

Horsham District Council – Decisions taken by the Cabinet on Thursday, 23 January 2020

Agenda Item No	Topic	Decision
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Part A – Items considered in public

<p>A4</p>	<p>Budget 2020/21 and the Medium Term Financial Strategy to 2023/24</p>	<p>RESOLVED</p> <p>That the following be approved for consideration by Council on 12 February 2020:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i) The level of Council Tax for 2020/21 be increased from £149.53 by £2.99 (2.0%) to £152.52 at Band D; (ii) The net revenue budget set out in Appendix A for 2020/21 of £11.201m be approved; (iii) The Special Expenses of £309,500 set out in Appendix D and a Band D charge of £25.85 be agreed in respect of the unparished area for 2020/21; (iv) The capital programme for 2020/21 set out in Appendix E be approved and that the indicative capital budgets in the programme for future years be noted; (v) The projected future near-balanced budgets on the revenue account in 2021/22 to 2023/24 be noted and the Medium Term Financial Strategy continue to be reviewed and refined to ensure that decisions be taken to deliver these balanced budgets in these three years; (vi) The Minimum Revenue Provision Statement set out in Appendix F be approved; (vii) The Capital Strategy and prudential indicators and limits for 2019/20 to 2022/23 set out in Appendix G be approved; (viii) To note the statement on the robustness of the level of reserves in Appendix I; (ix) That the increases to fees and charges set out in Appendix J be approved, and (xi) That the Council remain in the West Sussex business rates pool for 2020/21.
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		<p>Reasons for Recommendations</p> <p>To meet the Council’s statutory requirement to approve the budget and the prudential indicators before the start of a new financial year.</p>
A5	Council Tax Reduction Scheme	<p>RESOLVED</p> <p>That</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i) the inclusion of a ‘no-change’ CTR scheme to be approved at full Council be agreed; and ii) the Empty Homes Premium increase to 200% for homes empty for more than five years from April 2020, and to 300% for homes empty for more than ten years from 2021/22 be adopted. <p>Reasons for Recommendations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> I. CTR schemes are annual schemes and therefore require an annual review and approval, even when no changes to the scheme are being proposed. II. To enable the Council to sustain a robust Empty Homes Strategy by bringing empty homes back into use.

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A6	Extending Ultrafast Broadband Public Connectivity	<p>RESOLVED</p> <p>That:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i) It be approved in principle that the Council enter into an agreement with CityFibre for an extension of the Council’s full fibre connectivity using the West Sussex County Council’s framework and the seven year revenue model. ii) the final approval of sites and contract detail subject to approval of funding of £802,440 from the business rates pooling being approved by West Sussex Leaders be delegated to the Chief Executive, in consultation with the Leader. <p>Reasons for Recommendations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i) This change will make the Council’s services fit for the next seven years from the date of build, expected to be in the second half of 2022.