

# EXECUTIVE MEETING ON 3 JUNE 2025



## 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: 4 June 2025

*\* 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	Council Tax Support Scheme	Agree that the Council will consult with the public and Major Precepting Authorities on the introduction of a new income banded/grid scheme	Funding for the Council Tax Support scheme has been amalgamated into other Central Government grants paid to Local Authorities and also within the Business Rates	The alternative to introducing a new income-banded scheme for Council Tax Support from 2026/27 is to leave the existing scheme	

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		<p>for working age applicants with effect from 1 April 2026 with the final scheme to be consulted on delegated to the Executive Member for Financial Sustainability in conjunction with the Section 151 officer for agreement.</p>	<p>Retention regime. It is now generally accepted that it is not possible to identify the amount of funding actually provided from Central Government sources.</p> <p>The current CTS scheme administered by the Council is divided into two schemes, with pension age applicants receiving support under the rules prescribed by Central Government, and the scheme for working age applicants being determined solely by the local authority.</p>	<p>in place. This would be a short-term option; lead to increasing costs of administration; and in the longer term, continue to significantly affect the collection of Council Tax and the effectiveness of the scheme to support households within the Council's area.</p>	

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			<p>in 2013, for working age applicants, the Council broadly adopted the previous means tested Council Tax Benefit scheme as the basis of awarding support. Due to the reduction in finance, the Council reduced the maximum level of support available to working age applicants 91.5%. The only other changes made were in line with prescribed requirements (set by Government) and to bring the scheme into line with either Housing Benefit or Universal Credit</p>		
6	Provisional Outturn 2023/24 & 2023/24	a) Note the general fund revenue outturn	Revenue	The Executive can choose to transfer	

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	Draft Statement of Accounts	of £224k underspend to be transferred to the general reserve; and b) Note the capital outturn position; and c) Receive the 2023/24 draft statement of accounts.	<p>An underspend of £224k is reported against the 2023/24 revenue budget. This is summarised in table 1. It is recommended that this is transferred to the general fund, to mitigate overspends in future year.</p> <p>Capital</p> <p>The progress of the capital programme has been reported to Audit and Governance Committee throughout the year as part of the budget monitoring process. Capital Expenditure in 2023/24 was £25.6m, against a budget of</p>	<p>the underspend to an earmarked reserve rather than the general reserve.</p> <p>The Executive can choose not to carry forward capital budgets although this would cause budget shortfalls and overspends on major projects hat span financial years. This is not recommended.</p>	

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			£36.5m.		
7	Monitoring 2024/25 quarter 4 corporate risk register	The 2024/25 quarter four corporate risk register and actions being taken to control and mitigate risk be noted.		n/a	
8	Options for Elizabeth Road shops and flats, Bishop's Stortford	That the freehold of the commercial and residential block owned by the council at Elizabeth Road, Bishop's Stortford (as shown in the plan at Appendix A) be marketed for disposal, in its current condition and with the current short-term leases in place, with authority to determine the best	<p>Given the discussion above, there are clearly several factors driving the need to make a decision about the future of the Elizabeth Road site. These can be summarised thus:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• deterioration of the roof, which has not been helped by limited cyclical maintenance, and the structural problem of the</li> </ul>	<p>Option 1: Full catch-up repairs and improvements, including upgrades to meet anticipated new energy efficiency standards under the government's Minimum Energy Efficiency Standards regime.</p> <p>Option 2: A lesser level of works,</p>	

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		means of disposal and to complete the sale delegated to the Director for Communities.	<p>balcony affording deck access to the flats which allows serious water ingress to the shops</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• ongoing maintenance costs</li> <li>• anticipated increases in national targets for the energy efficiency of both commercial and residential properties</li> <li>• the council's lack of capital resources, without borrowing, necessary to safeguard the continued ability to let the shops and flats</li> <li>• strategic asset management considerations – does the council wish to continue to directly manage shops</li> </ul>	<p>notably not carrying out aesthetic improvements to the flats and not demolishing the garages although these capital savings are likely to hamper the ability to let the properties and incur mounting ongoing maintenance revenue costs respectively.</p> <p>Option 3: Disposal of the entire block on the open market.</p> <p>Option 4: Do nothing.</p>	

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			(and associated residential units), especially within the context of wishing to maximise capital receipts in order to reduce / avoid the revenue costs of borrowing?		