

BOROUGH COUNCIL OF KING'S LYNN & WEST NORFOLK

CABINET DECISION SHEET

**Decision Sheet from the Meeting of the Cabinet held on
Wednesday, 9th February, 2022 at 10.00 am in the Assembly Room,
Town Hall, Saturday Market Place, King's Lynn**

PRESENT: Councillor S Dark (Chair)
Councillors R Blunt, A Dickinson, P Kunes, A Lawrence, G Middleton
and S Sandell

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor B Long

1 **MINUTES**

RESOLVED: The Minutes of the meeting held on 11 January 2022
were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

2 **URGENT BUSINESS**

None

3 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

None

4 **CHAIR'S CORRESPONDENCE**

None

5 **MEMBERS PRESENT UNDER STANDING ORDER 34**

The following Councillors attended under standing order 34

C Morley – Items 9, 10, 11
A Kemp – Items 10, 11, 14
A Ryves – Item 10, 11, 12
C Joyce – Items 9, 10
T Parish – Items 9, 10
J Moriarty – Items 9, 10, 11

6 **CALLED IN MATTERS**

None

7 **FORWARD DECISIONS**

The forward decisions list was noted with the Procurement Strategy moved to
much later in the year.

8 **MATTERS REFERRED TO CABINET FROM OTHER BODIES**

A meeting of the joint panels considered the budget, the recommendations were considered by Cabinet.

9 **MEMBERS ALLOWANCES INDEPENDENT REVIEW**

RECOMMENDED: 1) Having considered in detail the recommendations of the IRP, Cabinet considers that there two issues for not making significant changes Members' Allowances for the year commencing 1 April 2021. Firstly, the current financial climate is not propitious for increasing the overall sum paid to Councillors, which is the effect of the IRP's review. Secondly, there have been significant changes to working practices as a result of the pandemic, with Councillors seeing a wholesale change of having to carry out all of their duties from home, with all meetings conducted via online means, i.e. Teams and Zoom. This has resulted in what might amount to permanent changes to working practices and therefore a review would be better conducted when those revisions have been fully evaluated.

2) That existing allowances be increased in line with the inflationary increase of the officers' pay award, effective from 1 April 2021.

3) In accordance with the Regulations, Cabinet recommends that allowances for a maximum period of the next 3 years commencing 2022/23 should continue to be indexed in line with the officers' pay award. This is in compliance with the Regulations. An IRP may be called at any time should the need arise or be otherwise appropriate but in any case will be called no later than autumn 2024 to conduct a further review and to report its findings in sufficient time to allow a revised scheme to be approved by Council, in accordance with the regulations, to come into effect on 1 April 2025.

4) That, subject to receiving Council approval, the pecuniary implications to be paid in the current financial year.

Reason for Decision

To comply with the requirements of The Local Authorities (Members' Allowances) (England) Regulations 2003.

10 **FINANCIAL PLAN 2021/26**

RECOMMENDED: 1) It is recommended that Council note the revision to the Forecast for 2021/2022 as set out in the report.

2) Council is recommended to approve the Policy on Earmarked Reserves and General Fund Balance and the maximum balances set for the reserves as noted in the report and at Appendix 7 in the report.

3) It is recommended that Council :
i) Approves the budget of £21,550,170 for 2022/2023 and notes the projections for 2023/2024, 2024/2025 and 2025/2026.

- ii) Approves the level of Special Expenses for the Town/Parish Councils as detailed in the report.
- iii) Approves the Fees and Charges for 2022/2023 detailed in Appendix 4 of the report.
- iv) Approves a Band D council tax of £139.37 for 2022/2023

4) It is recommended that Council approves a minimum requirement of the General Fund balance for 2022/23 of £1,128,410.

Reason for decision

To set a budget for the coming financial year.

11 **CAPITAL STRATEGY 2022/23**

RECOMMENDED: That the Capital Strategy 2022/2023 as attached to the report be approved.

Reason for Decision

Not to approve these policies would contravene the requirements of both legislation and good practice. In addition, the external auditors may comment in their report to those charged with governance (ISA260).

12 **TREASURY MANAGEMENT STRATEGY STATEMENT, MINIMUM REVENUE PROVISION POLICY STATEMENT AND ANNUAL INVESTMENT STRATEGY 2022/2023**

RECOMMENDED: 1) That the Treasury Management Strategy Statement 2022/2023, including treasury indicators for 2022-2026 be approved.

2) That the Minimum Revenue Provision Policy 2022/2023 be approved.

3) That the Investment Strategy 2022/2023 be approved.

Reason for the Decision

The Council must have approved a Treasury Management Strategy Statement, Minimum Revenue Provision Policy Statement and Annual Investment Strategy 2022/2023 by 31 March 2022.

13 **CAPITAL PROGRAMME AND RESOURCES 2021-2026**

RECOMMENDED: 1) That the amendments to capital schemes and resources for the 2021-2026 capital programme as detailed in the report be approved.

2) That new capital bids to be funded from available capital resources and included in the capital programme 2021-2026 as detailed in the report be approved.

Reason for Decision

To report amendments, rephrasing and resources to the 2021-2026 Capital Programme

The meeting closed at 12.26 pm