

Decisions taken by the Cabinet on Wednesday, 13 September 2023

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

A7	Local Authority Housing Fund – additional funding	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. That a revised Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC) be entered into to secure an additional £3,300,000 Local Authority Housing Fund (LAHF) funding from Round 1b to fund the provision of an additional 22 homes under the programme. 2. Further to the LAHF grant used to acquire 15 properties already budgeted for (CAB3304), additional capital expenditure of up to 	<p>Report CAB3420 directly supports the Council Plan priority of delivering Homes for all.</p> <p>The purpose of this report is to inform Cabinet on the Local Authority Housing Fund (LAHF) grant programme provided to local authorities by the Department of Levelling up Housing and Communities (DLUHC) to acquire properties for the resettlement of Ukraine and Afghan refugees.</p> <p>Following the report to Cabinet (CAB3402) on 23 May 2023, to accept and approve the initial</p>	<p>To not submit a further expression of interest to DLUHC for additional LAHF Round1b funding and for the additional LAHF Round 2 funding was considered and rejected. The LAHF programme provides the council with additional housing assets for the future and brings local HMO properties back in to council owned family housing. The funding will also reduce the housing and homelessness pressures in the longer term as there is an obligation on the council to assist Ukrainian and Afghan families that became homeless.</p>
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		<p>£4,375,000 be agreed to acquire and refurbish the remaining 7 properties required, subject to viability under Financial Procedural Rule 7.4, using the approved 2024/25 HRA unallocated new build budget, to be funded by LAHF grant with the balance of £2,401,000 match funded by the HRA.</p> <p>3. That an MoU with DLUHC be entered into to secure £1,239,600 of LAHF Round 2 funding for the provision of 6 additional homes under the programme.</p> <p>4. That capital expenditure of up to £2,917,500 be agreed to acquire and refurbish 6 properties</p>	<p>government LAHF (Round 1a) grant allocation of £2,729,109 and the Housing Revenue Account match funding requirement to acquire 17 homes, the government announced in June a second LAHF (Round 1b) grant allocation opportunity.</p> <p>DLUHC have accepted the council's offer under LAHF round 1b to acquire a further 22 properties through the LAHF (Round 1b) grant allocation and revised the original Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to provide an additional £3,300,000 of LAHF grant allocation The Council is already in contract to acquire 15 of the required 22 properties with the funding in place within the 2023/24</p>	

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		<p>subject to viability under Financial Procedural Rule 7.4, using the approved 2024/25 HRA unallocated new build budget, to be funded by £1,239,000 LAHF grant with the balance of £1,679,400 to be match funded by the HRA</p> <p>5. That authority be delegated to the Corporate Head – Asset Management and the Director with the responsibility for housing to purchase 13 properties.</p>	<p>HRA capital programme. To accept the DLUHC LAHF (Round 1b) grant allocation contained in the MoU it is necessary to consider the Housing Revenue Account match funding requirement for the remaining 7 properties to be acquired.</p> <p>In July 2023 DLUHC launched its LAHF (Round 2) grant allocation. DLUHC have offered the council a MoU to provide £1,239,600 of LAHF (Round 2) grant allocation to acquire an additional 6 properties for Afghan households. To accept the DLUHC offer it is necessary to consider the Housing Revenue Account match funding requirement of a further 6 properties.</p> <p>Between the 3 rounds of</p>	

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			government LAHF grant allocation the council will have acquired 45 properties that will initially benefit Ukraine and Afghan refugees, but in the longer term will be used as additional affordable homes for all.	
A8	Pride in Place - Public toilets improvement strategy	1. That a strategy and approach for improving and managing public toilets in the district be agreed as set out in Appendix 1 of report CAB3411 and that authority be delegated to the Cabinet Member for Climate Emergency and Head of Programme to make any non-material amendments as required.	<p>The council is determined to improve public toilet provision across the district in terms of enhancing and improving facilities and their cleanliness.</p> <p>Report CAB3411 sets out a Public Toilet improvement strategy, considering availability, sustainability, inclusivity, safety, affordability, and cleanliness of our public conveniences. The strategy envisions residents and visitors to the</p>	<p>To do nothing – leaving the public conveniences in their current condition.</p> <p>This option has been dismissed due to several reasons. Firstly, the comments and recommendations made by the British Toilet Association as referenced within this report. Secondly, the health and safety issues related to the current state of the current public conveniences, especially in a post-</p>

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		<p>2. That a detailed action plan to fully deliver the strategy will be brought forward following further discussion and data gathering.</p> <p>3. (a) that a supplementary capital estimate of £10,000, funded by the car parks reserve be approved, increasing the budget allocated in CAB3384 Parking and Access Improvement Programme from £200,000 to £210,000;</p> <p>(b) capital expenditure of £210,000 be approved to improve toilets in Chesil and Worthy Lane car parks, and St Catherine's and South Winchester</p>	<p>Winchester District having access to toilets in key locations which are comfortable, clean, safe, well maintained and cater to the whole community, increasing both public satisfaction in the area and the visitor economy.</p> <p>The report also sets out plans for expenditure to carry out significant improvements to public conveniences and how these will be funded and delivered.</p>	<p>pandemic world, lacking the ability to provide visitors hygienically clean and well-maintained facilities along with complaints from users and associated bad publicity for the city. Thirdly, the levels of ASB currently taking place in the public conveniences needs mitigation measures put in place to ensure safe use for visitors.</p>

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		<p>park and ride car parks.</p> <p>4. That, subject to Cabinet approval of CIL funding in October (CAB3426):</p> <p>(a) a capital budget of £360,000 be approved; and</p> <p>(b) capital expenditure of £210,000 of CIL funds for the works outlined in paragraphs 2.5 and 11.4.7 of the report be approved.</p> <p>5. That the refurbishment of public conveniences in Wickham, Bishops Waltham, New Alresford and Denmead will be subject to outcome of further discussions with Town and Parish</p>		

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		<p>Councils.</p> <p>6. That additional cleaning will be undertaken at the most heavily used public toilets utilising some of the reserve funding which was put aside for Pride in Place enhancements (as set out in paragraph 11.4.6 of the report).</p>		
A9	Adoption of the Carbon Neutrality Action Plan	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. That the revised Carbon Neutrality Action Plan for 2023-2030 be adopted. 2. That the Corporate Head of Service: Economy & Community be given delegated authority to make minor changes to the Carbon Neutrality Action Plan with regard to 	Report CAB3423 provides an update to the Carbon Neutrality Action Plan (CNAP), adopted by Cabinet in December 2019 following the declaration of a Climate Emergency by the council. It puts forward a revised and updated CNAP incorporating the recommendations of the Carbon Neutrality Roadmap, adopted in January 2023	Not to adopt the revised Carbon Neutrality Action Plan to incorporate the Carbon Neutrality Roadmap recommendations. This is rejected as without the identification and quantification of the interventions required to become a carbon neutral district this will not be achieved.

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		<p>design and text amendments and to update data prior to publication.</p> <p>3. That the council work with stakeholders to further develop performance monitoring and set out task and finish groups to accelerate work on priority actions.</p>	<p>In its Climate Emergency Declaration, the council committed to bring forward a Climate Neutrality Action Plan (CNAP) within 6 months containing proposed actions to achieve the council's targets of being carbon neutral as a council by 2024 and as a district by 2030. In adopting the CNAP in December 2019, the Cabinet also approved that the Strategic Director - Services be given delegated authority to develop a detailed Implementation Plan. This was in recognition that the actions contained in the CNAP required external review to ensure they are sufficient to achieve the ambitious carbon neutrality targets that council had set. Each year the council has reviewed and refreshed the</p>	

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			<p>CNAP setting out what had been achieved and the priorities for the year ahead.</p> <p>In recognition of the need to have a quantified forward trajectory of interventions needed, a Roadmap to Carbon Neutrality for Winchester District by 2030 (referred to as Carbon Neutrality Roadmap) was developed by consultants WSP during 2022. The Roadmap is an extensive and comprehensive piece of work that has demonstrated the need to go greener faster and to prioritise high impact actions, scale up actions and increase the pace of delivery. This has now been incorporated into the revised Carbon Neutrality Action Plan to provide a new trajectory and revised focus</p>	

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			on the council 2024 and district 2030 carbon neutral targets (see Appendix 1 of the report).	
A10	General fund outturn 22/23	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. That the General Fund Revenue Outturn and Capital Programme Outturn be noted as set out in report CAB3416. 2. That the transfers to and from the Major Investment Reserve as detailed in Appendix 1 of the report be approved and the reserves and closing balances at 31 March 2023 be noted (as set out in Appendix 2 of the report). 3. That the revised 2023/24 capital programme be approved as set out in Appendix 5 of the report. 	<p>Report CAB3426 provides an overview of the General Fund Revenue outturn and Capital Programme outturn for 2022/23.</p> <p>The 2022/23 General Fund budget was approved by Council in February 2022 (CAB3335 refers) based upon a one-year spending review announcement and the expectation of greater levels of stability in income and expenditure following two turbulent, heavily Covid-impacted years. However, high inflation has had a significant impact on expenditure and despite being kept under close</p>	The potential to use the additional surplus for specific investment has been considered. However, in light of the specific emerging pressures such as planning for future local plan expenditure, this is not recommended at this stage.

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		<p>4. That the revised 2023-2033 capital programme be noted as set out in Appendix 6 of the report.</p>	<p>review through the quarterly performance monitoring, this created a significant budget pressure. Despite this inflationary expenditure pressure of just over £1m (detailed in 13.4 below), a surplus outturn of just under £1m resulted from a combination of offsetting service savings and an increase in retained funding from business rates and higher than expected net interest receivable.</p> <p>The Council remains committed to delivering change and tackling the climate emergency, with £2m allocated to delivering the key priorities of the Council Plan in February 2023 (CAB3388 refers). However, significant funding uncertainty leading to</p>	

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			<p>projected future baseline deficits, means that substantial transformational change will be required over the next few years through the Council's 'TC25' transformation programme.</p>	
<p>A11</p>	<p>Housing Revenue Account (HRA) outturn 22/23</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. That the HRA Outturn figures for 2022/23 be noted as detailed in Appendices 1 and 2 of the report. 2. That the carry forward of £0.018m of HRA revenue funding from 2022-23 be approved as detailed in paragraph 11.4 of the report. 3. That the Housing capital programme outturn for Major Works and New Build be noted as 	<p>Report CAB3417 provides an update to members on the financial performance of the Housing Revenue Account (HRA) in 2022-23 and the associated HRA capital programme. Against the backdrop of a challenging and volatile financial climate a viable and sustainable HRA business plan was approved, which demonstrated that the council remains committed to providing high quality services and quality housing</p>	<p>In connection with the proposed carry forward of the unspent funds for the housing company these are required and committed in order to establish the Housing Company.</p>

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		<p>detailed in paragraphs 11.5 to 11.8 and Appendices 3 & 4 of the report.</p> <p>4. That the funding of the 2022/23 HRA capital programme be noted as detailed in paragraphs 11.10 & 11.11 and Appendix 5 of the report.</p> <p>5. That the revised capital programme budget of £35.653m for 2023/24 be approved as detailed in paragraphs 11.12 & 11.13 and Appendices 6 & 7 of the report that takes account of potential programme slippage and the re-profiling of expected spend.</p>	<p>to its residents. The report requests approval for revised budget forecasts to the 2023-24 HRA revenue budget and capital programme to take account of delays to some schemes and reflect the likely revised spend profile in the capital programme.</p> <p>The year end resulted in a deficit to the HRA (£1.304m for 2022/23) which was £0.698m more than budgeted for and has reduced the current working balance to (£15,354m as at 31 March 2023).</p>	

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A12	Q1 Finance & Performance Monitoring	That the progress achieved during Q1 of 2023/24 be noted and the contents of the report CAB3415 be endorsed.	<p>The Council Plan sets out the strategic priorities of the council and report CAB3415 and Appendix 1 provides a summary of the council’s progress during the period 1 April 2023 to 30 June 2023 (Q1).</p> <p>Appendix 2 provides a financial update for both the General Fund and Housing Revenue Account (HRA) as of 30 June 2023.</p> <p>Appendix 3 provides the refreshed set of key performance indicators adopted in December 2022.</p> <p>Appendix 4 includes highlight reports for each of the council’s ‘Tier 1’ programmes and projects.</p>	Report CAB3415 is for Cabinet to review the comments of the Scrutiny Committee and consider the activity of the council for the period April to June 2023.

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			Appendix 5 are the action notes of the Performance Panel meeting that took place on 21 August 2023.	
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