital Investment Programme level of £79.7m be approved (as detailed in the Capital Investment Programme 2015/18 report – Item 3d attached to the agenda) of which £41.8m relates to 2015/16.
- The Prudential Borrowing Indicators as set out in Appendix 3, page 14, of the Treasury Management Strategy – Item 3e attached to the agenda.
- The distribution of Dedicated Schools Grant as recommended by the School Funding Forum and Executive as summarised in Section 7 and detailed in Annex F to the report.

and in approving the above, has taken into consideration :

- The objective assessment by the Director of Finance of the robustness of budget estimates and adequacy of the General Reserve (Section 5 and Annex M).
- The Executive's response to the Scrutiny Committee's recommendations to the budget proposals, which can be found elsewhere on the agenda – Item 3c.
- The detailed report on the outcomes of the Staff and Trade Union Consultation which can be found on the agenda for the Executive on 26 January 2015.

- The Equality Impact Assessments in relation to the budget proposals and the Public Sector Equality duty

And that in addition, the Council notes the following :

- The approval on 30 January 2015 under delegated powers by the Director of Finance of the Council Tax Base for 2015/16 at 72,669 Band D equivalents. Along with the calculation of the estimated Council Tax surplus, sufficient to release £(300)k to support the Council's 2015/2016 revenue budget and a distribution of £(41.3)k and £(15.6)k representing the respective shares of the GM Police & Crime Commissioner and GM Fire and Rescue Authority.
- That the Capital Investment Programme for 2016/17 and 2017/18 is to be set at an indicative £23.5m and £14.4m respectively.
- That the Council Tax figures included in the report for the GM Fire & Rescue Authority are the recommended provisional amounts pending their formal approval on 12th February 2015.
- The Treasury Management Strategy 2015/18 detailed elsewhere on the agenda (Item 3e).
- The writing down of the Learning Disability pool deficit of £3.0m
- The base budget assumptions as set out in the Medium Term Financial Outlook as detailed in Annex A to the report.
- That final decisions with regard to some services will not be taken until March 2015. As a result, the allocation of resources set out on pages 65-69 may vary including the use of reserves. All reports will be presented at the appropriate time.

REASONS FOR THE DECISION

To enable the Council to set a Budget Requirement and Council Tax level for 2015/16.

ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED AT THE MEETING/BY MEMBERS

Alternative approaches to Council Tax levels and use of Reserves, as set out at p. 4 of the report.

CONFLICTS OF INTEREST DECLARED AND ANY ASSOCIATED DISPENSATION

None

Scrutiny Call in Deadline

Not applicable: these recommendations are made to Council, as the substantive decision maker, at its Budget meeting also held on 18/2/15.

PUBLICATION DATE

25/2/15

RECORDED BY:

Director of Legal & Democratic Services

TRAFFORD BOROUGH COUNCIL

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RECORD OF THE DECISION

Capital Programme and Prudential Indicators 2015-18

1. That the Capital Programme as detailed in the report be approved.
2. That it be noted that additional schemes may be added to the Capital Programme following the Joint Venture procurement exercise.
3. That Council be recommended to approve the Capital Programme in the sum of £79.7m for the period 2015-18.
4. That Council be recommended to approve the Prudential Indicators as set out at Appendix 3 of the report

REASONS FOR THE DECISION

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.

ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED AT THE MEETING/BY MEMBERS

Use of capital receipts to repay debt which would generate revenue savings on the Medium Term Financial Plan. Based on the level of receipts available this could save approximately £825k per annum. However, the proposed application of the capital receipts are to schemes with mandatory requirements or 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.

CONFLICTS OF INTEREST DECLARED AND ANY ASSOCIATED DISPENSATION

None

Scrutiny Call in Deadline

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RECORD OF THE DECISION

Treasury Management Strategy

That Council be recommended to approve the:

- policy on debt strategy for 2015/16 to 2017/18 as set out in section 3 of the report;
- investment strategy for 2015/16 to 2017/18 and amendments to the credit criteria 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 revised CIPFA Prudential Code and the CIPFA Treasury Management Code, consider that the annual strategy report is an essential control over treasury management activities whereby Members approve 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 CLG Guidance an annual investment strategy (setting out the limits to investment activities).

ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED AT THE MEETING/BY MEMBERS

This report has been produced in order to comply with Financial Procedure Rules and relevant legislation. It provides a plan of action for the period 2015/16 to 2017/18, which is flexible enough to take account of changes in financial markets.

CONFLICTS OF INTEREST DECLARED AND ANY ASSOCIATED DISPENSATION

None

Scrutiny Call in Deadline

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<u>DECISION REFERENCE</u>	E/18.02.15/4	Executive (Councillors Anstee, Cornes, Hyman, Lamb, Myers, Williams and M. Young)

RECORD OF THE DECISION

CONSULTATION OUTCOMES AND BUDGET PROPOSALS

1. That the Executive note:

- The extensive Consultation in relation to the CFW and EGEI budget proposals 2015/16, including the methodology and approach used.
- The final proposals and consultation outcomes.
- The Equality Impact Assessments in relation to the budget proposals and the Public Sector Equality duty

2. That the recommendations in relation to individual budget proposals, as set out in Appendix A to the report, be agreed.

REASONS FOR THE DECISION

The overall reason for these recommendations is to deliver a balanced budget 2015/16 in relation to the proposals set out in the report, whilst having due regard for equality impact and risk mitigation. Individual reasons for decisions, in respect of 18 separate service areas within Children, Families and Wellbeing and Economic Growth, Infrastructure and Environment Directorates, are set out in detail within sections 2 and 3 of the report.

ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED AT THE MEETING/BY MEMBERS

Details of alternative proposals arising, and observations in relation to them, in respect of 18 separate service areas within Children, Families and Wellbeing and Economic Growth, Infrastructure and Environment Directorates, are set out in detail within sections 2 and 3 of the report.

CONFLICTS OF INTEREST DECLARED AND ANY ASSOCIATED DISPENSATION

None

Scrutiny Call in Deadline

Wednesday, 4 March 2015

Implementation will be on the following working day

PUBLICATION DATE

25/2/15

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Director of Legal & Democratic Services

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<u>DECISION REFERENCE</u>	E/18.02.15/5	Executive (Councillors Anstee, Cornes, Hyman, Lamb, Myers, Williams and M. Young)
<u>RECORD OF THE DECISION</u>		
REVENUE BUDGET MONITORING 2014/15 - PERIOD 9		
That the latest forecast be noted and agreed.		
<u>REASONS FOR THE DECISION</u>		
To inform Members of current position regarding the monitoring of the current year's revenue budget and provide for appropriate measures in response.		
<u>ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED AT THE MEETING/BY MEMBERS</u>		
None.		
<u>CONFLICTS OF INTEREST DECLARED AND ANY ASSOCIATED DISPENSATION</u>		
None		

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RECORD OF THE DECISION

CAPITAL PROGRAMME MONITORING REPORT 2014/5 QUARTER 3

1. That the amendments to the 2014/15 Capital Investment Programme be approved.
2. That the monitoring report be noted.

REASONS FOR THE DECISION

The Authority is regularly assessed on the performance of its Capital Investment 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 criteria is being met.

ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED AT THE MEETING/BY MEMBERS

Use of 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 or 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.

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RECORD OF THE DECISION

URGENT BUSINESS (IF ANY)

Stretford Town Centre Update

1. That the on-going work to transform Stretford Town Centre and implement the Stretford Masterplan be noted.
2. That approval be given to the disposal of Stretford Public Hall in accordance with the terms detailed in the Part II report and that the Corporate Director of Economic Growth, Environment and Infrastructure, in consultation with the Director of Legal and Democratic Services, be authorised to complete the necessary documentation.
3. That the Lacy Street preferred option be approved for the purposes of public consultation.

REASONS FOR THE DECISION

The continued implementation of the Masterplan will enable Stretford Town Centre to maximise the opportunities provided by its key assets and create a strong and attractive town centre that is a destination of choice for local people.

ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED AT THE MEETING/BY MEMBERS

The Executive has previously agreed to adopt the Stretford Masterplan which these decisions support. The existing uses on the Lacy Street site could be retained. However this would not maximise the potential of the site to act as a catalyst for the wider regeneration of the Town Centre by providing a strong built frontage at a key gateway site, delivering a mix of uses to support the local economy and opening up access to the Bridgewater Canal. The Public Hall could be re-marketed with conditional contracts to ascertain if there is any other interest in its acquisition. If disposal is not approved the Council would continue to be liable for a potentially onerous financial obligation to maintain the building which would remain empty.

CONFLICTS OF INTEREST DECLARED AND ANY ASSOCIATED DISPENSATION

None

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