

## EXECUTIVE

### STATEMENT OF DECISIONS

Set out below is a summary of the decisions taken at the meeting of the Executive held on Tuesday 6 February 2024. 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](mailto:mark.devin@exeter.gov.uk)

#### **Annual Review of One Exeter Programme**

**Agreed:**

**RECOMMENDED** that Council note the progress with the programme.

**Reason for Decision:** As set out in the report.

#### **General Fund / HRA Estimates and Capital Programme 2024/25**

**Agreed:**

**RECOMMENDED** that Council:-

- (1) approve the overall spending proposals in respect of its General Fund and HRA revenue budgets;
- (2) approve the General Fund and HRA Capital Programmes, subject to the identification of sufficient capital receipts to finance the new General Fund Capital bids in respect of IT and that the final decision be delegated to the Director Finance, in consultation with the Leader and Chief Executive.
- (3) in agreeing the recommendations, consider the Section 151 Officer budget assessment in 8.17 of the report.
- (4) approve setting the General Fund minimum Balance at £3.020 million for 2024/25 and the HRA minimum Balance at £3.525 million for 2024/25.
- (5) approve the Council Tax for each Band recommended to the Council as set out in section 8.19.3 subject to Devon County Council, OPCC Devon and Cornwall and the Devon and Somerset Fire Authority confirming their Band D levels respectively.
- (6) approve the revised Council Tax levels submitted to Council on 20 February 2024, when the actual Council Tax amounts for Devon County Council, Devon and Cornwall Police and Crime Commissioner and the Devon and Somerset Fire Authority are set.

**Reason for Decision:** As set out in the report.

### **Capital Strategy 2024-25**

**Agreed:**

**RECOMMENDED** that Council approve the Capital Strategy as set out in Appendix 1 of the report presented at the meeting.

**Reason for Decision:** As set out in the report.

### **The Prudential Code for Capital Finance in Local Authorities (Incorporating the Annual Statement of Minimum Revenue Provision)**

**Agreed:**

**RECOMMENDED** that Council approve the adoption of:-

- (1) the Prudential Indicators set out in Appendices A-C of the report presented at the meeting; and
- (2) the Annual Statement of Minimum Revenue Provision for the Council.

**Reason for Decision:** As set out in the report.

### **Treasury Management Strategy Report 2024/25**

**Agreed:**

**RECOMMENDED** that Council adopt the Treasury Management Strategy and delegations contained therein.

**Reason for Decision:** As set out in the report.

### **Housing Benefit Modified Scheme policy**

**Agreed:**

**RECOMMENDED** that Council approve the proposed Housing Benefit Modified Scheme policy.

**Reason for Decision:** As set out in the report.

### **Local Council Tax Support Scheme for 2024-25**

**Agreed:**

**RECOMMENDED** that Council approve for the scheme in place for the current year be continued for 2024-25 with the addition of a class of support within the scheme to award 100% council tax support to care leavers looked after by Devon County Council, up to age 25.

**Reason for Decision:** As set out in the report.

### **Council Tax Empty Homes and Second Homes Premiums from 2024-25**

**Agreed:**

**RECOMMENDED** that Council:-

(1) implement a 100% premium after one year instead of two years on all dwellings that are unoccupied and substantially unfurnished (empty dwellings) in accordance with section 11B(8) of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 with effect from 1 April 2024 subject to any guidance and regulations issued by the Secretary of State;

(2) disapply the provisions of section 11(2)(a) of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 and to apply the provisions of section 11C of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 in order to impose a 100% premium in addition to the 100% Council Tax payable on all dwellings where there is no resident of the dwelling, and the dwelling is substantially furnished (second homes) with effect from 1 April 2025 subject to any guidance and regulations issued by the Secretary of State

(3) approve and adopt the Empty Homes and Second Homes Premium Policy 2024-25 attached to the report presented at the meeting.

4) grant delegated authority to the Council's Section 151 Officer in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Council Housing Development and Support Services, to amend the policy in accordance with the Council's requirements or legislative requirements including regulations or guidance issued by the Secretary of State.

**Reason for Decision:** As set out in the report.

### **Gender Pay Gap Report**

**Agreed:**

**RECOMMENDED** that Council:-

(1) note the findings and observations report as follows:-

- the average rate of pay for females is higher than males across the Council;
- the mean average difference has decreased since last year from 3.91% to 2.91%;
- the median average difference has decreased since last year from 10.42% to 9.71%;
- and
- that there are nearly three times more males in the lower quartile of earnings than females.

(2) approves the publication of the Gender Pay Gap Report on the Exeter City Council website, and to the centrally held database on gov.uk;

(3) approves the annual review of the report to track the relationship between female and male earnings.

**Reason for Decision:** As set out in the report.

## **Annual Pay Policy Statement 2024/25**

**Agreed:**

**RECOMMENDED** that Council:-

(1) approve the Pay Policy Report and Appendices for publication in accordance with the legislation.

(2) agree that the £100,000 threshold previously requiring full Council be removed until the legislation referred to in paragraph 3.2 of the report is brought into force in relation to public sector exit payments, and in the meantime, that any payments should demonstrate value for money and be conducive to the effective and efficient operation of the Authority.

(3) agree that the Leader of the Council be informed of any such termination payment made, as soon as possible.

(4) grant delegated authority to the Chief Executive to make necessary amendments to the pay policy statement following any changes in legislation or subsequent increases in pay.

**Reason for Decision:** As set out in the report.

## **Review of the Article 4 Direction**

**Agreed:**

**RECOMMENDED** that Council approve:-

(1) the confirmation of the revised Article 4 Direction (including the Article 4 area plan) attached at Appendix A with non-immediate effect, meaning it will come into effect on 23 December 2024;

(2) the making of a Direction ("the Cancellation Direction") cancelling the existing Article 4 Direction confirmed in 2014 as this area would be covered by the new Article 4 Direction; and

(3) for the Director for City Development to confirm the Cancellation Direction as of 23 December 2024 subject to the consideration of any representations received on the same.

**Reason for Decision:** As set out in the report.

## **Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985 - Exclusion of Press and Public**

**Agreed:**

**RESOLVED** that under Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the press and public be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the following item on the grounds that it involved the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraph 2 of Part 1, Schedule 12A of the Act.

**Reason for Decision:** As set out in the report.

## **Application to join South West Audit Partnership**

**Agreed:**

**RECOMMENDED** that Council agree to apply to join the South West Audit Partnership from 1 April 2024.

**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 20 February 2024.**