



Leicester
City Council

Addendum 3

MEETING OF THE COUNCIL

WEDNESDAY, 19 FEBRUARY 2025

Further to the agenda for the above meeting which has already been circulated, please find attached the following decision notices:-

1. Recommendation of the Housing Revenue Budget 2025/26
2. Recommendation to Council of the Capital Programme for 2025/26
3. Recommendation of General Fund Revenue Budget 2025/26

Officer contacts

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RECOMMENDATION TO COUNCIL BY CITY MAYOR OR INDIVIDUAL EXECUTIVE MEMBER

1.	Decision title	Recommendation of the Housing Revenue Budget 2025/26
2.	Declarations of interest	None
3.	Date of recommendation	18 February 2025
4.	Decision maker	City Mayor
5.	Decision taken	<p>1) 1) To thank Tenants' and Leaseholders' Forum, Housing Scrutiny Commission and others who have commented on our draft Housing Revenue Account budget.</p> <p>2) I am grateful for the recognition from consultees of the challenging financial position the multiple budget pressures create.</p> <p><u>To recommend to Council the following:</u></p> <p>3) Approve the Housing Revenue and Capital budgets for 2025/26, as described in the report submitted by the Director of Housing, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i) Approve rent changes for tenants for 2025/26 as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 2.7% increase to core rent; - 2.7% increase to garage rent. - 2.7% increase for Hostel rent and service charges; - 4% increase for Gypsy and Traveller plot rent; ii) Approve service charge changes for tenants and leaseholders for 2025/26 as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A reduction in the charges for District Heating as set out in section 4.6.3 of the report, including a 25% reduction in the variable charge for metered heat, a 20% reduction in the fixed metered charges, and a 26% reduction for those without meters; - reducing the charge for waylighting by 9.1%; - applying increases to all other service charges of 1.7%, in line with CPI. iii) Agree to delegate to the City Mayor the authority to reduce service charges by the extent to which this represents a change to the cost of providing those services. iv) Note the equality impact assessment of the proposed revenue and capital reductions required to present a balanced budget, at Appendix J; v) Note that the scheme of virement (included within the General Fund Revenue Budget report which is also on your agenda) applies also to the HRA budget with total expenditure and total income acting as budget ceilings for this purpose; vi) Agree that the delegations and determinations applicable to the main capital programme (which is also on your agenda) shall also apply to the capital programme in the Director of Housing's report; vii) Note that the capital strategy in the main capital programme report also applies to the HRA.

RECOMMENDATION TO COUNCIL BY CITY MAYOR OR INDIVIDUAL EXECUTIVE MEMBER

6.	Reason for decision	<p>The Housing Revenue Account budget forms part of the budget and policy framework. Its approval is the responsibility of the full Council; the City Mayor is responsible for the preparation of a proposal for Council consideration.</p> <p>A draft programme was considered by Housing Scrutiny Commission on 7th January 2025.</p>
7.	A) KEY DECISION Yes/No? b) If yes, was it published 5 clear days in advance? Yes/no	No
8.	Options considered	Not applicable
9.	Deadline for call-in <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 5 members of a scrutiny commission or any 5 councillors can ask for the decision to be called in. • Notification of call-in with reasons must be made to the monitoring officer 	Not applicable. – this is a recommendation to the Council under Rule 1.2 of the budget and policy framework procedure rules and the provisions of the Call-in procedure do not, therefore, apply.
10.	Signature of decision maker (City Mayor or where delegated by the City Mayor, name of executive member)	

RECORD OF DECISION BY CITY MAYOR OR INDIVIDUAL EXECUTIVE MEMBER

1.	DECISION TITLE	Recommendation to Council of the Capital Programme for 2025/26
2.	DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST	
3.	DATE OF DECISION	18 th February 2025
4.	DECISION MAKER	City Mayor
5.	DECISION TAKEN	<p>1. To thank the scrutiny commissions for their comments on the draft capital budget.</p> <p><u>To recommend to Council the following:</u></p> <p>a) Approve the release of the Capital Fund, a revenue reserve, to the Managed Reserve strategy of £90m. (see para 4.4 of the report submitted by the Director of Finance) ;</p> <p>b) Approve the change in financing for the 2024/25 capital programme, to include prudential borrowing (see para 4.5 of the report);</p> <p>c) Approve reductions to the 2024/25 capital programme as described at paragraph 4.8;</p> <p>d) Approve the capital programme, together with the necessary prudential borrowing, for schemes described in this report and summarised at Appendices 2 to 5;</p> <p>e) For those schemes designated immediate starts, delegate authority to the lead director to commit expenditure, subject to the normal requirements of contract procedure rules, rules concerning land acquisition and finance procedure rules;</p> <p>f) Delegate authority to the City Mayor to determine a plan of spending for each policy provision, that may be added in-year, and to commit expenditure up to the maximum available;</p> <p>g) For the purposes of finance procedure rules:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Determine that service resources shall consist of service revenue contributions; HRA revenue contributions; and government grants/third party contributions ringfenced for specific purposes. • Designate the operational estate, the children's capital maintenance programme, the highways maintenance



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		<p>programme and the transport improvement programme as programme areas, within which the director can reallocate resources to meet operational requirements.</p> <p>h) Delegate to the City Mayor:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Authority to increase any scheme in the programme, or add a new scheme to the programme, subject to a maximum of £10m corporate resources in each instance and to borrow whilst remaining within the prudential limits for debt which are proposed in the treasury management strategy (elsewhere on the Council agenda); • Authority to reduce or delete any capital scheme, subject to a maximum reduction of £10m; and • Authority to transfer any “policy provision” to the “immediate starts” category. <p>i) Delegate to directors, in consultation with the relevant deputy/assistant mayor, authority to incur expenditure up to a maximum of £250k per scheme in respect of policy provisions, that may be added in-year, on design and other professional fees and preparatory studies, but not any other type of expenditure.</p> <p>j) Approve the capital strategy at Appendix 6.</p>
6.	REASON FOR DECISION	It is a requirement of the constitution that the City Mayor recommends a capital programme to the Council.
7.	<p>a) KEY DECISION – Y/N?</p> <p>b) If yes, was it published 5 clear days in advance? Y/N</p>	a) No
8.	OPTIONS CONSIDERED	Not Applicable
9.	<p>DEADLINE FOR CALL-IN</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 5 Members of a Scrutiny Commission or any 5 Councillors can ask for the decision to be called-in. 	Not Applicable – this is a recommendation to Council under Rule 1.2 of the budget and policy framework procedure rules and the provisions of the Call-in procedure do not, therefore, apply.



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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Notification of Call-In with reasons must be made to the Monitoring Officer. 	
10.	SIGNATURE OF DECISION MAKER (City Mayor or where delegated by the City Mayor, name of Executive Member).	

RECORD OF DECISION BY CITY MAYOR OR INDIVIDUAL EXECUTIVE MEMBER

1.	Decision title	Recommendation of General Fund Revenue Budget 2025/26
2.	Declarations of interest	None
3.	Date of recommendation	18th February 2025
4.	Decision maker	City Mayor
5.	Decision taken	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To thank scrutiny commissions for taking time to consider and comment on the draft budget. 2. In response to comments made: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (a) I acknowledge the concerns members expressed about adventure playgrounds, and today I am publishing a decision which will secure their funding for the whole of 2025/26; (b) The final equality assessment now specifically refers to care experienced young people which was omitted from the draft report; (c) I note the requests at a number of commissions for transparency regarding the asset disposal programme, and will ensure that regular updates are brought to the scrutiny function. 3. To recommend to Council the following: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (a) approve the three-year budget strategy described in the report submitted by the Director of Finance; (b) approve the proposed budget and council tax for 2025/26 as described in the report, including the recommendations in the formal budget resolution; (c) approve the budget ceilings for each service shown at Appendix 1 to the report; (d) approve the scheme of virement described in Appendix 2 to the report; (e) approve the use of the £90m capital fund to support the revenue budget strategy (dependent on decisions taken in respect of the capital programme for 2025/26, which is elsewhere on the Council's agenda); (f) approve the changes to earmarked reserves to support the overall strategy as described in Appendix 5;

RECORD OF DECISION BY CITY MAYOR OR INDIVIDUAL EXECUTIVE MEMBER

<p>5.</p>		<p>(g) note the view of the Director of Finance's on the adequacy of reserves and the estimates used in preparing the budget;</p> <p>(h) note the equality implications arising from the proposed tax increase, as described in paragraph 15 and Appendix 3;</p> <p>(i) note the medium-term financial strategy and forecasts presented at Appendix 4, and the significant financial challenges that lie ahead;</p> <p>(j) in relation to council tax for empty properties:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Thank those who responded to our consultation, the results of which are described at Appendix 6; • Note the equality implications arising from a decision to change council tax payable in respect of empty properties, as described at Appendix 6A; • Change the current policies as described at Appendix 6, specifically to commence charging Council Tax on empty, unfurnished property as soon as it becomes empty; and to apply exemptions introduced by the Government. <p>(k) approve the capital receipts flexibility policy at Appendix 7, to come into force if and when a government direction is received.</p>
<p>6.</p>	<p>Reason for decision</p>	<p>The revenue budget forms part of the budget and policy framework. Its approval is the responsibility of the full Council. The City Mayor is responsible for the preparation of a proposal for Council consideration.</p> <p>A draft budget was published, and a formal decision to that effect was made by the City Mayor on 10th December 2024. The budget was considered by a number of scrutiny commissions, whose comments were considered by Overview Select Committee on 30th January. Minutes of the commissions and Overview Select Committee have been circulated to Council members.</p>
<p>7.</p>	<p>A) KEY DECISION Yes/No?</p> <p>b) If yes, was it published 5 clear days in advance? Yes/no</p>	<p>a) No</p>

RECORD OF DECISION BY CITY MAYOR OR INDIVIDUAL EXECUTIVE MEMBER

8.	Options considered	Not Applicable
9.	Deadline for call-in <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 5 members of a scrutiny commission or any 5 councillors can ask for the decision to be called-in. • Notification of call-in with reasons must be made to the monitoring officer 	Not Applicable.
10.	Signature of decision maker (City Mayor or where delegated by the City Mayor, name of executive member)	

