
Meeting	Joint Budget Decision Session - Executive Leader (incorporating Policy, Strategy and Partnerships) and Executive Member for Finance & Performance
Date	13 January 2021
Present	Councillors Aspden and Ayre

13. Declarations of Interest

The Executive Members were asked to declare, at this point in the meeting, any personal interests not included on the Register of Interests, or any prejudicial or disclosable pecuniary interests that they might have had in respect of business on the agenda. None were declared.

14. Minutes

Resolved: That the minutes of the Joint Budget Decision Session and subsequent Executive Leader Decision Session held on 15 January 2020 be approved as a correct record in each case, to be signed by the appropriate Executive Member/s at a later date.

15. Public Participation

It was reported that there had been no registrations to speak at the session under the Council's Public Participation Scheme.

16. Financial Strategy 2021/22 to 2025/26

The Executive Members considered a report which set out the draft savings proposals, growth assumptions and capital schemes relating to their portfolios, providing an opportunity to receive feedback in advance of the presentation of the overall Financial Strategy to Executive on 11 February 2021.

The report outlined the national and local context of the overall strategy, highlighting the unprecedented financial challenges resulting from the impact of the coronavirus pandemic, which had generated an in-year financial pressure of £15m for the council. Revenue savings of £7.9m were required in 2021/22. Savings proposals for the two relevant portfolio areas were set out in Annex 1 to the report, with growth proposals in Annex 2 and

capital schemes in Annex 4. Feedback received to date on the public consultation on those proposals was attached at Annex 3. It was noted that the budget consultation would continue until 31 January.

The Executive Members thanked officers for their work on the budget over Christmas, noting that increased savings in their portfolio areas would help fund the additional support in the budget for mental health services, businesses and people on low incomes.

Resolved: (i) That the feedback from consultation to date, as set out in Annex 3 to the report, be noted.

- (ii) That Option 1 be approved and the following be retained for inclusion in the overall budget
- The 2021/22 revenue savings proposals set out in Annex 1;
 - The 2021/22 revenue growth proposals set out in Annex 2; and
 - The new schemes for inclusion in the 2021/22 to 2025/26 Capital Programme, as set out in Annex 4.

Reason: To confirm that stakeholders have had the opportunity to feed into the budget process at this stage in advance of the finalisation of the Financial Strategy 2021/22 to 2025/26.

Cllr K Aspden, Executive Leader

Cllr N Ayre, Executive Member for Finance and Performance

[The meeting started at 1.02 pm and finished at 1.11 pm].