

EXECUTIVE

STATEMENT OF DECISIONS

Set out below is a summary of the decisions taken at the meeting of the Executive held on Tuesday 3 October 2023. Decisions made by the Executive will be subject to call-in. Recommendations made to the Council are not subject to call-in. The wording used does not necessarily reflect the actual wording that will appear in the minutes.

If you have any queries about any matters referred to in this decision sheet please contact Mark Devin, Democratic Services Manager on 01392 265477 or email mark.devin@exeter.gov.uk

Overview of General Fund Revenue Budget 2023/24 – Quarter 1

Agreed:

RECOMMENDED that Council notes and approves (where applicable):-

- (1) the General Fund forecast financial position for the 2023 financial year;
- (2) the supplementary budgets and budget transfers as detailed in paragraph 8.10 and Appendix 3 of the report;
- (3) the outstanding Sundry Debt position as at June 2023;
- (4) the creditors payments performance; and
- (5) the One Exeter programme update.

Reason for Decision: As set out in the report.

2023/24 General Fund Capital Monitoring Statement – Quarter 1

Agreed:

RECOMMENDED that Council approves:-

- (1) the overall financial position for the 2023/24 annual capital programme; and
- (2) the amendments and further funding requests to the Council's annual capital programme for 2023/24.

Reason for Decision: As set out in the report.

2023/24 HRA Budget Monitoring Report – Quarter 1

Agreed:

RECOMMENDED that Council notes and approves (where applicable):-

- (1) the HRA forecast financial position for 2023/24 financial year; and

(2) the revision of the HRA Capital Programme to reflect the reported variations detailed in Appendix 4 of the report.

Reason for Decision: As set out in the report.

Net Zero Exeter update

Agreed:

RECOMMENDED that Council:-

- (1) note the content of the report contained in Appendix A of the report and to reflect that that a step change in the Government's approach in delivering Net Zero is required to allow any prospect for the city of Exeter in achieving a Net Zero Exeter 2030;
- (2) note the closure of ECF and the work that has been done through ECF in building collaboration and delivering progress against the city's Net Zero ambitions;
- (3) agree that in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Climate and Ecological crisis, the Chief Executive will develop proposals for how Members might work with partners locally to ensure oversight of the city's delivery on this key strategic goal; and
- (4) note that officers will identify how external work on this priority will be resourced given the end of the secondments to ECF.

Reason for Decision: As set out in the report.

Review of Exeter City Living

Agreed:

RECOMMENDED that Council:-

- (1) note the findings of the Local Partnership LLP report presented at the meeting;
- (2) note ECL's achievements to date;
- (3) that, notwithstanding the recommendation from Local Partnerships to wind down the operations of ECL, officers recommend that the company be retained for the limited purpose of holding and managing property;
- (4) grant delegated authority to the Chief Executive, in consultation with the Leader of the Council to facilitate recommendation no. 3 above to reduce ECL's activities as follows:
 - a) the Council enters into a business sale agreement with ECL, whereby the Council acquires all of ECL's assets (with the exception of the six leasehold flats in the Guildhall Shopping Centre), including any work in progress in return for proper consideration, in the form of a release of ECL from its obligations under the Loan Agreements. The sale agreement shall include a novation of all contracts save those that may be terminated by ECL with the Council's agreement;
 - b) in the likely event that the value of the assets to be acquired from ECL is not sufficient to repay the loan to the Council, then delegated authority be granted to the Chief Executive, in consultation with the Leader and Section 151 officer, to write off any shortfall; and
 - c) thereafter, ECL, in a much reduced capacity shall continue for the purpose of holding and managing property and, in particular, the 6 Guildhall flats.

- (5) agree that any staff implications are dealt with in accordance with its Organisational Change Policy;
- (6) extend the ECL appointments of the Interim Managing Director and the two non-Executive Directors until such time as they are no longer required to assist with the reduction of the company's activities, with the termination of those appointments delegated to the Chief Executive;
- (7) grant delegated authority to the Service Lead - Legal Services to amend the Management Agreement to reflect the changes to the remit of ECL;
- (8) agree that SMB reflect on the Local Partnerships report as well as work being undertaken by the District Councils Network on commercial companies owned by local authorities to produce a report in due course setting out principles for how the Council will enter into any commercial ventures in the future;
- (9) agree that the Chief Executive be tasked to liaise with One Public Estate to negotiate an amendment to the grant conditions with the aim of retaining the Brownfield Land Release Funding (BLRF) funding where possible; and
- (10) agree to receive a report, if necessary, setting out a site disposal strategy in the likely event of a shortfall on the ECL loan after the Council acquires ECL's assets.

Reason for Decision: As set out in the report.

Consultation of the local Council Tax Support Scheme for 2024-25

Agreed:

RECOMMENDED that Council agree for a public consultation on the proposed change to the local Council Tax Support Scheme for the working age for 2024-25 to introduce a class within the scheme to award 100% council tax support to care leavers looked after by Devon County Council, up to the age of 25.

Reason for Decision: As set out in the report.

Exeter Plan: Full Draft Plan consultation

Agreed:

RESOLVED that:-

- (1) the full Draft Exeter Plan (included in Appendix A of the report) be approved as the basis for public consultation commencing on 23 October 2023;
- (2) the Director City Development, in consultation with the Council Leader and Portfolio Holder for City Development, be granted delegated authority to agree minor changes to the Full Draft Plan content before it is published for consultation; and
- (3) the Director City Development, in consultation with the Council Leader and Portfolio Holder for City Development, be granted delegated authority to agree a change to the consultation start date if required.

Reason for Decision: As set out in the report.

Consultation on Liveable Water Lane: Development Framework and Design Code Supplementary Planning Document

Agreed:

RESOLVED that:-

(1) the Liveable Water Lane: Development Framework and Design Code Supplementary Planning Document (included at Appendix A of the report and hereafter referred to as the Water Lane SPD) be approved as the basis for public consultation commencing on 23 October 2023;

(2) the Director City Development, in consultation with the Council Leader and Portfolio Holder for City Development be granted delegated authority to agree minor changes to the Water Lane SPD content before it is published for consultation; and

(3) the Director City Development, in consultation with the Council Leader and Portfolio Holder for City Development, be granted delegated authority to agree a change to the consultation start date if required

Reason for Decision: As set out in the report.

Householder's Guide to Extension Design Supplementary Planning Document (SPD)

Agreed:

RESOLVED that:-

(1) the 'Householder's Guide: Design of Extensions and Alterations' (included in Appendix A of the report) be approved as the basis for public consultation commencing on 23 October 2023;

(2) the Director City Development, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for City Development be granted delegated authority to agree minor changes to the 'Householder's Guide: Design of Extensions and Alterations' before it is published for consultation; and

(3) the Director City Development, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for City Development be granted delegated authority to agree a change to the consultation start or end date if required.

Reason for Decision: As set out in the report.

Food Law and Health and Safety Enforcement Service Plan 2023 - 2024

Agreed:

RECOMMENDED that Council:-

- (1) approve the Food Law and Health and Safety Service Plan 2023/24; and
- (2) grant delegated authority to the Service Lead – Environmental Health and Community Safety to change the plan if necessary in the light of national guidance and/or to meet operational needs.

Reason for Decision: As set out in the report.

Air Quality Annual Status Report

Agreed:

RECOMMENDED that Council note the statutory annual status report.

Reason for Decision: As set out in the report.

The decisions indicated will normally come into force 5 working days after publication of the Statement of Decisions unless called in by a Scrutiny Committee. Where the matter in question is urgent, the decision will come into force immediately. Decisions regarding the policy framework or corporate objectives or otherwise outside the remit of the Executive will be considered by Council on 17 October 2023.