

**Record of
Executive
Decisions
published
14/Jan/2021**



Elaine Waugh
Assistant Director of Law and Governance

Civic Centre
Sunderland

14 January 2021

Record of Executive Decisions Published: 14/Jan/2021

Decision Taker:

Cabinet

Appropriate Scrutiny Committee:

Scrutiny Coordinating Committee

Date decision in force:

22 January 2021

Date of decision:

12 January 2021

Title and author(s) of written report:

Capital Programme Third Review 2020/2021 (including Treasury Management) – Report of the Executive Director of Corporate Services

Full description of decision:

In respect of the Third capital review for 2020/2021 to approve:

- the inclusion of additional schemes or variations to existing schemes for 2020/2021 detailed at Appendix A of the report, as a variation to the Capital Programme; and
- authorise the Executive Director of Corporate Services in consultation with the Deputy Leader to award a grant of up to £60,000 to Sunderland Fans Museum as detailed in paragraph 4.3 of the report.

In relation to the Treasury Management Strategy, to note the progress in implementing the 2020/2021 Treasury Management Strategy and Prudential Indicators.

Reasons for decision:

As included in the Council's constitution, Cabinet is required to exercise control over capital spend and resources and receives quarterly reports to support this. This report notes the inclusion of additional capital schemes since approval by Cabinet on 13th October 2020.

Cabinet is also requested to note the progress in implementing the Treasury Management Strategy for 2020/2021, which is in line with the approved Treasury Management Policies.

Alternative options considered and rejected:

No alternative options are proposed.

Contact Officer: Jon Ritchie

Extension: 561 1507

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Is this a key decision:

Yes

Does the Decision contain Confidential/Exempt Information:

No

Declarations of Interest and Dispensations:

None

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Cabinet

Appropriate Scrutiny Committee:

Scrutiny Coordinating Committee

Date decision in force:

22 January 2021

Date of decision:

12 January 2021

Title and author(s) of written report:

Third Revenue Budget Review 2020/2021 – Report of the Executive Director of Corporate Services

Full description of decision:

To:

- Note the contents of the report;
- Approve an allocation of £250,000 to fund further projects to support vulnerable residents as part of the Council's Covid-19 response; and
- Approve the contingency transfers proposed at section 3.5 of the report.

Reasons for decision:

To respond to variations in expenditure and income which have arisen in 2020/2021 and enable effective budgetary control to be exercised.

Alternative options considered and rejected:

No alternative options are proposed

Contact Officer: Jon Ritchie

Extension: 561 1507

Email: jon.ritchie@sunderland.gov.uk

Is this a key decision:

Yes

Does the Decision contain Confidential/Exempt Information:

No

Declarations of Interest and Dispensations:

None

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Date of decision:

12 January 2021

Title and author(s) of written report:

Council Tax Base 2021/2022 – Report of the Executive Director of Corporate Services

Full description of decision:

To recommend to Council:

- The report for the calculation of the Tax Bases for the City Council and Hetton Town Council for 2021/2022 be approved; and
- That pursuant to the report and in accordance with the Local Authorities (Calculation of Tax Base) Regulations 1992, as amended by Local Authorities (Calculation of Council Tax Base) (England) Regulations 2012 the amount calculated by Sunderland City Council as its Council Tax Base for the year 2021/2022, shall be 70,045 and for the area of Hetton Town Council shall be 3,803.

Reasons for decision:

To comply with statutory requirements.

Alternative options considered and rejected:

There are no alternative options recommended for approval.

Contact Officer: Jon Ritchie

Extension: 561 1507

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Is this a key decision:

Yes

Does the Decision contain Confidential/Exempt Information:

No

Declarations of Interest and Dispensations:

None

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12 January 2021

Title and author(s) of written report:

Revenue Budget 2021/2022 to 2024/2025 – Update and Provisional Local Government Finance Settlement 2021/2022 – Report of the Executive Director of Corporate Services

Full description of decision:

To

- Note the update to the Government funding position, including the outcome of the Provisional Local Government Finance Settlement set out at section 4 of the report;
- Note the update on the 2021/2022 to 2024/2025 budget planning as set out at sections 5 to 7 of the report; and
- In relation to the Sunderland Schools' local funding formula, the Sunderland Schools' Forum recommended Cabinet be requested to approve the following principles be implemented for the 2021/2022 Sunderland local funding formula:
 - The National Funding Formula (NFF), made up of fifteen different funding elements, to be implemented with the following local adjustments, which were modelled in detail so as to give the most equitable settlement possible to all Sunderland schools whilst moving towards the NFF:
 - The Minimum Funding Guarantee applied at 2.0% in line with the NFF value;
 - The Free School Meal proxy indicator set at a rate of £319.52 per pupil (NFF £460); (NB: alongside the Minimum Funding Guarantee, this proxy indicator does not reduce the funds available to schools for meals),
 - A transfer of 0.5% (£890,842) to the High Needs Block in recognition of ongoing pressures.

Reasons for decision:

To provide an update on the Government funding position, including if available, the outcome of Provisional Local Government Finance Settlement on the budget planning for 2021/2022 to 2024/2025.

To update the Medium Term Financial Plan and Budget Planning in light of latest information.

Alternative options considered and rejected:

Contact Officer: Jon Ritchie

Extension: 561 1507

Email: jon.ritchie@sunderland.gov.uk

Is this a key decision:

Yes

Does the Decision contain Confidential/Exempt Information:

No

Declarations of Interest and Dispensations:

None

Record of Executive Decisions Published: 14/Jan/2021

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Cabinet

Appropriate Scrutiny Committee:

Scrutiny Coordinating Committee

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Title and author(s) of written report:

Local Council Tax Support Scheme – Report of the Executive Director of Corporate Services

Full description of decision:

To recommend to Council that:

- (i) The current LCTSS for the City of Sunderland, the main features of which are set out at Appendix A, be amended from 1st April 2021 to incorporate any legislative changes to the prescribed requirements for the Scheme but that it be not otherwise revised or replaced; and
- (ii) The approved LCTSS for the financial year 2021/2022 be published on the Council's website and in any additional manner determined by the Executive Director of Corporate Services in consultation with the Deputy Leader.

Reasons for decision:

- (i) The Council must have its LCTSS approved by 11 March 2021, and the design of the scheme impacts upon the calculation of the council tax base which is considered elsewhere on today's agenda; and
- (ii) The proposed scheme, the main features which are as set out at Appendix A, reflects the experience of the impact of the scheme to date and is seen to be a fair and affordable scheme for low-income residents.

Alternative options considered and rejected:

There are no alternative options proposed. There is a statutory requirement for the Council to consider, for each financial year, whether to revise its LCTSS or replace it with another scheme, with any revision or replacement scheme being determined by 11th March in the preceding financial year.

Contact Officer: Jon Ritchie

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Is this a key decision:

Yes

Does the Decision contain Confidential/Exempt Information:

No

Declarations of Interest and Dispensations:

None

Record of Executive Decisions Published: 14/Jan/2021

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Appropriate Scrutiny Committee:

Scrutiny Coordinating Committee

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Title and author(s) of written report:

Independent Remuneration Panel and Members' Allowances Scheme - 2021/2022 – Joint report of the Executive Director of Corporate Services and the Assistant Director of Law and Governance

Full description of decision:

Cabinet noted the recommendations of the Independent Remuneration Panel but considered that in light of the ongoing pandemic and pressures being faced by the City, the scheme should remain unchanged.

Accordingly, the Cabinet recommended to Council:-

- (a) to note the report of the Independent Remuneration Panel; and
- (b) to approve that the scheme of allowances remain unchanged for the following financial year, as it was considered that there should not be any increase to members' allowances at this time, in view of the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic.

Reasons for decision:

The Council must make a new Scheme before the beginning of each financial year

Alternative options considered and rejected:

There are no alternative options in respect of the adoption of a Scheme for 2021/2022, as this is a statutory requirement.

Contact Officer: Elaine Waugh

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Is this a key decision:

Yes

Does the Decision contain Confidential/Exempt Information:

No

Declarations of Interest and Dispensations:

None

Record of Executive Decisions Published: 14/Jan/2021

Decision Taker:
Cabinet

Appropriate Scrutiny Committee:
Economic Prosperity Scrutiny
Committee

Date decision in force:
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Date of decision:
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Title and author(s) of written report:

Low Carbon Framework and City Council Action Plan – Report of the
Executive Director of City Development

Full description of decision:

To:-

- (i) endorse the Sunderland Low Carbon Framework (attached to the report at Appendix 1), and
- (ii) approve the City Council Low Carbon Action Plan (attached to the report at Appendix 2).

Reasons for decision:

The decision to endorse the Low Carbon Framework is required to demonstrate the Council's partnership and community leadership approach. The decision to approve the Sunderland City Carbon Action Plan is required to ensure that the Council can plan and track progress towards the carbon reduction target and Climate Change emergency declaration commitments.

Alternative options considered and rejected:

The option to not prepare a city-wide Low Carbon Framework has been considered and rejected as a partnership approach is considered to have greater potential impact than a stand-alone Council Framework. The option to not prepare a City Council Action Plan was considered and rejected as this would make it difficult to plan and track progress towards the carbon reduction target and Climate Change emergency declaration commitments. This could also have reputational implications with regard to encouraging other partners to prepare individual Action Plans and reduce the potential impact of the city-wide Framework.

Contact Officer: Peter McIntyre

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Is this a key decision:

Yes

Does the Decision contain Confidential/Exempt Information:

No

Declarations of Interest and Dispensations:

None

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Cabinet

Appropriate Scrutiny Committee:

Economic Prosperity Scrutiny
Committee

Date decision in force:

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Title and author(s) of written report:

Disposal of Land Adjacent to Penshaw House, Penshaw, Houghton Le Spring, Sunderland, DH4 7LB – Report of the Executive Director of City Development

Full description of decision:

To agree to the disposal of the Council's freehold interest in the Property as detailed in the report. The final price and terms are to be agreed by the Executive Director of City Development in consultation with the Chief Executive, Executive Director of Corporate Services and Leader of the Council.

Reasons for decision:

As set out in the Cabinet report.

Alternative options considered and rejected:

As set out in the Cabinet report.

Contact Officer: Peter McIntyre

Extension: 561 1134

Email: peter.mcintyre@sunderland.gov.uk

Is this a key decision:

Yes

Does the Decision contain Confidential/Exempt Information:

Yes

Declarations of Interest and Dispensations:

None

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Economic Prosperity Scrutiny
Committee

Date decision in force:

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12 January 2021

Title and author(s) of written report:

Siglion Business Plan 2021 – Report of the Executive Director of City
Development

Full description of decision:

To note and approve, on behalf of the Council as the member, the contents of
the Siglion Business Plan 2021 as detailed in the report.

Reasons for decision:

As set out in the Cabinet report.

Alternative options considered and rejected:

As set out in the Cabinet report.

Contact Officer: Peter McIntyre

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Is this a key decision: Yes

Does the Decision contain Confidential/Exempt Information: Yes

Declarations of Interest and Dispensations:

Councillor G. Miller, Councillor P. Stewart and Patrick Melia (Chief Executive)
declared interests as Directors of Siglion LLP and withdrew from the remote
meeting during consideration of the report.