

TRAFFORD BOROUGH COUNCIL

STATEMENT OF EXECUTIVE DECISION

<u>DATE OF DECISION</u>	Wednesday, 19 February 2020	<u>DECISION MAKER</u>
<u>DECISION REFERENCE</u>	E/19.2.20/4a	Executive (Councillors A. Western, Adshead, Freeman, Harding, Hynes, Patel, Ross, Slater, Whitham and Wright)

RECORD OF THE DECISION

Executive's Revenue Budget Proposals 2020/21 & MTFS 2021/22 - 2022/23

That it be recommended to Council that it :-

- a) Approves the 2020/21 net Revenue Budget of £175.20m.
- b) Approves the 2021/22 to 2022/23 Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) including the income and savings proposals.
- c) Approves the calculation of the Council Tax Requirement as summarised in Section 9.1 and set out in the Formal Council Tax Resolution in Annex K (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 3.99% in 2020/21:
 - o 1.99% general increase in the 'relevant basic amount' in 2020/21, 2021/22 and 2022/23, and
 - o 2% for the 'Adult Social Care' precept in 2020/21.
- e) Approves the planned application of earmarked reserves as detailed in Section 6, Para 6.4.2
- f) Approves the Fees and Charges for 2020/21 and those relating to Registration of Births, Death & Marriages also shown for 2021/22, as set out in the Fees & Charges booklet.
- g) Delegates authority jointly to each Corporate Director in consultation with the Corporate Director of Finance and Systems to amend fees and charges during 2020/21 in the event of any change in VAT rate, as appropriate.
- h) Delegates authority jointly to each Corporate Director in consultation with the Corporate Director of Finance and Systems to amend fees and charges during 2020/21 where the economics of the charge levels have changed (e.g. costs have risen unexpectedly), or for commercial reasons.
- i) Approves the proposal to maintain the minimum level of General Reserve for 2020/21 at £7.0m, the same level as in 2019/20 (Section 6.6).
- j) Approves the Capital Strategy, Prudential and Local Indicators and overall level of the Capital Programme and Asset Investment Fund of £368.72m (as detailed in the Capital Strategy, Capital Programme & Prudential Indicators 2020/23) of which £262.11m relates to 2020/21; including the proposal in relation to £106.92 million of new prudential borrowing.
- k) Approves the Treasury Management Strategy 2020/21 to 2022/23, including the debt strategy (Section 3), the Treasury 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.

- l) Approves the proposed distribution of Dedicated Schools Grant as recommended by the School Funding Forum and Executive as summarised in Section 8 and detailed in Annex J.
- m) Due to the late publication of the Final Local Government Finance Settlement, Council delegate authority to the Corporate Director of Finance and Systems in consultation with the Executive Member for Finance and Investment to vary the level of Budget Support Reserve needed to balance the 2020/21 revenue budget in the event of any change at final settlement.

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

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

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

- r) The approval on 18 January 2020 under delegated powers by the Corporate Director of Finance and Systems of the Council Tax Base for 2020/21 at 77,386 Band D equivalents.
- s) the calculation of the estimated Council Tax surplus, sufficient to release £(1.216)million to support the Council's 2020/21 revenue budget and a distribution of £(180)k and £(70)k representing the respective shares of the Mayoral Police and Crime Commissioner Precept and Mayoral General Precept (including Fire Services).
- t) The base budget assumptions as set out in the Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) as detailed in Annex A.
- u) The budget gap for the two years 2021/22, £15.01m and 2022/23, £5.66m.
- v) That the Capital Programme for 2020/21, 2021/22 and 2022/23 is to be set at an indicative £262.11m, £60.37m and £46.24m respectively (indicative at this stage as a number of capital grants not yet known).
- w) 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 2020/21. The reasons for the recommendations is to deliver a balanced budget for 2020/21 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 2020/21. If this option were pursued then further savings of £3.98 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 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 purpose of the decision is to make recommendations to Budget Council as the substantive decision maker; so call-in is not appropriate.

PUBLICATION DATE

4/3/20

RECORDED BY:

Corporate Director, Governance & Community Strategy

TRAFFORD BOROUGH COUNCIL

STATEMENT OF EXECUTIVE DECISION

<u>DATE OF DECISION</u>	Wednesday, 19 February 2020	<u>DECISION MAKER</u>
<u>DECISION REFERENCE</u>	E/19.2.20/4b	Executive (Councillors 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 2020/21

That the Executive's response to the Scrutiny Committee be approved.

REASONS FOR THE DECISION

The report was prepared 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.

Scrutiny Call in Deadline

Not applicable. The purpose of the decision is to make an explicit response to Scrutiny recommendations; so call-in is not appropriate.

PUBLICATION DATE

4/3/20

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Corporate Director, Governance & Community Strategy

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<u>DECISION REFERENCE</u>	E/19.2.20/4c	Executive (Councillors A. Western, Adshead, Freeman, Harding, Hynes, Patel, Ross, Slater, Whitham and Wright)

RECORD OF THE DECISION

Treasury Management Strategy 2020/21 - 2022/23

(1) That the content of the report be noted.

(2) That Council be recommended to approve the Treasury Management Strategy 2020/21 – 2022/23 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, 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 is a mandatory report which has been 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. The purpose of the decision is to make recommendations to Budget Council as the substantive decision maker; so call-in is not appropriate.

PUBLICATION DATE

4/3/20

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Corporate Director, Governance & Community Strategy

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<u>DATE OF DECISION</u>	Wednesday, 19 February 2020	<u>DECISION MAKER</u>
<u>DECISION REFERENCE</u>	E/19.2.20/4d	Executive (Councillors A. Western, Adshead, Freeman, Harding, Hynes, Patel, Ross, Slater, Whitham and Wright)

RECORD OF THE DECISION

Capital Strategy, Capital Programme and Prudential & Local Indicators 2020/23

1. That approval be given to the:-
 - Capital Programme as detailed in Appendix 2 of the report;
 - Schemes to be undertaken from the “block” budget allocations reported in paragraph 21 and detailed Appendix 4 to the report.
2. That it be recommended that the Council approve:-
 - the Capital Strategy as included at Appendix 1 to the report;
 - the overall Capital Programme in the sum of £368.72m for the period 2020/23, comprising £168.72m in respect of the General Capital Programme and £200m for the Investment Fund, inclusive of the proposed £100m addition,
 - additional prudential borrowing of £6.92m to support revenue generating investment opportunities as detailed in Paragraph 11 of the report; and £100m to support the Asset Investment Strategy; and
 - the Prudential and Local Indicators as set out at Appendix 3 to 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

The Executive could decide 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.

CONFLICTS OF INTEREST DECLARED AND ANY ASSOCIATED DISPENSATION

None.

Scrutiny Call in Deadline

In relation to Recommendation 1: 11 March 2020

Implementation will be on the following working day

In relation to Recommendation 2:
Not applicable. The purpose of the decision is to make recommendations to Budget Council as the substantive decision maker; so call-in is not appropriate.

PUBLICATION DATE

4/3/20

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Corporate Director, Governance & Community Strategy

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<u>DECISION REFERENCE</u>	E/19.2.20/4e	Executive (Councillors A. Western, Adshead, Freeman, Harding, Hynes, Patel, Ross, Slater, Whitham and Wright)

RECORD OF THE DECISION

Strategic Land Review Programme 2020/23

1. That the Strategic Land Review Programme for 2020/21 as set out in the report be approved.
2. That authority be delegated to the Corporate Director Place to:
 - o negotiate and accept bids in consultation with the Corporate Director of Finance and Systems and Corporate Director for Governance and Community Strategy.
 - o specifically in relation to Brown Street Hale, to negotiate and accept offers from purchasers in respect of the disposal of individual residential apartments in the scheme.

- engage external resources where this will assist in implementing the programme.
- 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.
 - ii) any surveys/investigations where such surveys will reduce the risks associated with redevelopment and/or add value to the capital receipt /revenue return.
 - iii) any 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 this will either reduce the risks associated with holding the premise or accelerate the sale/redevelopment and/or add value to the capital receipt/revenue return.
- offset eligible disposal costs against capital receipts in accordance with capital regulations.
- 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.
- 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.
- add to or substitute sites into the programme during the year.
- commission security services.
- authorise alternative methods of disposal where appropriate.

3. That the Corporate Director of Governance and Community Strategy in consultation with the Corporate Director Place and, where appropriate, the Corporate 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.

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

Wednesday, 11 March 2020
 (Decision can be implemented on the next working day, unless called in).

PUBLICATION DATE

4/3/20

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<u>DECISION REFERENCE</u>	E/19.2.20/4f	Executive (Councillors A. Western, Adshead, Freeman, Harding, Hynes, Patel, Ross, Slater, Whitham and Wright)

RECORD OF THE DECISION

Fees and Charges 2020/21

That it be recommended to Council that it approve the following:

- The Fees and Charges for 2020/21 and those relating to Registration of Births, Death & Marriages also shown for 2021/22, as set out in the booklet available on the Council's web site;
- That approval is delegated jointly to each Corporate Director with the Corporate Director of Finance and Systems to amend fees and charges during 2020/21 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 2020/21 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 purpose of the decision is to make recommendations to Budget Council as the substantive decision maker; so call-in is not appropriate.

PUBLICATION DATE

4/3/20

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

TRAFFORD BOROUGH COUNCIL

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<u>DECISION REFERENCE</u>	E/19.2.20/5	Executive (Councillors A. Western, Adshead, Freeman, Harding, Hynes, Patel, Ross, Slater, Whitham and Wright)

<u>RECORD OF THE DECISION</u>
<u>BUSINESS RATES DISCRETIONARY RATE RELIEF POLICY - AMENDMENTS TO INCREASE AND EXTEND RETAIL RATE DISCOUNT, EXTEND LOCAL NEWSPAPER OFFICES RELIEF AND REINTRODUCE PUB DISCOUNT</u>
That the amendments be approved to the Council's Business Rates Discretionary Rate Relief policy as outlined in the report to ensure it reflects the business rates measures announced in January 2020.

<u>REASONS FOR THE DECISION</u>
In line with a Written Ministerial Statement made on 27 January 2020 by the Financial Secretary to the Treasury, announcing additional business rates measures that will apply from April 2020, the Council is proposing to amend its existing Business Rates Discretionary Rate Relief policy from 2020/21 to include new measures which will support retailers in various categories, as set out in the report.

<u>ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED AT THE MEETING/BY MEMBERS</u>
Maintain existing policies and not make the amendments but that would mean local businesses would pay more business rates, in effect not accepting the government funding available on behalf of eligible businesses.

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

<u>Scrutiny Call in Deadline</u> Wednesday, 11 March 2020 (Decision can be implemented on the next working day, unless called in).
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<u>PUBLICATION DATE</u> 4/3/20
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<u>RECORDED BY:</u> Corporate Director, Governance & Community
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Strategy