

PUBLICATION OF DECISION LIST NUMBER 08/23-24

MUNICIPAL YEAR 2023/24

Date Published: 8 August 2024

This document lists the decisions taken by the Cabinet at its meeting on 6 August 2024. The list covers key and non-key decisions. These decisions will come into force within four working days of the date of this document (i.e. 14 August 2024) unless the Overview and Scrutiny Committee calls a decision in.

Cabinet decisions are subject to pre-implementation review through the following call-in procedure:-

Decisions that involve expenditure over £100,000 or that affect more than one ward can be called in. "Call-in" requires at least a quarter of the Members of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee to request the "call-in", in writing, within four working days of the publication of the decision by the Cabinet, to be effective. A Notification of Call-in Form can be obtained from and should be completed, signed and returned to Governance Services. Either a special meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee to consider the "called-in" item(s) will be convened within three working days of the call-in request or the item will be placed on the Agenda of the next available meeting of the Committee, depending on which can be achieved earliest. The Call-In procedure does not apply where the decision being taken by the Cabinet is urgent.

Where the Overview and Scrutiny Committee is of the opinion that an executive decision which relates to an area covered by the Committee yet to be made or made but not yet implemented would be, contrary to the policy framework, or contrary to or not wholly in accordance with the Council's budget, then it should seek advice from the Monitoring Officer.

If you have any queries or wish to obtain further report information or information on a decision please refer to:

Clare Cade, Governance Services Manager at the Council Offices, Campus East,

Welwyn Garden City, Herts AL8 6AE

e-mail c.cade@welhat.gov.uk

SUBJECT / TITLE OF REPORT

FP2051 Air Quality Strategy

Part 1 or 2 (Relevant exempt Paragraph)	Wards affected by the Decision	Interest declared in respect of the Decision	Category of Decision (i.e. Key, Non- Key, Urgent)	Contact Details	Eligible for Call-In & Date to be called in by
Part 1	All	None	Key	Terry Vincent t.vincent@welhat.gov.uk	Yes 14 August 2024

DECISION:

Decision taken

The Cabinet noted the report and approved the Air Quality Strategy 2024.

Reason for decision

The obligation to monitor and manage air quality within the borough lies with the Council. There was no breach of air quality limit values at present and pollution levels were reducing.

BACKGROUND:

SUBJECT / TITLE OF REPORT

FP2069 Customer Services Policies

Part 1 or 2 (Relevant exempt Paragraph)	Wards affected by the Decision	Interest declared in respect of the Decision	Category of Decision (i.e. Key, Non- Key, Urgent)	Contact Details	Eligible for Call-In & Date to be called in by
Part 1	All	None	Key	Kirsten Roberts k.roberts@welhat.gov.uk	Yes 14 August 2024

DECISION:

Decision taken

Cabinet agreed the following:

- 1. The updates to the council's Complaints Policy.
- 2. The updates to the council's Unreasonably Persistent and Abusive Behaviour Policy
- 3. The updates to the council's Compensation and Redress Scheme.
- 4. The introduction of the council's Vulnerable Person and Reasonable Adjustment Policy.

Reason for decision

Following the publication of the final Local Government and Social Care Ombudsman and Housing Ombudsman Complaint Handling Codes, the Council undertook a full review of the council's relevant Customer Service policies.

BACKGROUND:

SUBJECT / TITLE OF REPORT

RISK MANAGEMENT - QUARTER 1 RISK REGISTERS 2024/25

Part 1 or 2 (Relevant exempt Paragraph)	Wards affected by the Decision	Interest declared in respect of the Decision	Category of Decision (i.e. Key, Non- Key, Urgent)	Contact Details	Eligible for Call-In & Date to be called in by
Part 1	All	None	Non-Key	Richard Baker r.baker@welhat.gov.uk	No

DECISION:

Decision taken

Cabinet noted the report, the actions being taken in relation of the strategic and serious/severe operational risk and the Risk Register Q1 2024/25.

BACKGROUND:

SUBJECT / TITLE OF REPORT

QUARTER 1 REVENUE BUDGET MONITORING REPORT 2024-25

Part 1 or 2 (Relevant exempt Paragraph)	Wards affected by the Decision	Interest declared in respect of the Decision	Category of Decision (i.e. Key, Non- Key, Urgent)	Contact Details	Eligible for Call-In & Date to be called in by
Part 1	All	None	Non-Key	Helen O'Keeffe h.okeeffe@welhat.gov.uk	No

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Decision taken

Cabinet noted the revenue forecast outturn position as of Q1 and the position on debts in section 5 of the report.

Cabinet approved the virements set out in Section 4.1.3 of the report.

Reason for decision

The report presented the forecast revenue outturn position as at 30 June 2024 for the financial year 2024/25 and outlined the main variances from the original budget for the General Fund (GF) and Housing Revenue Account (HRA).

There is a forecast adverse variance on the General Fund net controllable income and expenditure of £0.731m. A summary showing the General Fund position was included in Appendix A1 of the report. This left a net contribution from the General Fund Reserve of £0.633m which is an increase in the planned use of balances by £0.625m

The forecast closing balance on the HRA was £3.207m, which was an adverse movement of £0.069m from the Current Budget.

Outstanding debts as of 30 June 2024 total £1.88m.

BACKGROUND:

SUBJECT / TITLE OF REPORT

PERIOD 3 CAPITAL BUDGET MONITORING REPORT 2024-25

Part 1 or 2 (Relevant exempt Paragraph)	Wards affected by the Decision	Interest declared in respect of the Decision	Category of Decision (i.e. Key, Non- Key, Urgent)	Contact Details	Eligible for Call-In & Date to be called in by
Part 1	All	None	Non-Key	Helen O'Keeffe h.okeeffe@welhat.gov.uk	No

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Decision taken

Cabinet noted the capital forecast outturn position and the forecast position as of 30 June 2024 for funding of the capital programme and reserve balances as reflected in Table 2.

Cabinet approved the virements set out in Section 3.2 of the report.

Reason for decision

At the end of the quarter, an overall underspend of around £18.1 million is anticipated. The majority of this was associated with the Housing Revenue Account. These projects are proceeding, but due to reasons set out within the report against individual projects, the timing of spend will be in next financial year.

Some virements are set out in the report, to adjust budgets in relation to an adjustment between affordable housing programme schemes and the affordable housing contingency budget.

Updates were included within the report, for key capital projects, which currently have no forecast variances.

The capital financing had been updated to reflect the latest forecast spend, leading to an overall reduction to borrowing for the year. This borrowing will still be required in future years when the projects are completed.

BACKGROUND: