

## EXECUTIVE MEETING ON 25 OCTOBER 2022

### DECISION SHEETS



### Record of decisions made by the Executive pursuant to Regulation 12 of the Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Meetings and Access to Information) (England) Regulations 2012

Date of publication: 26 October 2022

*\* Executive decisions will not be implemented until the expiry of 5 working days to take account of the Call-In procedure.*

<u>No.</u>	<u>Item</u>	<u>Decision</u>	<u>Reasons for the Decision</u>	<u>Details of alternative options considered and rejected at a meeting</u>	<u>Any declarations of conflict of interest and/or dispensations granted</u>
5	Annual Council Tax Support Report	That no changes be made to the local Council Tax Support scheme for April 2023.	The Government made provision within the Local Government Finance Bill to replace the former national Council Tax Benefit (CTB) scheme from 1st April 2013 with localised schemes for Council Tax Reduction Schemes (CTS) devised by individual local authorities	See paragraph 4 in the report.	

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			(LA's). The schemes are valid for one year and must be approved by Council before the 11 <sup>th</sup> March immediately preceding the financial year in which it is to take effect.		
6	Medium Term Financial Plan	<p>That:</p> <p>a) the budget proposals should be based on a Council Tax increase of £5, contract inflation up to 4%, no inflation in other goods and services budgets and that the provision for the national pay award will be up to 4%;</p> <p>b) the assumption that</p>	<p>The Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP) presented to Council in March 2021 has been updated to reflect the less favourable and fundamentally more uncertain economic and policy climate. The revised MTFP position is shown in Appendix A. This takes into account the costs of the 2022/23 employer's pay offer to the unions which was £311,860 more than the</p>	<p>Given the financial outlook the Executive have very few options available to ensure a balanced budget. Any growth the Executive wish to propose must be balanced by reductions elsewhere.</p> <p>The Executive may propose a lower rate of Council Tax but this will result in additional</p>	

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		<p>the current local government finance system will continue for a further year and the windfall New Homes Bonus payment will be used to set aside £400k in reserves to meet part of the estimated cost of the refresh of the District Plan with the remainder being used to support the budget through the exceptional circumstances of the current economic and political climate as detailed in Appendix B to the report be endorsed;</p> <p>c) the savings</p>	<p>budget provision. This causes compound increases in future years of the MTFP. Contract inflation was set at 4% for 2022/23 and actual inflation has been much more – in the case of the refuse contract 9.9%. Again this increased contract inflation of £529,632 causes compound increases in future years of the MTFP.</p>	<p>savings requirements which will require significant changes to the service offer and the revenue foregone from Council Tax will be lost in perpetuity.</p> <p>In order to draw up the detailed budget and MTFP the Executive are recommended to agree, as guidance to officers, that the budget proposals should be based on a Council Tax increase of £5, contract inflation up to 4%, no inflation in other goods and services budgets and</p>	

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		<p>requirements that the Transforming East Herts Programme will need to deliver in order to balance the budget in the Medium Term be noted;</p> <p>d) officers re-phase the capital programme and revenue impacts of capital financing and make recommendations about schemes that could be delayed or cancelled to reduce the savings requirements; and</p> <p>e) the revised savings requirements of £0.812 million in 2023/24, £2.050</p>		<p>that the provision for the national pay award will be up to 4%.</p>	

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		million in 2024/25, £2.114 million in 2025/26, £0.792 million in 2026/27 and £0.268 million in 2027/28 be noted.			
7	Parking Traffic Regulation Orders	<p>That:</p> <p>a) the removal of free parking in all car parks (Mon – Sat) be implemented at a later date prior to June 2024;</p> <p>b) Sunday and Bank Holiday charging be introduced; revised from the week-day tariff charges to a flat</p>	<p>On 24th November 2020 East Herts Executive considered savings proposals against a backdrop of financial projections seeking a cost reduction of £1 million in 2021/22, £1 million in 2022/23, and £2 million in 2023/24 in the Revenue Account. In March 2021, council agreed to the following parking proposals:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increase all parking tariffs by 10% (where</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Not Recommended: Note objections and delay implementation to a future date.</li> <li>• Not Recommended: Modify proposals following consultation feedback.</li> <li>• Not Recommended:</li> </ul>	

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		<p>rate charge in Bishop's Stortford, Hertford and Ware as described in paragraph 6.16 of the report;</p> <p>c) existing Sunday charges in Link Road and Northgate End car parks, Bishop's Stortford be amended as described in paragraph 1.5 of the report;</p> <p>d) an evening parking charge up to</p>	<p>practicable).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Remove free parking option in all car parks except Grange Paddocks B and C which serves Grange Paddocks leisure centre and Wallfields car park.</li> <li>• Introduce evening charging up to 8:00pm in three main towns: Bishop's Stortford, Hertford and Ware.</li> <li>• Introduce Sunday and Bank Holiday charging.</li> </ul>	<p>Note objections continue with original proposals for January implementation.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Recommended: Implement a combination of the above for the overall package of proposals.</li> </ul>	

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		<p>8:00pm be introduced in Bishop's Stortford, Hertford and Ware as described in paragraph 1.6 of the report; and</p> <p>e) an uplift of tariff charges in Ware, Buntingford and Sawbridgeworth be approved as described in paragraph 6.21 of the report.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Introduce on-street charging in town centre limited waiting bays, that are currently free.</li> </ul> <p>In December 2021 the council agreed the general principle that non statutory services should be provided on a "full cost recovery basis" through the adoption of the Fees and Charges Policy.</p>		
8	Waste Service Contract Design	<p>That:</p> <p>a) the</p>	See Section 3 of the report.	A contract extension for a further seven years was considered,	

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		<p>recommendations from the Joint Cross-Party working group attached in Appendix 1 be noted and considered prior to making a new substantive decision.</p> <p>b) the comments from Overview and Scrutiny Committee attached in Appendix 12 be noted and considered prior to making a new</p>		<p>however given the Councils aspirations for environmentally and financially sustainable services and the anticipated changes required by the governments Resources and Waste Strategy this was not considered appropriate.</p> <p>A procurement in line with the existing service specification was considered, however given the Councils aspirations for environmentally</p>	



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		<p>substantive decision.</p> <p>c) the responses from the public consultation as summarised in Appendix 2 be noted and considered prior to making a new substantive decision.</p> <p>d) a Competitive Dialogue procedure for the procurement of the Waste,</p>		<p>and financially sustainable services and the anticipated changes required by the government's Resources and Waste Strategy this was not considered appropriate. The current service with the adoption of mandated pressures (without implementation of three weekly collections) will place a further burden on budgets of circa £270k.</p>	

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		<p>Recycling and Street Cleansing contract be approved.</p> <p>e) a joint project board to include the Executive Members for Finance as well as the Executive Member covering waste, recycling and street cleansing services for both EHC and NHC be approved to monitor the progress of the procurement</p>			

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		<p>project and for the delegation of powers to the Head of Operations (EHC)/Director of Place (NHDC) in consultation with Project Board, in relation to amendments to the specification or service design.</p> <p>f) a Contract length of 8 years with the possibility of up to an 8 year extension be approved.</p>			

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		<p>g) the provision of customer services and contact handling being delivered by the councils be approved, and for a future report detailing how this will be delivered be provided in 2023.</p> <p>h) the introduction of a new weekly separate food waste collection service in 23L</p>			

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		<p>caddies for houses and in wheeled bins for flats in East Hertfordshire from 2025 be approved. The implementation date confirmation to be delegated to the Head of Operations in consultation with the Executive Member for Environmental Sustainability.</p> <p>i) To recommend to Full Council to</p>			

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		<p>approve the Capital and estimated revenue spend outlined in 3.16 in relation to recommendation h above.</p> <p>j) residual waste collections occurring on a three weekly collection cycle from 2025 be approved. The implementation date confirmation to be delegated to the Director of Place/Head of Operations in</p>			

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		<p>consultation with the project board.</p> <p>k) the standard receptacle for residual waste being 180L in size and that all new and replacement residual waste containers for houses will be 180l as soon as is reasonably practicable be approved and phased in commencing no later than from 1st April 2023 in East Hertfordshire.</p>			

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		<p>l) the transition to a standard bin colour across East and North Hertfordshire as outlined in paragraphs 3.47 to 3.56 as soon as is practicable and no later than 1<sup>st</sup> April 2023 be approved.</p> <p>m) the inclusion of plastic film in the mixed dry recycling collections from</p>			



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		<p>2025 be approved and the implementation date confirmation to be delegated to the Project Board and subject to the outcomes of Resources &amp; Waste Strategy consultation on consistency.</p> <p>n) the cessation of bring bank services for paper in East Hertfordshire as soon as is reasonably</p>			

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		<p>practicable and no later than the end of 2023 be approved.</p> <p>o) the cessation of bring bank services for textiles in East Hertfordshire and kerbside textiles collections in North Hertfordshire with the shared waste service proactively engaging with the charity-sector to promote alternative outlets</p>			

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		<p>for used textiles by the end of 2024 be approved.</p> <p>p) the cessation of kerbside battery collections in North Hertfordshire be noted. The implementation date confirmation to be delegated to the Project Board but no later than May 2025, with the shared waste service proactively promoting alternative</p>			

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		<p>recycling outlets.</p> <p>q) the cessation of Parish litter picking grants and for street litter bins currently maintained under this scheme to be serviced under the waste and recycling contract from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2023 be approved.</p> <p>r) the service policy statements as outlined in Appendix 3 be</p>			

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		<p>approved and for these to be further updated in advance of the contract start in May 2025 and be delegated to Head of Operations/Direct or of Place in consultation with the Executive Members.</p> <p>s) the principle of aligning the garden waste collection charge from 2025 be agreed.</p>			

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		<p>t) the service design described in paragraphs 3.94 to 3.103 be agreed in principle, should the outcomes from the Resources and Waste Strategy Consistency consultation mandate the separate collection of fibre, subject to the constitutional requirements for decision making; and</p>			

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		<p>u) the procurement of the contract will include evaluation of options to reduce the carbon emissions of the waste service to contribute to achieving the Council's net zero target be noted.</p>			
1					
2					