



Epping Forest District Council

DECISIONS

Committee:	CABINET
Date of Meeting:	Monday 5 February 2024

Date of Publication:	14 February 2024
Call-In Expiry:	21 February 2024

This document lists the decisions that have been taken by the Cabinet at its meeting held on Monday 5 February and Tuesday 6 February 2024, which require publication in accordance with the Local Government Act 2000. The list specifies those decisions, which are eligible for call-in and the date by which they must be called-in.

Those decisions that are listed as being “recommended to the Council...”, or request the Chairman of the Council to waive the call-in, are not eligible for call-in.

The wording used might not necessarily reflect the actual wording that will appear in the minutes, which will take precedence as the minutes are the official record of the meeting.

If you have any queries about the matters referred to in this decision sheet then please contact:

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Call-In Procedure

If you wish to call-in any of the eligible decisions taken at this meeting you should complete the call-in form and return it to Democratic Services before the expiry of five working days following the publication date. You should include reference to the item title. Further information on the call-in procedure is available in the [Constitution](#) in Article 6 – Overview and Scrutiny. Further background to decisions can be found in Article 14 – Decision Making.

Decision No:

3. MINUTES

Decision:

That the minutes of the Cabinet meeting held on 15 January 2024 be taken as read and signed by the Leader as a correct record.

7. HRA BUSINESS PLAN

Decision:

- (1) That the Cabinet noted the Safe and Prudent HRA business plan.
- (2) That the Cabinet approved the HRA Business Plan.
- (3) That the Cabinet received a yearly performance update, which would include stringent stress testing.
- (4) That the Cabinet noted the opportunity to improve our estates which would improve the life span of our assets and feed into our ongoing work to 'create great places where people want to live'.

8. HOME OWNERSHIP STRATEGY 2023/24 TO 2028/29

Decision:

- (1) That the Cabinet approved the Draft Home Ownership Strategy 2023/24 to 2028/29.

9. INDEPENDENT LIVING FOR OLDER PEOPLE STRATEGY 2023 TO 2028

Decision:

- (1) That the Cabinet considered the Independent Living for Older People in Epping Forest Strategy 2023/24 to 2028/29 should be reviewed annually, so that it was fit for purpose.
- (2) That the Cabinet approved the Annual Delivery Plan, summarised within the appendices of the strategy document.

10. FIT FOR THE FUTURE - EFDC TRANSFORMATION PORTFOLIO

Decision:

- (1) That the Cabinet agreed to the creation of a Reserve of up to £3 million for the purposes of investing in the Council's Fit for the Future Portfolio. The Reserve was to be created using part of the initial windfall of interest income created from the sale of part of the employment land at North Weald. Funding would be taken from the Revenue Budget over a period of two years, as far as delivering a balanced budget allowed.
- (2) That the Cabinet agreed that funding in 2024/25 of up to £40,000 would be considered as part of the 2024/25 budget process, for the purposes of establishing a post to collectively represent North Essex Councils (appendix A) and to establish a detailed terms of reference for NEC and develop a clear programme of work.
- (3) That the Cabinet agreed the Council should work with Braintree District Council and Colchester City Council to develop a full business case and proposed approach to delivery for a single shared back office for the corporate services referenced in this report and to approve the

release of £180K from the Transformation Reserve to support development of the business case.

- (4) That the Cabinet noted that a full governance proposal for the Fit for the Future transformation reserve would be presented to the Cabinet for agreement in March 2024.

11. ADJOURNMENT OF CABINET MEETING

Decision:

The Cabinet agreed to adjourn the meeting to 6 February 2024 and resume at 19.00 to consider the remaining agenda items below:

- Quarter 3 Budget Monitoring Report
- Any Other Business: Draft Budget Proposals for 2024/25
- Exclusion of Public and Press: Any Other Business – Draft Budget Proposals for 2024/5 (Appendix Eii)

12. QUARTER 3 BUDGET MONITORING REPORT 2023/24

Decision:

- (1) That the Cabinet noted the General Fund revenue position at the end of Quarter 3 (31st December 2023) for 2023/24, including actions being undertaken or proposed to ameliorate the position, where significant variances had been identified (including Appendix A).
- (2) That the Cabinet noted the General Fund capital position at the end of Quarter 3 (31st December 2023) for 2023/24 (including Appendix B).
- (3) That the Cabinet noted the Housing Revenue Account revenue position at the end of Quarter 3 (31st December 2023) for 2023/24, including actions proposed to ameliorate the position, where significant variances had been identified.
- (4) That the Cabinet noted the Housing Revenue Account capital position at the end of Quarter 3 (31st December 2023) for 2023/24 (including Appendix C).
- (5) That the Cabinet noted the wider position on Financial Performance and Risk at the end of Quarter 3 (31st December 2023).

13. ANY OTHER BUSINES

(a) Draft Budget Proposals for 2024/25

Decision:

- (1) That the Cabinet considered the final revenue and capital budget proposals for 2024/25 as presented in Appendices A to E of this report, together with the comments received from the Overview & Scrutiny Committee.

- (2) That the Leader and the Finance and Economic Development Portfolio Holder (in conjunction with other Cabinet members if necessary) could agree any further minor changes prior to the Draft Budget 2024/25 being recommended to Full Council for approval.
- (3) That the Cabinet recommended to Council:
 - (a) The budget for 2024/25 and the updated Medium-Term Financial Plan; and
 - (b) The level of Council Tax increase for 2024/25.

14. EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC AND PRESS

(a) Any Other Business: Draft Budget Proposals for 2024/5 – Appendix Eii

The Leader announced that the Cabinet would go into private session as questions were to be raised regarding Appendix Eii, which included exempt information as defined below.

Decision:

That in accordance with Section 100(A)(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the public and press be excluded from the meeting for the item of business set out below on grounds that it would involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in the following paragraph(s) of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Act (as amended) or are confidential under Section 100(A)(2):

Agenda Item No	Subject	Exempt Information Paragraph Number
13 a	Any Other Business – Budget Proposals 2024/5 – Appendix Eii	3