RECORD OF EXECUTIVE DECISIONS

The following is a record of the decisions taken at the meeting of **CABINET** held on **Wednesday 9 February 2022**. The decisions will come into force and may be implemented from **Monday 21 February 2022** unless the Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee or its Committees object to any such decision and call it in.

Medium Term Financial Plan 2022/23 to 2025/26 and Revenue and Capital Budget 2022/23

(Key Decision: CORP/R/21/02)

Summary

The Cabinet considered a report of the Corporate Director of Resources which provided comprehensive financial information to enable the agreement of the 2022/23 balanced revenue budget, details of significant investments in key front-line services, an outline Medium Term Financial Plan MTFP(12) 2022/23 to 2025/26 and a fully funded capital programme.

Cabinet is committed to strong financial governance and getting value for money for public money whilst ensuring that the council sets a sustainable balanced budget with any council tax increases being justified and affordable. The first annual budget and medium term financial plan for the Cabinet post the May 2021 elections seeks to balance the need for both short term and long term investment in front line services with the need for financial prudence and reasonable council tax increases. In summary the budget proposals included:

(a) careful consideration of the impacts of the Comprehensive Spending Review and the Provisional Local Government Finance Settlement announcements in October and December 2021 respectively, which have seen government grant allocations increase by £19.767 million next year, although £8.776 million of this is one off funding and assumed will potentially be lost in 2023/24 as a result of the Fair Funding review outcomes and £1.9 million relates to a new burden in relation to Adult Market Sustainability;

(b) provision for £45.1 million of unavoidable base budget pressures in 2022/23, resulting from pay and price inflation (£13.1 million – including £3.1 million in relation to energy); increased costs of children's (£4.4 million) and adults' (£12 million) social care; increased costs of Home to School Transport (£2.6 million); increased waste disposal and recycling costs (£4.375 million), increased Employers National Insurance costs (£1.5 million), prudential borrowing costs (£3 million) and £4.1 million of other pressures;

(c) investment in front line services totalling £6.2 million, including £3 million per annum of new prudential borrowing; investments in a range of front line services in Neighbourhoods and Climate Change – including in relation to bin replacement (£100,000), street scene services (£130,000), community protection (£890,000), neighbourhood wardens (£120,000), pest control (£141,000), public rights of way, nature reserves, and woodland protection (£250,000), allotments (£360,000) and in our climate change team (£313,000);

(d) utilisation of £10 million of earmarked reserves to invest in non-recurrent and fixed term schemes over the next three years such as feasibility studies and business case development for the remaining county Levelling Up bids (£2.840 million); investment in heritage assets in Durham City (£1.460 million), in both rural and urban footways (£750,000) and to enhance public rights of way (£1.637 million). Investment is also proposed at Hardwick Park and Pow Hill Country Park (£1.534 million) and a new loan facility is to be developed to support community associations to invest in energy efficiency schemes in community buildings (£600,000);

(e) new capital investment totalling £112.75 million, taking the approved capital programme to £602.2 million, with new additional capital expenditure proposed for the Belmont Community Arts College and Belmont CE Primary School new build (£15 million), approximately £22 million of additional investment in highways over and above the LTP capital grant allocations, a final £6.9 million to finance the replacement primary school in Spennymoor, a £5 million budget to match fund the council's Levelling Up bids to government and an initial £5 million allocation for building investment to enable the council to meet our Net Zero targets;

(f) new corporate savings totalling £1.2 million next year with no reductions in front line service delivery, no use of reserves to balance the budget next year, a 0% council tax increase in relation to the base council tax referendum limit but a prudent and necessary increase in the adult social care precept of 3.0% in 2022/23 to help meet the significant cost pressures in this budget, giving a total overall increase of 3.0%, well below the 4.99% permissible and expected by government as part of their Core Spending Power calculations and assumptions.

Comprehensive Spending Review

On 27 October 2021 the Chancellor of the Exchequer published the government's Comprehensive Spending Review (CSR). The CSR provided a three year settlement for the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC) and it was hoped this would result in a longer term three-year financial settlement for local government.

The CSR included increases in expenditure on public services, with previously 'unprotected' government departments receiving modest uplifts in government funding at a time when reductions were anticipated.

The CSR included a £4.8 billion base grant uplift for local government over the three-year CSR period (2022/23 to 2024/25). This funding was expected to be £1.6 billion a year, although around £100 million per annum was expected to be allocated for specific activities within local government, leaving £1.5 billion per annum expected to be allocated to core local government funding from 2022/23 onwards.

This additional funding is viewed as recognition that as well as funding from council tax rises, local government also requires additional core funding to address the significant budget pressures across the sector.

The CSR also announced that an additional adult social care precept of 1% would be available for 2022/23 and that an indicative 1% adult social care precept could be utilised for planning purposes for 2023/24 and 2024/25. This additional council tax raising capacity was in addition to the residual balance of the 3% not taken by any upper tier authority in 2021/22.

The CSR announced a wide range of new or extended discounts on business rates in 2022/23, focussing on the retail and leisure sectors. Significantly, the business rate multiplier will be frozen in 2022/23. This will result in no inflationary uplift in business rates for 2022/23, when a 3.1% increase was anticipated based on the prevailing Consumer Price Index (CPI). All local authorities will be fully reimbursed for this loss of income via an increase in Section 31 grants.

The CSR announced a 6.6% increase in the National Living Wage from April 2022, which has a significant impact upon adult social care fees the council will incur in 2022/23, and the Chancellor of the Exchequer set out details of inflationary forecasts, which were estimated to hit 6% in 2022/23 although forecasters believe this could be as high as 6.8%.

The CSR announced the lifting of the public sector pay pause, which, along with prevailing inflation, is likely to lead to increased pay requests from public sector trade unions for the 2022/23 pay round.

The CSR also announced the initial allocations of funding to local government from the new health and social care levy from April 2022. The allocation rises nationally from £200 million in 2022/23 to £2 billion in 2024/25. No detail was provided on how this sum will be allocated to local authorities, but more detail was provided on the new liabilities local authorities will face. The funding provided will need to cover losses of income from the introduction of a charging cap per person of £86,000 and the increase in the means test asset limit from £23,500 to £100,000.

Of more concern however was that government indicated that self-funders who presently pay an estimated £175 per week more in adults residential care than council fee rates would be able to access council contract rates which is likely to lead to pressure to increase care fees. In addition, the government indicated that councils will be required to pay providers a 'fair cost of care'. These national policies are likely to result in care providers expecting a significant increase in fees payable.

Local Government Finance Settlement

The provisional local government settlement was published on 16 December 2021 and confirmed the additional £1.5 billion funding forthcoming to local government and set out the allocation methodologies. Disappointingly, but as expected, the financial settlement was again only for one year, but with confirmation that consultation on the Fair Funding Review (FFR) will begin in the spring of 2022 with the expected aim of implementing changes to funding allocations for the whole of local government in 2023/24. No detail on what the FFR formula would be or whether this would be linked to a Business Rate Reset, further Business Rate Retention, or include consideration of the Public Health Grant was published with the draft settlement, so there remains significant uncertainty beyond 2022/23.

A proportion of the new core funding has been provided via an increase in the Social Care grant – equating to 42.4% of the £1.5 billion additional of funding made available. The council will receive £8.1 million of the £636 million provided nationally, increasing the Social Care Grant we will receive to £31 million in 2022/23.

The majority of the remaining £1.5 billion of funding is to be provided as a new one off 'Services Grant'. The national sum is £822 million, of which the council will receive £8.8 million. It is particularly concerning however that the Services Grant will be a one off grant, i.e., there is no guarantee of this sum being received in 2023/24 or beyond. Government confirmed that this new funding stream is being provided to cover the ongoing costs of the 1.25% employer's national insurance increase, which is forecast to cost the council £1.5 million per annum from 2022/23 onwards, with a further £0.5 million of costs being associated with traded and grant funded services.

It is understood that this significant new grant has been notified as 'one off' to provide the government with funding flexibility to implement the FFR in 2023/24. The FFR is forecast to result in significant reallocation of funding between local authorities leading to winners and losers across the sector. Having as much as £822 million available to redistribute in 2023/24 will enable the government to smooth in any changes either by providing transition funding to any authority which loses funding or possibly to limit any losses on an ongoing basis.

In total, the council will receive additional core funding of £16.9 million in 2022/23 from these two allocations, which will be vital in ensuring significant unavoidable ongoing budget pressures can be financed such as the National Living Wage 6.6% uplift, the impact of inflation upon costs, especially energy costs which are forecast to increase in 2022 by over 40% and from the continuing pressures in Children and Young People's Services and increased costs in waste disposal and recycling.

The provisional settlement also included inflationary uplifts to both the Revenue Support Grant (RSG) and the Improved Better Care Fund (IBCF), which will result in additional funding to the council of £1.8 million next year. In addition, it was announced that there would be a continuation of the New Homes Bonus (NHB) for one further year with the council receiving £4.1 million, which represents a £0.4 million reduction on the funding currently received. It is expected that the future of the NHB beyond 2022/23 will be decided as part of the FFR, with this funding potentially also forming part of the transition funding to smooth in the FFR impacts.

The provisional settlement also announced that £1.4 billion of the £3.6 billion available from the Health and Social Care Levy would be allocated as a grant for Market Sustainability and for Fair Cost of Care for adult social care. Funding of £162 million is to be provided in 2022/23 followed by £600 million in both 2023/24 and 2024/25. The allocation for the council in 2022/23 is £1.9 million with this sum expected to be utilised to support the adult social care markets and prepare for the future work to secure market sustainability and the planning to move to a fair cost of care for adult services in 2023/24 and beyond.

The government also published details of spending power 'per dwelling' for all local authorities, which shows that Durham is now £156 (approximately 7%) less than the England average. If Durham's Core Spending Power was brought up to the England authority average of £2,155 per dwelling, the council would annually receive additional funding of £39 million.

Overall, therefore the provisional settlement is welcome, with additional funding being provided to the council next year, although around 50% of the additional funding is one off and not certain for 2023/24 and there is significant uncertainty beyond next year due to the FFR, with a lack of clarity on the future of the NHB.

Savings Plans

The council constantly strives to identify efficiency savings which can be realised without impacting upon front line service delivery. In MTFP(10) and MTFP(11) savings were agreed by Council which would result in savings being realised in 2022/23. The value of the savings previously approved is £1.277 million.

To protect front line services additional corporate savings of £1.2 million are proposed to supplement the already agreed 2022/23 savings, resulting in £2.427 million of support to help balance the 2022/23 budget.

Additional Investments

The additional government funding provided, alongside the £2.427 million of MTFP(12) savings and prudent assumptions in terms of the impact of tax base growth, have allowed a significant range of unavoidable base budget pressures to be financed. In addition, investments are also recommended in priority front line service provision. In this regard, £3.2 million of additional investments are recommended, principally in Neighbourhood and Climate Change (NCC) and Regeneration, Economy and Growth (REG). The investments are in line with the council vision for more and better jobs, for people to live long and independent lives, and for connected communities.

In NCC additional investment is recommended in relation to bin replacement, street scene services, community protection, neighbourhood wardens, pest control, public rights of way, nature reserves, woodland protection, allotments and on our climate change objectives.

In REG, funding is provided to continue with the ‘free after two’ car parking policy, subject to a review of car parking delivery during 2022. In addition, base budget pressures have been funded in relation to the 24 hour management of the two new multi-storey car parks in Durham City, growth in terms of the Corporate Property and Land Team and investment in senior management with the service to improve efficiency and effectiveness of the service.

A thorough review has also been carried out of all earmarked reserves. This review has resulted in a one off £10 million being identified as available for investment in council priorities.

Funding will be made available to carry out thorough feasibility studies and business case development for the county Levelling Up bids to ensure the county has the optimum chance of securing the £20 million available for each of the five remaining parliamentary constituency areas under future bidding rounds. In addition, funding will be made available to invest in heritage assets in Durham City, in both rural and urban footways and to enhance public rights of way. Investment will also be possible at Hardwick Park and Pow Hill Country Park. Finally, the funding will enable a loan facility to be developed to support community associations to invest in energy efficiency schemes in community buildings.

During 2021 the council has also faced the continuing significant financial impact of the coronavirus pandemic. The impact during 2021/22 has been substantial although the government has provided £17.2 million of financial support. The impact of the pandemic upon waste disposal tonnages and on household recycling centres and Materials Recycling Facilities has been built into the 2022/23 base budget but at this stage no further budget uplifts have been proposed. This position will be kept under review during 2022/23 with any permanent impact upon other budgets built into MTFP(13) plans.

Capital Investment

The council continues to prioritise investment in its assets through an ambitious and extensive capital programme. MTFP(12) contains significant additional investment in the capital programme, with new additional schemes totalling £112.75 million included, taking the forecast investment from 2021/22 to 2024/25 to £602.2 million. This is the largest capital programme the council has ever had in development.

Capital investments in MTFP(12) include an additional £15 million towards a forecast £34 million scheme to rebuild both Belmont Community Arts College and Belmont CE Primary School on a shared campus plus a further £6.9 million investment in the new build primary school in Spennymoor.

In addition, the council will supplement the estimated £14.8 million Local Transport Plan (LTP) government grant with £7 million of additional capital investment in our highways network. Although the council's main highways and footway networks are maintained at or above the national average standards, the unclassified network is below national average standards. Over the period 2022/23 to 2024/25 the council will invest a further £13.86 million in the unclassified road network to bring this element of the network up above national average standards, with approval for £8.86 million sought in MTFP(12).

Finally, a £5 million capital budget will be created to enable a 10% match funding budget to be created for the council's Levelling Up bids. It is forecast that if all Levelling Up bids are successful that a further £5 million will be required in MTFP(13).

Council Tax

In the setting of council tax levels for 2022/23, careful consideration needs to be given to the significant current and future financial pressures facing the council and the lack of information in relation to future financial settlements beyond next year. Consideration also needs to be given to the government's expectations and to the impact of increases in council tax on residents who themselves may be facing difficult circumstances.

The government has confirmed that the council tax referendum limit for 2022/23 will be 1.99%. The council also has the option to increase council tax by an additional 3% for an adult social care precept. This relates to the 2% adult social care precept deferred from 2021/22 and the additional 1% adult social care precept available for 2022/23. The government published Core Spending Power figures assume all authorities utilise the ability to increase council tax by the maximum possible sum in 2022/23.

After considering the impact on the council's budget and on local council tax payers, the most financially vulnerable of which continue to be fully protected by our Local Council Tax Support Scheme, the top up scheme for those left with a bill to pay and support available through the council's welfare assistance programme, this report recommends that the council utilises the full 3.0% adult social care precept increase in the council's Band D Council Tax in 2022/23 but does not seek any increase in the 1.99% core referendum element of council.

Costs within adult social care and health, which are some of the largest budgets the council has, are increasing significantly in 2022/23 especially due to the 6.6% increase in the national living wage and the impact this has upon care fees. On that basis a 3% increase in the adult social care precept will ensure that the increased costs in adult social care can be financed in 2022/23.

The overall council tax increase from the Adult Social Care precept will generate additional council tax income of around £7 million per annum. The total increase would result in a Band D increase of 98 pence per week and an increase of 65 pence per week for the majority of Council Taxpayers in County Durham, 57% of who live in the lowest value properties (Band A).

Although the council has been able to set a balanced budget for 2022/23 with £2.427 million of savings it is forecast that significant savings could be required over the period 2023/24 to 2025/26 to enable budgets to be balanced in future years. The savings shortfall will be very much influenced by the outcome of the fair funding review but also by the emergence of any further inflationary and demographic base budget pressures and any long term impact of the pandemic. At this point the forecast savings shortfall for 2023/24 is £16.607 million with a £29.987 million shortfall over the four year MTFP(12) period.

Despite this very challenging financial period and the significant base budget pressures faced by the council, the report included some very positive outcomes for the people of County Durham including:

(a) significant new investment of £10 million funded by earmarked reserves to enable levelling up bid feasibility studies to be fully developed and for investment in Durham City heritage assets, rural and urban footways, public rights of way and country parks;

(b) continued support to protect the 34,431 working age households in receipt of low incomes through the continuation of the existing Council Tax Reduction Scheme, where 80% of affected households will continue to be entitled to 100% relief against their Council Tax payments and where those left with a bill will receive up to £150 of additional support next year;

(c) ongoing work with health partners to ensure health and social care funds are maximised for the benefit of vulnerable people through the services we provide;

(d) significant investment in capital expenditure including investment in school provision, in our town centres and infrastructure, including new transport schemes and maintenance of highways and pavements. In total, additional capital investment of £109.2 million is recommended in the report.

As outlined in previous MTFP reports, equality impact assessments are also summarised to inform the consultation and subsequent decision making. Workforce implications arising from proposals for 2022/23 savings have been analysed.

Dedicated Schools Grant and Schools Funding Formula

The Schools Block allocation for 2022/23 takes account of changes to the way that schools and academies will pay non-domestic rates in 2022/23. From 2022/23 the DfE will pay rates directly to local authorities, bypassing the Dedicated Schools Grant, and the Schools Block allocation has been reduced by an amount equal to the rates allocation in last year's formula. Before taking account of this change, the Schools Block DSG allocation has increased by £8.410 million year on year.

The local formula to be applied in 2022/23, which is subject to approval from the DfE, is aligned to the National Funding Formula for Schools and was set out in the report.

The Central Schools block funding allocation for 2022/23, used to fund historic commitments has reduced by a further 5.4% in addition to the 40% reduction in 2020/21 to 2021/22. The 2022/23 reduction for Durham is £0.165 million against historic commitment funding in 2021/22 of £0.379 million. This funding is used to fund prudential borrowing costs relating to the Building Schools for the Future programme and the Team Around the School provision for secondary schools. Funding for prudential borrowing has been maintained and this is expected to continue, but funding to Team Around the School is already less than the annual cost and is likely to be reduced to nil from 2022/23.

The council will receive a significant increase in the High Needs DSG funding in 2022/23 of £7.652 million, a year on year increase of 11.6%. This increase in funding is essential for this service area where a £1.455 million overspend was reported in the Quarter 2 Forecast of Outturn Report to Cabinet on 17 November 2021 – increasing the retained accumulated deficit to an estimated £9.502 million at 31 March 2022.

Other Considerations

As part of the budget setting process, the council will need to consider and agree updates to the Pay Policy, the Treasury Management Policy and Strategy, including the Prudential Indicators, and the Cash Management Strategy and Reserves Policy. Revised and updated policies and strategies, which will ensure the council continues to fully comply with relevant statutory requirements are set out in the report.

Decision

The Cabinet resolved to recommend the following to full Council for approval:

(a) 2022/23 Revenue Budget

(i) approve the identified base budget pressures included in paragraph 104 of the report;

(ii) approve the new investments included in paragraph 111 of the report;

(iii) approve the savings plans detailed in Appendix 3 of the report, which total £2.427 million in 2022/23 and £275,000 in 2023/24;

(iv) approve a 0% 2022/23 Council Tax increase and a 3% increase which relates to the Adult Social Care precept, totalling a combined 3% overall increase in council tax;

(v) approve the 2022/23 Net Budget Requirement of £466.732 million.

(b) MTFP(12)

(i) agree the forecast MTFP(12) financial position, as set out at Appendix 6 of the report;

(ii) set aside sufficient sums in Earmarked Reserves as are considered prudent. The Corporate Director of Resources should continue to be authorised to establish such reserves as required to review them for both adequacy and purpose on a regular basis reporting appropriately to the Cabinet Portfolio Member for Finance and to Cabinet;

(iii) aim to maintain General Reserve in the medium term between 5% and 7.5% of the Net Budget Requirement which in cash terms is between £23 million and £35 million;

(iv) note the outcome of the review of earmarked reserves and the application of reserves to fund a range of one off time limited investments as set out in Appendix 7 of the report.

(c) Capital Budget

(i) approve the revised 2021/22 Capital Budget of £158.979 million and the 2022/23 Capital Budget of £258.748 million;

(ii) approve the Capital Strategy at Appendix 9 of the report;

(iii) approve the additional capital schemes detailed at Appendix 10 of the report. These schemes will be financed from additional capital grants, from one off revenue funding and from prudential borrowing;

(iv) note the option for the council to utilise capital receipts to finance severance costs utilising available flexibilities in this regard. The utilisation of such flexibility would require the approval of Cabinet;

(v) approve the MTFP(12) Capital Budget of £602.242 million for 2021/22 to 2024/25 as detailed in Table 14 of the report.

(d) Savings Proposals

(i) note the approach taken by service groupings to achieve the required savings.

(e) Equality Impact Assessment

(i) note the key equality impact analysis as summarised in this report and consider impacts of proposed savings on staff and residents.

(f) Pay Policy

(i) approve the Pay Policy Statement at Appendix 11 of the report.

(g) Risk Assessment

(i) note the risks to be managed over the MTFP(12) period.

(h) Dedicated Schools Grant

(i) note the position on the Dedicated Schools Grant;

(ii) approve the local formula for schools set out in Table 16 of the report and authorise the Corporate Director of Resources to approve any amendments required following review by the DfE.

(i) Prudential Code, Treasury Management and Property Investment

(i) agree the Prudential Indications and Limits for 2022/23 – 2025/26 contained within Appendix 12 of the report, including the Authorised Limit Prudential Indicator;

(ii) agree the Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP) Statement contained within Appendix 12 of the report which sets out the council's policy on MRP;

(iii) agree the Treasury Management Strategy and the Treasury Prudential Indicators contained within Appendix 12 of the report;

(iv) agree the Cash Investment Strategy 2022/23 contained in the Treasury Management Strategy (Appendix 12 of the report including the detailed criteria);

(v) approve the Property Investment Strategy at Appendix 13 of the report.

School Admission Arrangements Academic Year 2023/24 (Key Decision: CYPS/02/2022)

Summary

The Cabinet considered a report of the Corporate Director of Children and Young People's Services which sought approval of the admission arrangements and oversubscription criteria for Community and Voluntary Controlled Schools for the 2023/24 academic year.

It is a mandatory requirement of the National School Admissions Code that all schools must have admission arrangements that clearly set out how children will be admitted, including the criteria that will be applied if there are more applications than places at the school.

All admission authorities must agree admission arrangements annually. However, if there are no changes proposed they only need to be consulted on at least every 7 years. The current admission arrangements were consulted on between 1 October to 31 December 2021. There is no need to consult this year other than where it is proposed that some Community and Voluntary Controlled schools have a reduction in the admission number. The proposed admission number for each Community and Voluntary Controlled School is detailed in Appendix 2 of the report.

Decision

The Cabinet approved the following in respect of Community and Voluntary Controlled Schools when determining the admission arrangements for 2023/2024:

(a) that the proposed admission numbers as recommended in Appendix 2 of the report for Community and Voluntary Controlled schools be approved;

(b) that the admission numbers advised by Governing Bodies of Voluntary Aided Schools and Academies be noted:

(c) that the admission arrangements in Appendix 3 to the report be approved.

Tenancy Strategy 2022-2027

Summary

The Cabinet considered a report of the Corporate Director of Regeneration, Economy and Growth to approve the updated Tenancy Strategy 2022-27; elect to adopt an Introductory Tenancy Scheme for the Council's housing stock; and approve the Council's Secure and Introductory Tenancy Agreement.

Under Section 150 of the Localism Act 2011, the Council is required to prepare and publish a Tenancy Strategy. The Tenancy Strategy sets out the Council's expectations to the registered providers of social housing operating within the County regarding the types of tenancy they should offer to their tenants.

The existing Tenancy Strategy has been in place since 2012 and required a review to take account of changes in legislation, welfare reform and the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic, highlighting the importance of safe stable homes. The provision of affordable and secure homes is now an even greater priority for those households where renting is the only option available to them.

The Council has previously agreed to build 500 new council homes between now and 2026 and the review of the Tenancy Strategy has also taken account of the Council's role in the direct provision of affordable social rent homes.

In re-establishing its role as a direct provider of social housing, the Council can decide to elect to operate an introductory tenancy scheme under section 124 of the Housing Act 1996.

The Council previously operated an introductory tenancy scheme up until the large-scale voluntary stock transfer in 2015. An introductory tenancy scheme provides a probationary tenancy for the first 12 months for all new tenants, tenants have fewer rights, and the Council can secure possession more easily if the tenant does not abide by the terms of the tenancy agreement for example, they do not keep up with their rent payments or cause antisocial behaviour. At the end of the 12-month introductory tenancy, providing the tenancy has been conducted satisfactorily, the tenant will automatically become a secure tenant of the Council.

The report also sought approval of the Council's new tenancy agreement setting out the contractual relationship between the Council as landlord and the tenant. The document is a combined introductory and secure tenancy agreement which enables the smooth progression between the two forms of tenure. The tenancy agreement makes clear the distinction between the clauses appertaining to an introductory tenancy and a secure tenancy.

Decision:

The Cabinet:

(a) approved the Tenancy Strategy as set out in Appendix 2 of the report,

(b) elected to operate an Introductory Tenancy Scheme for all new council tenancies, and

(c) approved the Secure and Introductory Tenancy Agreement set out in Appendix 4 of the report.

Helen Lynch
Head of Legal & Democratic Services
11 February 2022