

RECORD OF DECISION BY CITY MAYOR OR INDIVIDUAL EXECUTIVE MEMBER

1.	Decision title	Recommendation of General Fund Revenue Budget 2021/22
2.	Declarations of interest	None
3.	Date of decision	16 February 2021
4.	Decision maker	City Mayor
5.	Decision taken	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To thank scrutiny committees and other consultees who have considered our draft budget. 2. In response to comments made: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) As the Council is well aware, our financial position is very difficult, with the pandemic severely disrupting our finances after a decade of Government cuts. This has required a different approach to the budget strategy, and I am very grateful to OSC for supporting the budget; b) I gave a commitment at OSC to provide additional support to Public Health, which accords with the views of external consultees who have responded. Initially, I propose to increase the budget by £0.2m per year, to support capacity (the need for which has been demonstrated by the pandemic). I will keep this under review during the year and am open to further increases if need is demonstrated; c) Scrutiny Committees and the Race Equality Centre have expressed concern about increasing council tax by 5% at a time when people may struggle to pay. I recognise these concerns, and strongly believe the Government should have given us more grant to pay for adult social care instead of expecting us to increase council tax. To mitigate the impact of the increase, the submitted report

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		<p>includes additional budget for discretionary housing payments, crisis support grants and council tax hardship relief.</p> <p>3. To note the equality assessment of the proposed tax rise and (in the light of the findings and having regard to the implications and the additional support discussed above) to recommend the budget and tax rise to the Council as proposed in the report, subject to the change described at 2(b) above;</p> <p>4. To ask the Director of Finance to prepare the formal budget resolution for 2021/22, referred to in Section 3 of the Council report.</p>
6.	Reason for decision	<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 8th December. The budget was considered by a number of scrutiny commissions, whose comments were considered by Overview Select Committee on 4th February. Minutes of the commissions and Overview Select Committee will be circulated to Council members in advance of the budget meeting.</p>
7.	<p>A) KEY DECISION Yes/No?</p> <p>b) If yes, was it published 5 clear days in advance? Yes/no</p>	a) No
8.	Options considered	Not Applicable

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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)	