

14 February 2013

This record relates to Agenda Item 141

RECORD OF POLICY & RESOURCES COMMITTEE DECISION

SUBJECT: TARGETED BUDGET MANAGEMENT
(TBM) 2012/13 MONTH 9

AUTHOR: JEFF COATES

THE DECISION

1. That the forecast outturn position for the General Fund, which has an underspend of £4.213m be noted;
2. That the forecast outturn for the Housing Revenue Account (HRA), which has an underspend of £1.304m be noted;
3. That the forecast outturn for the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) which has an underspend of £0.367m be noted;
4. That the forecast outturn position on the Capital Programme be noted;
5. That the following changes to the Capital Programme as set out below be approved:
 - The budget re-profiling and budget variations as set out in Appendix 2 to the report;
 - The carry forward of slippage into the 2013/14 capital programme to meet on-going commitments on these schemes as set out in Appendix 2 to the report; and
 - The new schemes as set out in Appendix 3 to the report.

REASON FOR THE DECISION

Budget monitoring is a key element of good financial management, which is necessary in order for the council to maintain financial stability and operate effectively.

The capital budget changes are necessary to maintain effective financial management.

DETAILS OF ANY ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS

The provisional outturn position on council controlled budgets is an underspend of £4.213m. Any underspend at year-end would release one off resources that could be used to aid budget planning for 2013/14. Any overspend at year-end would need to be funded from general reserves which would then need to be replenished to ensure that the working balance was maintained at £9.000m.

Proper Officer:

Date: 18 February 2013

Mark Wall, Head of Democratic Services

Signed:



CALL-IN FOR SCRUTINY

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- (i) any requirement for earlier implementation of the decision or,
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14 February 2013

This record relates to Agenda Item 142

RECORD OF POLICY & RESOURCES COMMITTEE

COUNCIL DECISION

SUBJECT: GENERAL FUND REVENUE BUDGET &
COUNCIL TAX 2013/14

AUTHOR: MARK IRELAND

THE DECISION

RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND:

- (1) That subject to the recommendation (3) below, the 2013/14 General Fund Revenue Budget proposals contained in the body of the report be approved including:
 - A 1.96% increase in the Brighton & Hove element of the council tax;
 - The 2013/14 budget allocations to services as set out in appendix 1;
 - The council's net General Fund budget requirement for 2013/14 of £228.1m;
 - The reinvestments as set out in paragraph;
 - The budget savings package as set out in appendix 4;
 - The contingency budget of £6.0m as set out in table 6;
 - The reserves allocations as set out in paragraph and table 4;
 - The borrowing limit for the year commencing 1 April 2013 of £371m;
 - The annual Minimum Revenue Provision statement as set out in appendix
 - The Prudential Indicators as set out in appendix 10 to this report;
 - The proposed responses to the scrutiny recommendations as set out in appendix 14.
- (2) That the revised Medium Term Financial Strategy budget and resource projections for 2013/14 to 2018/19 as set out in appendix 7 to the report be noted; and
- (3) That it be noted that supplementary information needed to set the overall council tax would be provided for the budget setting Council as listed in paragraph 4.5 of the report.

REASON FOR THE DECISION

The council is under a statutory duty to set its budget and council tax before 11 March each year. The recommendations to Budget Council contained within this report together with the recommendations to follow in the supplementary report to full Council, will enable the council to meet its statutory duty.

DETAILS OF ANY ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS

The budget process allows all parties to put forward viable alternative budget and council tax proposals to Budget Council on 28 February. Budget Council has the

opportunity to debate both the proposals recommended by Policy & Resources Committee at the same time as any viable alternative proposals. All budget amendments must have been "signed off" by finance officers no later than 12 noon on Monday 25th February.

Proper Officer:

Date: 18 February 2013

Mark Wall, Head of Democratic Services

Signed:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mark Wall', written over a horizontal line.

CALL-IN FOR SCRUTINY

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14 February 2013

This record relates to Agenda Item 143

RECORD OF POLICY & RESOURCES COMMITTEE DECISION

SUBJECT: CAPITAL RESOURCES & CAPITAL
INVESTMENT PROGRAMME 2013/14

AUTHOR: JEFF COATES

THE DECISION

RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND: That the following be approved:-

- The Capital Investment Programme for 2013/14 in appendix 1;
- Note the estimated capital resources in future years as detailed in appendix 1;
- To allocate £0.250m resources in 2013/14 for the Strategic Investment Fund for the purposes set out in paragraph 3.25;
- To allocate £1.000m for the ICT fund;
- To allocate £1.000m for the Asset Management Fund;
- The proposed use of council borrowing as set out in paragraph 3.17 and appendix 3.

REASON FOR THE DECISION

The council is under a statutory duty to set its council tax and budget before 11 March each year. The recommendations to Budget Council contained within this report together with the recommendations in the revenue budget report, will enable the council to meet its statutory duty.

DETAILS OF ANY ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS

The budget process allows all parties to put forward viable alternative capital investment proposals to Budget Council on 28 February 2013. Budget Council has the opportunity to debate both the proposals put forward by Committee at the same time as any viable alternative proposals. All budget amendments must have been "signed off" by finance officers no later than 12.00 noon on Monday 25th February.

Proper Officer:

Date: 18 February 2013

Mark Wall, Head of Democratic Services

Signed:



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14 February 2013

This record relates to Agenda Item 144

RECORD OF POLICY & RESOURCES COMMITTEE

COUNCIL DECISION

SUBJECT: HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT
2013/14

AUTHOR: SUE CHAPMAN

THE DECISION

RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND:

1. That the budget for 2013/14 as shown in Appendix 1 to the report be approved;
2. That individual rent increases and decreases be approved in line with rent restructuring principles as determined by the Government and detailed in paragraphs 3.13 to 3.15 to the report; and
3. That the changes to fees and charges as detailed in Table 2, paragraphs 3.16 to 3.18 to the report be approved and the Strategic Director; Place be granted delegated authority to increase communal heating electricity charges following the corporate procurement of new contract prices.

REASON FOR THE DECISION

The Local Government and Housing Act 1989 requires each Local Authority to formulate proposals relating to income from rent and charges, expenditure on repairs, maintenance supervision and management and any other prescribed matters in respect of the HRA. When formulating these proposals using best estimates and assumptions the Authority must submit a balanced account. This budget report provides a breakeven budget and recommends rent increases in line with current government guidance.

DETAILS OF ANY ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS

There are no alternative options proposed.

Rents have been set in accordance with the Government's rent restructuring guidance. In previous years, the Housing Subsidy Determination controlled rent setting increases by removing resources from local authorities through non-compliance. Although the subsidy system is now abolished, increases in rents above rent convergence will be subject to the rent rebate limitation which sets a limit on how much rents can be increased. Any increases above this limit result in a loss of Housing Benefit Subsidy which is payable to the HRA.

The government's policy for rent restructuring is to ensure rents are fair and equitable nationally so, although the authority can set rents at a lower level than rent restructuring, this will bring the rents out of line nationally and provide a lower level of resources to fund repairs, maintenance and improvements works both in this year and future financial years. For example, a 1% reduction in the rental increase (saving each tenant an average

of £0.76 per week in rent increase) will result in a loss of rental income of approximate £0.870 million over the next three years.

Proper Officer:

Date: 18 February 2013

Mark Wall, Head of Democratic Services

Signed:



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14 February 2013

This record relates to Agenda Item 145

RECORD OF POLICY & RESOURCES COMMITTEE DECISION

SUBJECT: HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT
CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2013-2016

AUTHOR: SUSIE ALLEN

THE DECISION

1. That the recommended HRA capital programme budget of £26.957 million and financing for 2013/14 as set out in paragraph 4.1 of the report be approved.

REASON FOR THE DECISION

The Local Government and Housing Act 1989 requires each Local Authority to formulate proposals relating to capital expenditure in respect of the HRA. The council's constitution and financial regulations require that capital budgets are approved through the Committee system.

DETAILS OF ANY ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS

No alternative options were considered.

Proper Officer:

Date: 18 February 2013

Mark Wall, Head of Democratic Services
Signed:



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14 February 2013

This record relates to Agenda Item 146

RECORD OF POLICY & RESOURCES COMMITTEE DECISION

SUBJECT: RISK MANAGEMENT STRATEGY 2013

AUTHOR: JACKIE ALGAR

THE DECISION

1. That the Risk Management Strategy 2013 be approved.

REASON FOR THE DECISION

Having both Policy & Resources Committee involved in approval of the Strategy, and Audit & Standards Committee Members considering risk management arrangements ensures a wide range of Members are involved. This route for formal approval and practice is mirrored in other authorities.

DETAILS OF ANY ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS

The city council could decide to request a longer term (not just one year) Risk Management Strategy but this would not always reflect the structure of the council and the challenges of the current time.

The city council could decide not to have any approved Risk Management Strategy but this would not accord with best practice for corporate governance.

Proper Officer:

Date: 18 February 2013

Mark Wall, Head of Democratic Services

Signed:



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14 February 2013

This record relates to Agenda Item 147

RECORD OF POLICY & RESOURCES COMMITTEE

COUNCIL DECISION

SUBJECT: SENIOR OFFICER STRUCTURE

AUTHOR: ABRAHAM GHEBRE-GHIORGHIS

THE DECISION

1. That the proposals to move to a permanent senior officer structure which builds on the progress achieved since September 2012 and ensures managerial leadership capacity and clear accountabilities be noted;
2. That the proposed changes set out in the report and the changes to the Scheme of Delegations to Officers set out in Appendix Two to the report be agreed;
3. That the Chief Executive be authorised to take all steps necessary or incidental to the implementation of the proposals set out in the report, including the power to make transitional arrangements and any minor modifications she considers necessary;
4. That the Monitoring Officer be authorised to make amendments to the relevant parts of the Council's constitution to reflect the changes authorised in the report and to make any necessary consequential amendments; and
5. That the changes should come into force with effect from 1st April 2013.

REASON FOR THE DECISION

None listed.

DETAILS OF ANY ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS

None listed.

Proper Officer:

Date: 18 February 2013

Mark Wall, Head of Democratic Services

Signed:



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