

# EXECUTIVE MEETING ON 21 DECEMBER 2023



## 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: 22 December 2023

*\* 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	Budget 2024/25 and Medium Term Financial Plan 2024 - 2034	a) Agree that the proposed budget should make use of the	Council is required to set a balanced budget each year. The Local Government Finance Act	Given the financial outlook there are limited options	

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		<p>flexibility from Government to increase Council Tax by 2.99%, which will increase Council Tax revenue by £366k a year and will result in a Band D Council Tax increase of £5.65 to £195.52 per year;</p> <p>b) Request Audit &amp; Governance Committee to</p>	<p>1992 requires the council to estimate revenue expenditure and income for the forthcoming year from all sources, together with contributions from reserves, in order to determine a net budget requirement to be met by government grant, Business Rates and Council Tax.</p>	<p>available to ensure a balanced budget. Any growth will need to be balanced by reductions elsewhere.</p> <p>Members may propose a lower rate of Council Tax but this will result in compound revenue foregone from Council Tax</p>	

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		<p>consider the savings proposals and advise Executive of any significant issues they believe may arise;</p> <p>c) Agree to present proposed savings requirements, that will need to be delivered to balance the</p>		<p>which will be lost in perpetuity. This option, given the risks and uncertainty over the local government finance system, could lead to technical insolvency being reached years earlier under the 35% grant reduction scenario – see the risks</p>	

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		<p>budget in the medium term, the delivery profile of which without any smoothing is as follows:</p> <p>2024/25 £1.179 million</p> <p>2025/26 £5.003 million</p> <p>2026/27 £0</p> <p>2027/28 £0.534 million;</p>		section.	

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		<p>d) Agree to propose the use of the General Reserve and the Interest Equalisation Reserve in order to smooth the delivery of the substantial proposed savings targets over the Medium Term Financial Plan;</p> <p>e) Agree to propose an</p>			

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		<p>amended Capital Programme so as to reduce revenue costs of Minimum Revenue Provision and interest by £1,514k per annum on current interest rates, a total saving of £7.442 million of over the MTFP period. Expenditure will</p>			

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		<p>be prioritised for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. essential property maintenance to meet statutory requirements or to prevent loss or damage to neighbouring properties;</li> <li>ii. investment in ICT to continue</li> </ul>			

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		<p>but that the budget carry forward that has not been used for two years is deleted;</p> <p>iii. invest to save initiatives where the business case indicates that the cost of the</p>			



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		<p>investment will be recovered in under 10 years;</p> <p>iv. to allow pausing of construction of the Arts Centre at Old River Lane until such time as debt levels have fallen sufficiently</p>			

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		to make the revenue impacts of new borrowing affordable while at the same time undertaking landscaping works on the arts centre site so that it is an			

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		<p>attractive site rather than an undeveloped area blighting the retail and commercial units in the City Heart scheme;</p> <p>v. provide up to £170k for essential maintenance</p>			

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		<p>vi. ce works for the URC Church Hall in Bishop's Stortford; completion of Hertford Theatre, at as low a cost as possible, so that the entire venue is opened</p>			

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		<p>vii. and run on a strictly commercial basis to maximise income; and investment in depot works and waste containers for the new waste and recycling contract.</p>			

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		<p>f) Delegate to the Head of Strategic Finance &amp; Property, in consultation with the Executive Member for Financial Sustainability, the authority to amend the proposed budget and Medium-Term Financial Plan to be put to the</p>			

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		<p>Audit &amp; Governance Committee on 30 January 2024 in order to reflect the Local Government Finance Settlement and other emerging information, so that the committee can consider the most complete and up to date information.</p>			

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6	Waste, recycling and street cleansing service design	a) That the Executive agrees that the service changes described in 3.2 c) of the report relating to the three-weekly collection of separated paper and cardboard predominantly in bins and the three weekly collection of the remaining dry mixed recycling (A 3,3,3 cycle as	The initial tenders for the new contract have identified that the costs of a new contract will be significantly over budget and anticipated inflationary cost rises. Officers have therefore been in dialogue with bidders to explore options regarding changes to the specification requirements, which may bring forward savings against their final bid prices.	Officers have considered the options regarding the service design described in 3.2 a) and b) in the report but these present either increased risks or the potential for increased overall costs when compared to the proposal.  Making no changes was considered but this would mean	



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		described in Appendix 3) be implemented as part of the new waste recycling and street cleansing contract which commences in 2025, the implementation date confirmation shall be delegated to the Head of Operations in consultation		the council lost the expected financial benefits from this decision.	

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		<p>with Project Board, but shall be within four months of contract commencement</p> <p>b) That the Executive agrees that in the event that the Council is required to make a decision to provide fortnightly collection of residual waste</p>			

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		<p>that the dry recycling service shall be fully commingled.</p> <p>c) That the Executive agrees to the service changes described in 3.2 d) of the report relating to the removal of the requirement for a continuous street cleansing presence in town centres</p>			

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		<p>and moving the back to standard time to 9am be implemented as part of the new waste recycling and street cleansing contract in 2025.</p> <p>d) That the Executive agrees to the service changes described in 3.2 e) relating to a</p>			

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		<p>removal of approximately 30% of litter bins from predominantly outside the town centres be implemented as part of the new waste recycling and street cleansing contract in 2025.</p> <p>e) That the Executive agrees to the service changes</p>			

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		<p>described in 3.2 f) relating to a change to an input specification for high-speed road cleansing to once per year be implemented as part of the new waste recycling and street cleansing contract in 2025.</p> <p>f) That the Executive</p>			

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		<p>agrees to the service changes described in 3.2 h) relating to an extension of the bin delivery/repair Service Level Agreement (SLA) from 5 days to 9 days being implemented as part of the new waste recycling and street cleansing contract in 2025.</p>			

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		<p>g) That the Executive agrees to the service changes described in 3.2 i) relating to an extension of the missed bin rectification SLA from 5pm the next working day to 72 hours except for missed whole streets which will remain 5pm the next</p>			



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		<p>working day, being implemented as part of the new waste recycling and street cleansing contract in 2025.</p> <p>h) That the Executive agrees to the service changes described in 3.2 j) relating to a change in street cleansing SLAs</p>			

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		<p>being implemented as part of the new waste recycling and street cleansing contract in 2025.</p> <p>i) That the Executive agrees to the service changes described in 3.2 k) relating to reducing the number of items collected</p>			

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		as part of bulky waste services from six to three being implemented as part of the new waste recycling and street cleansing contract in 2025.			