

## TRAFFORD BOROUGH COUNCIL

### STATEMENT OF EXECUTIVE DECISION

<b><u>DATE OF DECISION</u></b>	Wednesday, 20 February 2019	<b><u>DECISION MAKER</u></b>
<b><u>DECISION REFERENCE</u></b>	E/20.2.19/4a	<b>Executive</b> (Councillors A. Western, Adshead, Cordingley, Hynes, Freeman, Harding, Hynes, Lloyd, Procter and Wright)

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

##### EXECUTIVE'S REVENUE BUDGET PROPOSALS 2019/20 & MTFS 2020/21 - 2021/22

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

- a) The 2019/20 net Revenue Budget of £169.94 million.
- b) The 2020/21 to 2021/22 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 and set out in the Formal Council Tax Resolution in Annex I to the report;
- d) To increase Council Tax by 3.99% in 2019/20:
  - o 2.99% general increase in the 'relevant basic amount' in 2019/20, 2020/21 and 2021/22, and
  - o 1% for the 'Adult Social Care' precept in 2019/20.
- e) The Fees and Charges for 2019/20 and those relating to Registration of Births, Death & Marriages also shown for 2020/21, as set out in the Fees & Charges booklet.
- f) That approval be delegated jointly to each Corporate Director with the Corporate Director of Finance and Systems to amend fees and charges during 2019/20 in the event of any change in VAT rate, as appropriate.
- g) That approval be delegated jointly to each Corporate Director with the Corporate Director of Finance and Systems to amend fees and charges during 2019/20 under delegated powers where the economics of the charge levels have changed (e.g. costs have risen unexpectedly), or for commercial reasons.
- h) That the minimum level of General Reserve for 2019/20 be increased to £7.0 million, an increase of £1m from 2018/19 (Section 7.2 of the report).
- i) The Capital Strategy, Prudential and Local Indicators and overall level of the Capital Programme and Asset Investment Fund of £212.28 million (as detailed in the Capital Strategy, Capital Programme & Prudential Indicators 2019/22) of which £167.93 million relates to 2019/20; this includes £106.91million of new prudential borrowing.
- j) The Treasury Management Strategy 2019/20 to 2021/22, including the debt strategy (Section 3), the investment strategy (Section 5) 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.
- 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 H.

**and in recommending approval of the above, has taken into consideration :**

- a) The objective assessment by the Corporate Director of Finance and Systems of the robustness of budget estimates and adequacy of the financial reserves (Section 7 and Annex G).
- 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 on the budget proposals.

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

- a) The approval on 23 January 2019 under delegated powers by the Corporate Director of Finance and Systems of the Council Tax Base for 2019/20 at 76,999 Band D equivalents.
- b) Along with the calculation of the estimated Council Tax surplus, sufficient to release £(1.324)million to support the Council's 2019/20 revenue budget and a distribution of £(187)k and £(74)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 2020/21, £15.71m and 2021/22, £12.81m.
- e) That the Capital Programme for 2019/20, 2020/21 and 2021/22 is to be set at an indicative £167.93 million, £32.99 million and £11.36 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.

#### **REASONS FOR THE DECISION**

To enable the Council to set a Budget Requirement and Council Tax level for 2019/20. The reasons for these recommendations are to deliver a balanced budget for 2019/20 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 2019/20. If this option were pursued then further savings of £3.79 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 (See Section 7) 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.** The decision was to make a recommendation to Council, as the substantive decision-maker, at its immediately following Budget Meeting; so call-in is not applicable.

**PUBLICATION DATE**

25/2/19

**RECORDED BY:**

Corporate Director of Governance and Community Strategy

**TRAFFORD BOROUGH COUNCIL**

**STATEMENT OF EXECUTIVE DECISION**

<b><u>DATE OF DECISION</u></b>	Wednesday, 20 February 2019	<b><u>DECISION MAKER</u></b>
<b><u>DECISION REFERENCE</u></b>	E/20.2.19/4b	<b>Executive</b> (Councillors A. Western, Adshead, Cordingley, Hynes, Freeman, Harding, Hynes, Lloyd, Procter and Wright)

**RECORD OF THE DECISION**

**CAPITAL STRATEGY, CAPITAL PROGRAMME AND PRUDENTIAL & LOCAL INDICATORS 2019/22**

1. That the Capital Programme as detailed in Appendix 2 of the report be approved.
2. That approval be given to the Schemes to be undertaken from the "block" budget allocations reported in paragraph 21 and detailed Appendix 4 to the report.
3. That it be recommended that Council approve:
  - a) The Capital Strategy included in Appendix 1 to the report;
  - b) the overall Capital Programme in the sum of £212.28m for the period 2019/22, comprising £112.28m in respect of the General Programme and £100m for the Asset Investment Fund;
  - c) additional prudential borrowing of £6.91m to support revenue generating investment opportunities as detailed in Paragraph 13 and a further £100m which will be added to the Asset Investment Fund as detailed in Paragraph 33 of the report;
  - d) the Prudential and Local 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 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, 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**

In respect of Resolutions 1 and 2, 4 March 2019

Implementation will be on the following working day

In respect of Resolution 3, **Not applicable.** The decision was to make a recommendation to Council, as the substantive decision-maker, at its immediately following Budget Meeting; so call-in is not applicable.

**PUBLICATION DATE**

25/2/19

**RECORDED BY:**

Corporate Director of Governance and Community Strategy

**TRAFFORD BOROUGH COUNCIL**

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**RECORD OF THE DECISION**

**TREASURY MANAGEMENT STRATEGY 2019/20 - 2021/22**

That the Executive note the report and recommend that Council approves the Treasury Management Strategy 2019/20 – 2021/22 including the:

- policy on debt strategy as set out in section 3;
- 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, 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 produced in order to comply with Financial Procedure Rules and relevant legislation. It provides a plan of action for the period 2019/20 to 2021/22, 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. The report however outlines a clear and practical approach which 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.** The decision was to make a recommendation to Council, as the substantive decision-maker, at its immediately following Budget Meeting; so call-in is not applicable.

**PUBLICATION DATE**

25/2/19

**RECORDED BY:**

Corporate Director of Governance and Community Strategy

**TRAFFORD BOROUGH COUNCIL**

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**RECORD OF THE DECISION**

**FEES, CHARGES & ALLOWANCES 2019/20**

That it be recommended that Council approve the following:

- The Fees and Charges for 2019/20 and those relating to Registration of Births, Death & Marriages also shown for 2020/21, as set out in the booklet available on the Council's web site;
- That approval be delegated jointly to each Corporate Director with the Corporate Director of Finance and Systems to amend fees and charges during 2019/20 in the event of any change in the rate of VAT, as appropriate;
- That approval be delegated jointly to each Corporate Director with the Corporate Director of Finance and Systems to amend fees and charges during 2019/20 under 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 would have been considered, where appropriate, during the budget process.

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

None.

**Scrutiny Call in Deadline**

**Not applicable.** The decision was to make a recommendation to Council, as the substantive decision-maker, at its immediately following Budget Meeting; so call-in is not applicable.

**PUBLICATION DATE**

25/2/19

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Corporate Director of Governance and Community Strategy

**TRAFFORD BOROUGH COUNCIL**

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**RECORD OF THE DECISION**

**EXECUTIVE'S RESPONSE TO SCRUTINY COMMITTEE'S RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE BUDGET PROPOSALS FOR 2019/20**

That the Executive's response to Scrutiny be approved.

**REASONS FOR THE DECISION**

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

**ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED AT THE MEETING/BY MEMBERS**

None – the Executive is required to respond to recommendations from Scrutiny.

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

None.

**Scrutiny Call in Deadline**

**Not applicable.** The decision was explicitly to provide for a response to be made to Scrutiny, so call-in is not applicable.

**PUBLICATION DATE**

25/2/19

**RECORDED BY:**

Corporate Director of Governance and Community Strategy

**TRAFFORD BOROUGH COUNCIL**

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<b><u>DECISION REFERENCE</u></b>	E/20.2.19/5	<b>Executive</b> (Councillors A. Western, Adshead, Cordingley, Hynes, Freeman, Harding, Hynes, Lloyd, Procter and Wright)

**RECORD OF THE DECISION**

**FAIR PRICE FOR CARE FOR OLDER PEOPLE'S RESIDENTIAL AND NURSING HOMES 2019-2020**

That an inflationary uplift be approved for Residential and Nursing Home beds of 3.96% for 2019/20.

**REASONS FOR THE DECISION**

Approval of the recommended option will enable providers to meet the requirements of the National Living Wage and additional inflationary pressures whilst still remaining within the approved budget. It will also allow the Council time to undertake further work to further understand all elements and variables necessary to work towards a real cost of care price and the Greater Manchester Living wage.

**ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED AT THE MEETING/BY MEMBERS**

Do nothing. This is not recommended. 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 Living Wage (£8.21 per hour, from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2019, for workers aged 25+) would only destabilise the market further. 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 to some of the most vulnerable people in our community.

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

None.

**Scrutiny Call in Deadline****Friday, 1 March 2019**

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

**PUBLICATION DATE**

22/2/19

**RECORDED BY:**

Corporate Director of Governance and Community Strategy

**TRAFFORD BOROUGH COUNCIL****STATEMENT OF EXECUTIVE DECISION**

<b><u>DATE OF DECISION</u></b>	Wednesday, 20 February 2019	<b><u>DECISION MAKER</u></b>
<b><u>DECISION REFERENCE</u></b>	E/20.2.19/6	<b>Executive</b> (Councillors A. Western, Adshead, Cordingley, Hynes, Freeman, Harding, Hynes, Lloyd, Procter and Wright)

**RECORD OF THE DECISION****FAIR PRICE FOR CARE ANNUAL UPLIFT TO THE HOURLY RATE PAID TO PROVIDERS TO DELIVER HOMECARE IN TRAFFORD IN 2019/20**

That approval be given to the inflationary uplift of 4.27% to the hourly rate for homecare: an increase from £14.63 per hour to £15.25 per hour.

**REASONS FOR THE DECISION**

The proposed uplift will enable providers to commit to the National Living Wage and to pay travel time, travel costs, training time and other work related expenses. It allows the Council to offer a competitive rate to providers and care workers, who might otherwise choose to work in neighbouring authorities such as; Manchester or Salford and this helps Trafford to meet growing demand for homecare. It will also enable the Council to seek commitment to the implementation of Ethical Care Charter (ECC) principles and, if a commitment to the adoption of ECC principles is secured, to progress with the identified implementation proposals. The rationale for this is: improving workforce pay and conditions has been proven to stabilise the homecare workforce and reduce staff turnover; and this in turn reduces provider overheads and stabilises the market, laying the foundations for innovation.

**ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED AT THE MEETING/BY MEMBERS**

Not applying an uplift, or applying a higher or lower uplift. Detail of the options considered is set out in section 5.1 of the report.

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

None.



**Scrutiny Call in Deadline**

**Friday, 1 March 2019**

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

**PUBLICATION DATE**

22/2/19

**RECORDED BY:**

Corporate Director of Governance and Community  
Strategy