

DECISION NOTICE
CABINET 12 FEBRUARY 2025

ITEM 11

PAS Review Update – Planning Service Improvements

RESOLVED:

2.1 Cabinet noted the progress made regarding the development and implementation of the Planning Service Transformation and Improvement Plan (PSTIP) since the previous update report presented to Cabinet in October 2024.

ITEM 12

Planning Development Management Performance

RESOLVED:

2.1 Cabinet noted the findings of the report on the performance of Thurrock Council's Planning Department, covering the period from 2015 up until November 2024, including the analysis of applications received, those dealt with by delegation, those progressed to committee, and those passed or rejected contrary to officer recommendations; and

2.2 Cabinet noted the contents of the raw data contained in Appendix A.

2.3 Cabinet agreed the contents of this report as a response to the motion set out at paragraph 1.2 of this report.

ITEM 13

Local Plan timetable delay, analysis and implications

RESOLVED:

2.1 Cabinet noted the progress made regarding the preparation of the Thurrock Local Plan based on the 50 recommendations outlined in the Stantec Local Plan review report (Appendix A).

2.2 Cabinet noted the implications of the extended timetable.

2.3 Cabinet agreed the contents of this report as a response to the motion set out at paragraph 1.2 and 1.3 of this report.

ITEM 14

Adoption of Thurrock Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan

RESOLVED:

1.4 Cabinet approved the Thurrock Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan for adoption and publication.

ITEM 15

NEC Direct Award for R&B and NECDM

RESOLVED:

2.1 Cabinet approved the award of a contract for the provision of a core Revenues and Benefits processing system to NEC Software Services (UK) Ltd using the CCS Frameworks Vertical Applications Solutions (RM6259), for a period of five years (with an option to extend for a further two periods of twelve (12) months each) with a total contract value of £1.63 million, commencing December 2025.

2.2 Cabinet agreed to delegate the award of the contract to the Executive Director of Corporate Services in consultation with the portfolio holder for Resources.

ITEM 16

HRA Rent Setting and Budget 2025/26

RESOLVED:

2.1 Cabinet approved the Rent Flexibility approach of Formula Rent plus 5% for new tenancies in properties governed by formula rent, and 10% for new tenancies in supported housing (as explained in paragraphs 4.4 and 4.5 of this report). Please note this is only applicable in the event of relets.

2.2 Cabinet approved the increase in rents, in line with Government Policy on rents for social housing, (as explained in paragraphs 4.7 to 4.9 of this report) to 2.7%.

2.3 Cabinet approved the increase in Tenant and Leasehold Service charges and other HRA fees and charges for 2025/26, (as explained in paragraphs 4.11 to 4.14 of this report) and detailed in Appendices 1 and 2.

2.4 Cabinet approved the setting of an indicative balanced HRA budget for 2025/26 (as per paragraph 4.34 and Table 3 of this report).

2.5 Cabinet approved the 5-year HRA Business Plan for 2025/26–2029/30 (as per paragraphs 4.35 to 4.38 of this report) as detailed in Appendix 3 and note that this is an extract from the 30-year HRA Business Plan.

2.6 Cabinet noted the ongoing HRA capital programme composed of two main strands, Transforming Homes and the Demolition, Rebuilds and Acquisitions programme of which the next five years are presented at £80m and £104m respectively. Approval of these is sought via a separate Cabinet report that will be presented to February 2025 Cabinet as part of the Council's overall capital programme.

ITEM 17

Draft Capital Programme 2025/26 to 2029/30

RESOLVED:

- a) Cabinet noted the proposed new capital projects in line with the 2025/26 stipulations and criteria as set out in table 3 (appendix B).**
- b) Cabinet approved in principle the proposed financing of the additions to the capital programme as set out in table 4 (appendix C).**
- c) Cabinet noted the draft capital programme of £316.718m over the 5 year period from 2025/26 to 2029/30 as set out in table 4 (appendix C).**
- d) Cabinet approved the implementation of the Governance Improvements section (paragraph 4.5)**

ITEM 18

Annual Treasury Management Strategy Statement 2025/26

RESOLVED:

Cabinet recommends Full Council to agree:

- 2.1 The proposed Treasury Management Strategy and prudential indicators for 2025/26, 2026/27, 2027/28 2028/29 and 2029/30 in 11.1, 12.4, 15.6, 15.8, 15.9, 16.16 and 17.2.**
- 2.2 The proposed change in the Authorised Limit 2024/25 to £1.4bn, and the approval of a £1.4bn Authorised Limit in 2025/26 and the following four years, as set out in Section 15.10.**
- 2.3 The proposed MRP Policy for 2025/26 as set out in Section 13 and will be reviewed for 2026/27.**
- 2.4 The proposed Borrowing Strategy as set out in Section 15.**
- 2.5 The proposed investment policy as set out in 16.**
- 2.6 The actual prudential indicators for 2023/24 shown at Appendix A.**

ITEM 19

Final Revenue Budget 2025/26 and Final Medium Term Financial Strategy 2025/26 to 2028/29

RESOLVED:

Cabinet agreed to:

- a. Recommend the 2025/26 budget to Council for approval, being mindful of comments from the Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee, to enable the Council Tax for 2025/26 to be set (Appendix 2)**
- b. Recommend the Model Council Tax Resolution 2025/26 to Council for approval as set out in Appendix 9;**
- c. Recommend to Council that, in accordance with Section 38(2) of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, the Chief Executive be instructed to place a notice in the local press of the amounts set under recommendation 2 above with a period of 21 days following the Council's decision;**
- d. Approve the Medium-Term Financial Strategy 2025/26 to 2028/29 for referral to Council (Appendix 2);**
- e. Note the intention to increase Council Tax by 2.99% in 2025/26 (Table 7);**
- f. Note the intention to increase Council Tax by a further 2% in 2025/26 in respect of the adult social care precept (Table 7);**
- g. Note the 2025/26 budget for Public Health as set out in Appendix 5;**
- h. Note the Council's revised Capitalisation Direction Requirement of £691m which is set at a point in time and will continue to be subject to change (Paragraph 7.4 and Table 5);**
 - i. Approve to continue with the 100% deployment of the Household Support Fund through the Essential Living Fund (Paragraph 5.1);**
 - j. Agree that Thurrock's 2025/26 Early Years funding formula be implemented as stated in paragraphs 8.7 to 8.13. This is consistent with previous decisions to maximise the funding rates that providers receive;**
 - k. Approve the repurposing of the recurrent revenue contingency budget as detailed in paragraph 12.5; and**
 - l. Recommend the 2025/26 Members Allowance Scheme to Council for approval (Appendix 10)**