

**EXECUTIVE
18 OCTOBER 2022
5.00 - 5.57 PM**



Present:

Councillors Bettison OBE (Chair), Dr Barnard (Vice-Chair), Harrison, Mrs Hayes MBE, Heydon and Turrell

Present Virtually:

Councillors Brunel-Walker

Apologies for absence were received from:

Councillors D Birch

47. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

48. Minutes

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting of the Executive on 29 September 2022 together with the accompanying decision records be confirmed as a correct record.

Executive Decisions and Decision Records

The Executive considered the following items. The decisions are recorded in the decision sheets attached to these minutes and summarised below:

49. Budget Update

RESOLVED that the Executive:

- i. notes the identified best-case and worst-case scenarios for the Council's current year financial position summarised in Table 1 and detailed in Annex A of the Executive Director: Resources report.
- ii. approves drawing the full £1.5m from the earmarked reserve for Inflationary Costs to support the current year's budget, as proposed in paragraph 5.3 of the Executive Director: Resources report.
- iii. Endorses the actions agreed by the Corporate Management Team to help contain expenditure in the current year as set out under paragraph 5.5 of the Executive Director: Resources report.
- iv. Supports the proposed responses to immediate budget priorities set out in the report and specifically:
 - a) approves drawings from reserves to meet time-limited costs proposed for core foster care allowances (£0.154m in 2022/23, paragraph 5.10), social worker recruitment and retention subject to detailed review by the Employment Committee (£0.190m, paragraph 5.15) and SEND support

service staffing (£0.271m + £0.197m + £0.022m, paragraphs 5.25, 5.27 and 5.28); and

b) approves inclusion in the Commitment Budget 2023/24 funding of £0.371m for core foster care allowances (paragraph 5.10), additional funding and associated savings of £0.115m and -£0.179m respectively related to the enhanced foster care approach, £0.456m for social worker recruitment and retention proposals (paragraph 5.15) and £0.052m for SEND support service staffing (paragraph 5.28).

- v. Notes the Council's predicted medium-term financial prospects detailed in paragraphs 5.29 to 5.53 and summarised in Table 3 of the Executive Director: Resources report.
- vi. Reaffirms its support for the 7 key principles to guide budget preparations set out under paragraph 5.54 of the Executive Director: Resources report.

50. **Special Educational Needs & Disabilities Overview and Scrutiny Review**

RESOLVED that the Executive agrees the Education, Skills and Growth Overview & Scrutiny Panel's recommendations as set out in the Panel report and paragraph 5.8 of the report, taking into account the comments of the Statutory Scrutiny Officer

51. **Financial Hardship Action Plan and Household Support Fund (Phase 3) distribution**

RESOLVED that:

- i. the distribution of the Household Support Fund (Phase three) through the following routes be approved.
 - a. Supermarket vouchers to Free School Meal pupils at Bracknell Forest schools, ages 5-16.
 - b. Offering the local foodbanks additional funding, including to provide fuel vouchers and fresh food.
 - c. Purchase supermarket vouchers to distribute to low-income households receiving income based council tax reduction or housing benefit but not the benefits, such as universal credit, which would qualify them for the £650 national cost of living payment.
 - d. Enhancing the Local Welfare Scheme provision, allowing applications from households in hardship who would not otherwise automatically qualify for support.
- ii. the financial hardship action plan (2022-2024) for operational implementation is endorsed.

CHAIRMAN