

TRAFFORD BOROUGH COUNCIL

STATEMENT OF EXECUTIVE DECISION

<u>DATE OF DECISION</u>	Wednesday, 22 February 2017	<u>DECISION MAKER</u>
<u>DECISION REFERENCE</u>	E/22.02.17/3a	Executive (Councillors Sean Anstee, Mrs. Evans, Hyman, Lamb, Myers, John Reilly and Williams)

RECORD OF THE DECISION

Executive's Revenue Budget Proposals 2017/18 & MTFS 2018/19-2019/20

It is recommended that Council approve:

- a) The 2017/18 net Revenue Budget of £160.83 million.
- b) The 2018/19 to 2019/20 Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) including the income and savings proposals.
- c) The calculation of the Council Tax Requirement as summarised in Section 9.1 of the report and set out in the Formal Council Tax Resolution (Green Sheets circulated at the meeting and to be circulated at Council);
- d) To increase Council Tax by 4.99%:
 - o 1.99% general increase in the 'relevant basic amount' in each of the three years 2017/18 to 2019/20, and
 - o 3% for the 'Adult Social Care' precept in each of the two years 2017/18 and 2018/19.
- e) The Fees and Charges for 2017/18, as set out in the Fees & Charges booklet (available on the Council's website).
- f) Approval is delegated jointly to each Corporate Director with the Chief Finance Officer to amend fees and charges during 2017/18 in the event of any change in VAT rate, as appropriate.
- g) That the minimum level of General Reserve for 2017/18 be retained at £6.0 million, as in 2016/17 (Section 7.2).
- h) The overall Capital Investment Programme level of £109.16 million be approved (as detailed in the Capital Programme & Prudential Indicators report elsewhere on the agenda) of which £65.73 million relates to 2017/18.
- i) The Prudential Borrowing Indicators as set out in Appendix 3, of both the Treasury Management Strategy and Capital Programme & Prudential Indicators reports (elsewhere on the agenda).
- j) The distribution of Dedicated Schools Grant as recommended by the School Funding Forum and Executive as summarised in Section 8 and detailed in Annex H to the report.
- k) The publication of the Council's updated Efficiency Plan in Annex I to the report.
- l) Due to the late publication of the Final 2017/18 Local Government Finance Settlement, the Council to delegate to the Chief Finance Officer the power to vary the level of Budget Support Reserve needed to balance the 2017/18 revenue budget in the event of any change at final settlement (as long as this does not impact on the level of general risk reserve retained).

and in approving the above, has taken into consideration : [Jane – this to be included here?]

- a) The objective assessment by the Chief Finance Officer of the robustness of budget estimates and adequacy of the financial reserves (Section 7.3 and Annex G of the report).
- b) The Executive's response to the Scrutiny Committee's recommendations to the budget proposals as included in a separate report on the agenda.
- c) The 'Budget 2017/18 - consultation Process and Feedback' report referred to Executive Meeting.
- d) The Equality Impact Assessments in relation to the budget proposals and the Public Sector Equality duty.

In addition, the Council notes the following :

- a) The approval on 18 January 2017 under delegated powers by the Chief Finance Officer of the Council Tax Base for 2017/18 at 74,883 Band D equivalents.
- b) Along with the calculation of the estimated Council Tax surplus, sufficient to release £(1.3 million) to support the Council's 2017/18 revenue budget and a distribution of £(181)k and £(68)k representing the respective shares of the GM Police & Crime Commissioner and GM Fire and Rescue Authority.
- c) The base budget assumptions as set out in the Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) as detailed in Annex A to the report.
- d) The budget gap for the two years 2018/19 £13.19 million and 2019/20 of £6.05 million.
- e) That the Capital Investment Programme for 2017/18, 2018/19 and 2019/20 is to be set at an indicative £65.73 million, £25.51 million and £17.92 million respectively.
- f) The use of capital receipts to fund a number of transformational savings and income generating projects as detailed in Annex I to the report.
- g) That the Council Tax figures included in the report for the GM Fire & Rescue and Police Authority are the recommended provisional amounts pending their formal approval.
- h) The Treasury Management Strategy 2017/20 detailed elsewhere on the agenda.
- i) The final decision with regard to school crossing patrols will not be taken until the results of the second phase of consultation are concluded and a report to the Executive will then be presented at the appropriate time.
- j) A 'Budget 2017/18 - consultation Process and Feedback' report on the outcomes of the public consultation is included on the Executive Meeting budget agenda.

REASONS FOR THE DECISION

To enable the Council to set a Budget Requirement and Council Tax level for 2017/18. The reason for these recommendations is to deliver a balanced budget 2017/18 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

Not to increase Council Tax; but there would be insufficient funding to pay for the Council's services in 2017/18. If this option were pursued then further savings of £4.21 million 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 the report, however this would exceed the referendum limits, which would mean a local referendum was required. The use of reserves has been reviewed (Section 7 of the report) and an appropriate amount has been assessed for release to support these budget proposals whilst still maintaining a minimum 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 is to formulate recommendations to the immediately following meeting of Council as the substantive decision-maker; so call-in is not appropriate.

PUBLICATION DATE

23/2/17

RECORDED BY:

Director of Legal & Democratic Services

TRAFFORD BOROUGH COUNCIL

STATEMENT OF EXECUTIVE DECISION

<u>DATE OF DECISION</u>	Wednesday, 22 February 2017	<u>DECISION MAKER</u>
<u>DECISION REFERENCE</u>	E/22.02.17/3d	Executive (Councillors Sean Anstee, Mrs. Evans, Hyman, Lamb, Myers, John Reilly and Williams)

RECORD OF THE DECISION

Capital Programme and Prudential Indicators 2017/20

1. That the Capital Programme as detailed in the report be approved.
2. That Council be recommended to approve the Capital Programme in the sum of £109.16m for the period 2017/20.
3. That Council be recommended to approve £25.04m of additional prudential borrowing to support revenue generating investment opportunities as detailed in Paragraph 15 of the report.
4. That Council be recommended to approve the flexible use of capital receipts strategy as set out in Paragraph 13 of the report.
5. 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

To decide to use 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 £0.5m in 2017/18. However, the proposed application of the capital receipts are to schemes with mandatory requirements, schemes to protect the long-term viability of the Council's assets and to transformational projects under the new capital receipts flexibility; 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

Not applicable. This decision is to formulate recommendations to the immediately following meeting of Council as the substantive decision-maker; so call-in is not appropriate.

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RECORD OF THE DECISION

Treasury Management Strategy 2017/18 - 2019/20

That the following be recommended to Council for approval:

- 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 of 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 requires 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 DCLG 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

This report is produced in order to comply with Financial Procedure Rules and relevant legislation. It provides a plan of action for the period 2017/18 to 2019/20, which is flexible enough to take account of changes in financial markets. There are an almost infinite number of other options that the Council could consider as part of its treasury management activities. However, this report outlines a coherent and prudent approach which is recommended by the Chief Financial Officer to the Council.

CONFLICTS OF INTEREST DECLARED AND ANY ASSOCIATED DISPENSATION

None.

Scrutiny Call in Deadline

Not applicable. This decision is to formulate recommendations to the immediately following meeting of Council as the substantive decision-maker; so call-in is not appropriate.

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<u>DECISION REFERENCE</u>	E/22.02.17/3f	Executive (Councillors Sean Anstee, Mrs. Evans, Hyman, Lamb, Myers, John Reilly and Williams)

RECORD OF THE DECISION

Fees, Charges and Allowances 2017/18

1. That Council be recommended to approve the Fees and Charges for 2017/18, as set out in the booklet available on the Council's web site.
2. That Council be requested to agree that approval be delegated jointly to each Corporate Director with the Chief Finance Officer to amend fees and charges during 2017/18 in the event of any change in the rate of VAT, as appropriate.

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

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<u>DECISION REFERENCE</u>	E/22.02.17/4	Executive (Councillors Sean Anstee, Mrs. Evans, Hyman, Lamb, Myers, John Reilly and Williams)

RECORD OF THE DECISION

FAIR PRICE FOR CARE : OUTCOME OF THE REVIEW OF THE PRICE FOR HOMECARE AND RESIDENTIAL AND NURSING CARE

That approval be given to an inflationary uplift to the care fee rates paid by the Council of:

- 3.54% for the homecare market for 2017/8
- 3.2% for the residential and nursing care market for 2017/8

for the reasons set out in the report.

REASONS FOR THE DECISION

To seek approval for an inflationary uplift to the care fee rates paid by the Council. The rationale for the levels suggested is set out in detail in Section 5 of the report.

ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED AT THE MEETING/BY MEMBERS

Do Nothing: The social care market has been recognised nationally as being extremely fragile and the Council has a statutory duty to maintain market stability and sufficiency under the Care Act 2014. Not providing an inflationary uplift at a time when providers must pay the National Minimum Wage and the National Living Wage would only destabilise the market. In addition, people are living longer with very complex health care needs and Trafford requires a robust and skilled workforce to continue to provide high quality care for some of the most vulnerable people in our community. Or offer an increase other than that recommended: The recommended increase is based on an analysis of the cost pressures on providers and includes an element of flexibility to ensure that market sustainability and quality is maintained whilst being affordable for the Council. An increase of less than the recommendations could undermine market stability as providers will not be able to meet their mandatory responsibility to pay staff the National Living Wage, resulting in services becoming financially unviable. This would impact negatively on the local health and social care system, with a potential knock on effect for supporting timely discharge from hospital. An increase of more than the recommendations would impact negatively on the Council's finances and would be unaffordable. The Council would have less money available to meet its statutory duties and to continue to support vulnerable adults.

CONFLICTS OF INTEREST DECLARED AND ANY ASSOCIATED DISPENSATION

None.

Scrutiny Call in Deadline

Thursday, 2 March 2017

PUBLICATION DATE

23/2/17

Implementation will be on the following working day

RECORDED BY:

Director of Legal & Democratic Services

TRAFFORD BOROUGH COUNCIL

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<u>DECISION REFERENCE</u>	E/22.02.17/6	Executive (Councillors Sean Anstee, Mrs. Evans, Hyman, Lamb, Myers, John Reilly and Williams)

RECORD OF THE DECISION

PROPOSAL FOR THE PROCUREMENT OF WATER, WASTEWATER AND ANCILLARY SERVICES

1. That the content of the report in relation to the continuation of the existing contract until the award of a new contract be noted.
2. That Trafford Council procure a provider or providers, to supply water, wastewater and ancillary services as set out in the report.
3. That on the conclusion of the procurement process the Corporate Director for Economic Growth Environment and Infrastructure be authorised to approve an award of the contract(s) by Trafford Council for the provision of water, wastewater, and ancillary services.

REASONS FOR THE DECISION

In accordance with the Public Contracts Regulation 2015, Trafford Council is required to undertake a procurement exercise to source a new supplier as of 1st April 2017. Trafford Council is unable to compliantly procure a supplier before 1st April for the reasons set out in the report. The proposed temporary continuation of the supply of water, wastewater, and ancillary services from Water Plus, during the period commencing on 1st April 2017 and expiring on 31st July 2017, will provide a period of time during which STAR Procurement can administer a compliant procurement exercise which will result in competitive packages of service realised through an aggregated purchasing exercise and it provide Trafford Council access to a secure contractual arrangement for the future supply of water, wastewater, and ancillary services from 1st August 2017 until March 2020.

ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED AT THE MEETING/BY MEMBERS

Do nothing; Trafford Council to administer its own compliant procurement exercise now; or Trafford Council to commence administration of its own compliant procurement exercise in April 2017. Further details of these options are set out in the report.

CONFLICTS OF INTEREST DECLARED AND ANY ASSOCIATED DISPENSATION

None.

Scrutiny Call in Deadline

Thursday, 2 March 2017

Implementation will be on the following working day

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23/2/17

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