

**TRAFFORD BOROUGH COUNCIL**

**STATEMENT OF EXECUTIVE DECISION**

<b><u>DATE OF DECISION</u></b>	Wednesday, 21 February 2018	<b><u>DECISION MAKER</u></b>
<b><u>DECISION REFERENCE</u></b>	E/21.2.18/4a	<b>Executive</b> (Councillors Sean Anstee, Stephen Anstee, L. Evans, Hopps, Lamb, Myers, Shaw, Whetton and Alex Williams)

**RECORD OF THE DECISION**

**EXECUTIVE'S REVENUE BUDGET PROPOSALS 2018/19 & MTF5 2019/20 - 2020/21**

**That it be recommended that Council approve the following:-**

- a) The 2018/19 net Revenue Budget of £164.25 million.
- b) The 2019/20 to 2020/21 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 Executive and Council);
- d) To increase Council Tax by 4.99% in 2018/19:
  - o 2.99% general increase in the 'relevant basic amount' in 2018/19 and 1.99% in 2019/20 and 2020/21, and
  - o 2% for the 'Adult Social Care' precept in 2018/19 and 1% in 2019/20.
- e) The policy changes as detailed in the report (Section 4.3.1)
- f) The Fees and Charges for 2018/19, as set out in the Fees & Charges booklet.
- g) That approval is delegated jointly to each Corporate Director with the Chief Finance Officer to amend fees and charges during 2018/19 in the event of any change in VAT rate, as appropriate.
- h) That the minimum level of General Reserve for 2018/19 be retained at £6.0 million, as in 2017/18 (Section 7.2).
- i) That the overall Capital Strategy and Programme level of £144.65 million be approved (as detailed in the Capital Strategy & Prudential Indicators report included elsewhere on the agenda) of which £59.42 million relates to 2018/19.
- j) The Prudential Borrowing Indicators as set out in in Appendix 3 and Appendix 4, of both the Treasury Management Strategy and Capital Strategy & Prudential Indicators reports respectively included elsewhere on the agenda.
- k) The distribution of Dedicated Schools Grant as recommended by the School Funding Forum and Executive as summarised in Section 8 and detailed in Annex I.

**That it be noted that, in recommending approval of the above, the Executive has taken into consideration:**

- 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 H).

- 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 Council's Public Sector Equality duty.
- d) The results of the consultation with staff on the extension of the mandatory leave scheme

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

- a) The approval on 9 January 2018 under delegated powers by the Chief Finance Officer of the Council Tax Base for 2018/19 at 76,045 Band D equivalents.
- b) Along with the calculation of the estimated Council Tax surplus, sufficient to release £(0.5 million) to support the Council's 2018/19 revenue budget and a distribution of £(69)k and £(25)k representing the respective shares of the Mayoral Police and Crime Commissioner Precept and Mayoral General Precept (including Fire Services).
- c) The base budget assumptions as set out in the Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) as detailed in Annex A.
- d) The budget gap for the two years 2019/20, £6.25 million and 2020/21, £8.85 million.
- e) That the Capital Investment Programme for 2018/19, 2019/20 and 2020/21 is to be set at an indicative £59.42 million, £61.76 million and £23.47 million respectively (indicative at this stage as a number of capital grants not yet known).
- f) 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.
- g) The Treasury Management Strategy 2018/21 detailed elsewhere on the agenda.

**REASONS FOR THE DECISION**

To enable the Council to set a Budget Requirement and Council Tax level for 2018/19. The reason for these recommendations is to deliver a balanced budget 2018/19 in relation to the proposals set out in this 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 2018/19. If this option were pursued then further savings of £4.44 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 this report, however this would exceed the referendum limits, which would mean a local referendum was required. The use of reserves has been reviewed 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 make a recommendation to Council, as the substantive decision-maker, at its immediately following Budget Meeting on 21/2/18; and so call-in is not appropriate.

**PUBLICATION DATE**

27/3/18

**RECORDED BY:**

Director of Legal & Democratic Services

**TRAFFORD BOROUGH COUNCIL**

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<b><u>RECORD OF THE DECISION</u></b>		
<b><u>EXECUTIVE'S RESPONSE TO SCRUTINY COMMITTEE'S RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE BUDGET PROPOSALS FOR 2018/19</u></b>		
That the Executive's response to Scrutiny be approved.		
<b><u>REASONS FOR THE DECISION</u></b>		
The report is in response to the consultation carried out by the Scrutiny Committee.		
<b><u>ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED AT THE MEETING/BY MEMBERS</u></b>		
Not applicable: the Executive is required to respond to Scrutiny recommendations.		
<b><u>CONFLICTS OF INTEREST DECLARED AND ANY ASSOCIATED DISPENSATION</u></b>		
None.		

**Scrutiny Call in Deadline**

**Not applicable:** This decision is to make a response to Scrutiny recommendations; and so call-in is not appropriate.

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#### **RECORD OF THE DECISION**

##### CAPITAL STRATEGY & PRUDENTIAL INDICATORS 2018/21

1. That the Capital Expenditure Strategy as detailed in the report be recommended to Council.
2. That Council be recommended to approve the overall Capital Programme in the sum of £144.65m for the period 2018/21.
3. That Council be recommended to approve to approve £41.96m of additional prudential borrowing to support revenue generating investment opportunities as detailed in Paragraphs 20 and 21 to the report.
4. That Council be recommended to approve the Prudential and Local Indicators as set out at Appendix 4 to the report.
5. That the Investment Strategy as detailed in the report be recommended to Council.

#### **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**

The Executive could 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 £0.3m in 2018/19. 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; 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 make a recommendation to Council, as the substantive decision-maker, at its immediately following Budget Meeting on 21/2/18; and so call-in is not appropriate.

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**RECORD OF THE DECISION**

**TREASURY MANAGEMENT STRATEGY 2018/19 - 2020/21**

That the key elements in the report, as follows, be recommended to Council for approval:

- policy on debt strategy as set out in section 3 to the report;
- investment strategy as set out in section 5;
- 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.

**REASONS FOR THE DECISION**

The Financial Procedure Rules, incorporating the requirements of the CIPFA Treasury Management Code of Practice 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 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**

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 2018/19 to 2020/21, 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 Finance Officer to the Council.

**CONFLICTS OF INTEREST DECLARED AND ANY ASSOCIATED DISPENSATION**

None.

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**RECORD OF THE DECISION**

**FEES, CHARGES & ALLOWANCES 2018/19**

That it be recommended to Council that:

- The Fees and Charges for 2018/19, as set out in the booklet available on the Council's web site, be approved;
- Approval be delegated jointly to each Corporate Director with the Chief Finance Officer to amend fees and charges during 2018/19 in the event of any change in the rate of VAT, as appropriate;
- Approval be delegated jointly to the Corporate Director for EGEI in conjunction with the Chief Finance Officer to amend the fees and charges for Pest Control during 2018/19 following a planned review of the service.

**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 would 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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