

Decisions taken by the Cabinet on Wednesday, 16 September 2020

Agenda Item No	Topic	Decision	Reasons	Alternative Options
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Part A – Items considered in public

A5	Revised General Fund Budget 2020/21	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. That due to the continuing restrictions on operation of public venues and associated operating costs of the Guildhall , that the Guildhall remain closed to general public hire for the next 12 months but that a “venue only” service be provided. 2. That virtual meetings of the council’s committees continue for the remainder of the 2020/21 committee calendar but this be reviewed on a quarterly basis. 	<p>The COVID19 pandemic has had a very significant impact on council finances, with additional costs incurred in providing the necessary and life saving community response to support the most vulnerable residents in our district. However, with the national restrictions on social mobility and enforced closure of businesses there has been a significant reduction in income received by the council due to significant reduction in demand in parking, Guildhall activity and service related fees and charges. The associated reduction in economic activity has also severely impacted the council’s property</p>	<p>Report CAB3256 recommends addressing projected deficits through reduced revenue spend and changes to the funding of the capital programme. An alternative option would have been to use uncommitted or unrestricted reserves to cover the deficit. However, such an approach would have taken the level of reserves to below acceptable levels and also reduced the options for addressing potential shortfalls in future years and is not recommended.</p>
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			<p>portfolio with a reduction in commercial rent.</p> <p>This unprecedented situation has resulted in a forecast year end deficit of £10.7m compared to the General Fund budget approved by Council in February 2020. Government grants and additional support is projected to amount to £5.6m and this report proposes a revised budget to address the remaining £5.1m deficit to ensure that council can balance the general fund budget by March 2021.</p> <p>A number of councils have already raised concerns with Government regarding the potential need to issue a section 114 notice in light of their financial uncertainty. Whilst the measures set out</p>	

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			<p>in this report would mitigate against the risk of such as position for the council, “worst case” forecasts which take account of the risk of further lockdowns illustrate such a situation remains a possibility later in the year.</p>	
A6	<p>Consultation on changes to the Council Tax Reduction scheme</p>	<p>That statutory consultation on the introduction of a new income banded / grid Council Tax Reduction scheme, effective from 1st April 2021 for working age applicants, be approved.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The purpose of report CAB3253 is to request permission to undertake statutory consultation with both the public and the Major Precepting Authorities in respect of proposed changes to the City Council’s Council Tax Reduction Scheme which will take effect from 1st April 2021. 2. Each financial year the Council is required to review its Council Tax Reduction Scheme in accordance with the requirements of the 	<p>The alternative to introducing a new scheme for CTR from 2021/22 is to leave the existing scheme in place. This would be a short-term option; lead to increasing costs of administration; and in the longer term, significantly affect the effectiveness of the scheme to support households within the City Council’s area.</p>

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			<p>schedule 1A of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 and to either maintain the scheme or amend it.</p> <p>3. Council Tax Reduction (CTR) was introduced from 1 April 2013 when it replaced the Central Government funded Council Tax Benefit regime. From its inception, the funding available to the council from government has reduced year on year.</p> <p>4. As with the majority of authorities within England, the City Council should consider changes to the CTR scheme for working age applicants (the scheme for pension age applicants is prescribed by Central Government) in order to reduce the significant</p>	

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			<p>administrative burden placed on the Council by the introduction of Universal Credit.</p> <p>5. This report requests permission to undertake the statutory consultation on requested changes to the scheme and makes recommendation to members for the 2021/22 scheme.</p>	
A7	Garrison Ground - drainage improvements to sports pitches and provision on an outdoor gym	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. That a capital budget and expenditure of up to £150,000, financed by prudential borrowing, be approved to implement measures to improve land drainage in the Garrison Ground. 2. That the Strategic 	The Garrison Ground has a long standing issue with drainage and in periods of heavy rainfall can become waterlogged in the south western corner. This makes use of this area for sports pitches fairly limited during such times. The construction of the Leisure Centre has not exacerbated this issue, however prior to the opening	<p>All options for land drainage were assessed in conjunction with the specialist consultant and the most effective and affordable option has been put forward.</p> <p>The outdoor gym would be a valuable addition to the Sport and Leisure Park and as the charity is offering to pay for the gym (subject to the</p>

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		<p>Director - Place be authorised to undertake a procurement exercise using the GEN 4-2 Civil Engineering, Highways and Transportation Infrastructure Framework, or other suitable framework, and to subsequently instruct a suitable contractor to implement measures to improve land drainage in the Garrison Ground. The procurement exercise will be based on measures identified in the appended consultant reports but further discussion will be undertaken with the contractor appointed to undertake the works to</p>	<p>of the new Sport and Leisure Park there is an opportunity to try to alleviate the situation.</p> <p>In conjunction with this, the intention has always been to include an outdoor gym in the Sport and Leisure Park in partnership with a local charity called Allegra's Ambition. The area which is subject to localised flooding is the preferred location of the charity to locate the outdoor gym. Discussions with the charity are ongoing, and authority is needed to enter into a partnership agreement with the charity for the construction of the gym, so long as the drainage issues can be resolved to the satisfaction of the charity.</p> <p>In June 2018, the Council</p>	<p>drainage issue being resolved) it would be prudent to progress this scheme in their favoured location. Other locations were not favoured by the charity.</p>

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		<p>ensure the most effective solution, both in terms of performance and cost, will be implemented.</p> <p>3. That the Strategic Director - Place be authorised to negotiate and agree heads of terms and the Service Lead - Legal be authorised to enter into a funding agreement with Allegra’s Ambition where the funds are for the purpose of construction and maintenance of an outdoor gym in the South Western corner of the Garrison Ground.</p> <p>4. That the updates set out in the report CAB3240 in</p>	<p>approved a Design Framework for the Sport & Leisure Park area. Report CAB3240 also includes an update on the progress of delivering the Design Framework.</p>	

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		relation to the Winchester Sport and Leisure Park Design Framework are noted.		
A8	Grant Review Update	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. That the outcomes achieved as a result of the Strategic and Priority Outcome fund allocations in 2019/20 be noted. 2. That the small grant programme continues to be operated in the new style of an interactive grant panel, involving ward councillors. 3. That delegated authority be given to Corporate Head of Engagement in consultation with the Cabinet Member to make 	<p>The Council provides funds to support the work of voluntary and community organisations in Winchester district, recognising the valued range of services they provide.</p> <p>The purpose of report CAB3254 is to provide an update on the following funding initiatives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grant review 2018 – Strategic and Priority Outcome fund allocations – paper CAB3079 • Small grant programme – changes 	No alternative options have been assessed at this stage.

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		<p>minor revision and improvement to the grant award process and priorities for the Small Grants and Crowd Funding to ensure these remain accessible, effective and responsive to changing needs and issues that may arise over the course of a funding period.</p>	<p>to the approach and allocations 2019/2020</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The launch of Crowdfund Winchester 	