

Special Cabinet  
24 January 2023

## WELWYN HATFIELD COUNCIL

Minutes of a special meeting of the WELWYN HATFIELD COUNCIL CABINET held on Tuesday 24 January 2023 at 5.00 pm in the Council Chamber, Council Offices, The Campus, Welwyn Garden City, Herts, AL8 6AE.

PRESENT: Councillors T. Kingsbury (Leader of the Council) (Chairman)  
S. Boulton (Deputy Leader and Executive Member, Resources and Planning)

S. Kasumu (Executive Member, Environment and Climate Change)  
T. Mitchinson (Executive Member, Leisure and Community)  
N. Pace (Executive Member, Governance, Public Health and IT)  
B. Sarson (Executive Member, Community Safety and Parking)  
F. Thomson (Executive Member, Housing)

OFFICIALS PRESENT: Chief Executive (K. Ng)  
Executive Director (Finance and Transformation) (R. Baker)  
Executive Director (Place) (C. Barnes)  
Service Director (Resident & Neighbourhood) (S. McDaid)  
Service Director (Property Maintenance and Climate Change) (I. Hancock)  
Interim Assistant Director (Legal and Governance) (S. Saunders)  
Governance Services Manager (A. Marston)  
Communications & Marketing Manager (M. Sherry)

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### 76. DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS BY MEMBERS

Councillors S. Boulton, T. Kingsbury and F. Thomson each declared a non-pecuniary interest in items on the Agenda as Members of Hertfordshire County Council.

### 77. ITEMS RELATING TO THE BUDGET AND POLICY FRAMEWORK FOR RECOMMENDATION TO THE COUNCIL

The following item was considered:-

#### 77.1. Budget Proposals and Medium Term Financial Forecasts 2023/24 (Forward Plan Reference FP1143)

Cabinet considered the comments of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee from its meeting on 17 January 2023 on the budget proposals for 2023/24.

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The draft budget was previously considered at Cabinet on 10 January 2023, following its review through the Overview and Scrutiny Committee and the Budget Task and Finish Panel.

The budget was fully scrutinised by the Task and Finish panel who received an overview of the savings proposals, the growth proposals, and the fees and charges.

The panel acknowledged the challenges faced by the council in relation to the cost of living crisis, the limits on council tax and the medium term uncertainties around government funding. No changes were proposed by the panel, which was supported by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

In relation to the crematorium, this is a new service and a review fees and charges may be required during the year, particularly for those items which are resale items the council source from external providers.

Additionally, the parish precepts item will also be updated based upon the parish precept demands the council have received, although this will not change the net position for the council.

It was noted there was an error in the Overview and Scrutiny Committee minutes in relation to the vote on the budget item as there was 11 For and 1 Abstention and not 1 Against.

**RESOLVED:**  
**(unanimous)**

- (1) That delegated authority be given to the Executive Director (Finance and Transformation) in consultation with the Executive Member for Resources and Planning and the Executive Member for Leisure and Community, and that the delegation be built into the Council report to enable responsive changes to be made to the fees and charges as required during the year.
- (2) Cabinet recommended the budget proposals 2023/24 to Full Council.

Meeting ended at 5.06pm  
AM