



PUBLICATION OF DECISION LIST NUMBER 01/25

MUNICIPAL YEAR 2024/25

Date Published: 9th January 2024

This document lists the decisions taken by the Cabinet at its meeting on 7 January 2025. The list covers key and non-key decisions. These decisions will come into force on the fifth working day following the publication of this document (i.e. 15th January 2025) 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 (3 members) 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 or e-mail c.cade@welhat.gov.uk

SUBJECT / TITLE OF REPORT

FP2093 Budget Proposals and Medium Term Forecasts 2025/26

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	N/a	None	FP2093	Executive Director (Finance and Transformation)	No

DECISION:

Cabinet Decisions Tuesday 7 January 2025

Decision taken

1. Cabinet noted:

- a) the Statement of the Chief Financial Officer on the robustness of budgets and adequacy of reserves (appendix N).
- b) that the following amounts for the year 2025/26 have been set in accordance with regulations made under Sections 31A and 31B of the Local Government Finance Act 1992:

	100% TAX BASE	99.40% TAX BASE
Welwyn Garden City	18,089.9	17,981.3
Hatfield	12,726.7	12,650.3
Welwyn	4,823.4	4,794.5
Ayot St Lawrence	68.3	67.9
Ayot St Peter	114.2	113.5
North Mymms	4,496.3	4,469.3
Essendon	436.9	434.3
Northaw & Cuffley	3,139.3	3,120.5
Woolmer Green	622.5	618.8
Total	44,517.5	44,250.4

2. Cabinet approved the budget proposals as set out in the agenda and note that any comments from Overview and Scrutiny Committee will be returned to Special Cabinet on 21 January 2025 for consideration, before final recommendations are made to Council.

Cabinet Decisions
Tuesday 7 January 2025

Reason for decision

The budget proposals were aligned to the Council's Business Plan targets for 2025/26.

The Council's ability to deliver a balanced budget has become more challenging each year, after a period of significant grant reductions, inflationary increases and the ongoing impacts of the pandemic. There had been a rise in demands on services such as homelessness which had added even more pressures. A multi-year settlement would be provided next year which will provide much needed certainty.

The Medium Term forecasts were updated and approved in October 2024, which showed an increased budget gap for 2025/26 of around 4.5 million pounds.

BACKGROUND:

Please note that a copy of the Part 1 report is available on the Council's website

Cabinet Decisions
Tuesday 7 January 2025

SUBJECT / TITLE OF REPORT

FP2109 Business Plan 2025/26

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	N/a	None	Non-Key	Assistant Director (Customer Services & Transformation)	No

DECISION:

Decision taken

The Cabinet noted the Council's Business Plan for 2025/26 in Appendix 1 of the report and approved the recommendation to Full Council for approval.

Reason for decision

Each year, the Council would publish a Business Plan with measurable actions supporting each of the below priorities, including major projects and Key Performance Indicators which measure the performance of a range of services throughout the year.

BACKGROUND:

Please note that a copy of the Part 1 report is available on the Council's website

Cabinet Decisions
Tuesday 7 January 2025

SUBJECT / TITLE OF REPORT					
FP2095 AWARD OF CONTRACT FOR AIDS AND ADAPTATIONS					
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, Council, Urgent)	Contact Details	Eligible for Call-In & Date to be called in by
Part 1 & 2	All wards	None	Key	Procurement Manager	Yes 15 January 2025
DECISION:					
<p><u>Decision taken</u> That Cabinet agreed to award the contract for Aids and Adaptation Services to Gracelands Complete Maintenance Services Limited to commence on 1st April 2025 and continue for an initial period of 3 years with a possible extension of a further one year.</p> <p><u>Reason for decision</u> The Council had a duty to provide Aids and Adaptation services to private and public sector housing. This included adaptations such as level entry showers/wet rooms and external ramps</p> <p>The contract also includes a requirement for the contractor to provide administration services in relation to private sector disabled facility grant applications</p> <p>Twelve bids were received for the contract. Gracelands Complete Maintenance Services scored highest against the evaluation criteria. Details of all scores from bidders for the contract were included in the Part 2 report</p>					
BACKGROUND:					
Please note that a copy of the Part 1 report is available on the Council's website					

Cabinet Decisions
Tuesday 7 January 2025

SUBJECT / TITLE OF REPORT

FP2094 VARIATION TO HOUSING MAINTENANCE CONTRACT

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 & 2	All wards	None	Non-Key	Procurement Manager	Yes 15 January 2025

DECISION:

Decision taken

Cabinet agreed the variation to the Equans contract which would change the way payments were made.

Reason for decision

In February 2023, Cabinet agreed to award a contract to Equans for planned housing works. The scope of the contract includes replacement kitchens, bathrooms, windows and roofs.

An opportunity had arisen to change contract prices in relation to the preliminaries and scaffolding costs which result in a significant saving. Full details were included in the Part 2 report.

BACKGROUND:

Please note that a copy of the Part 1 report is available on the Council's website

Cabinet Decisions
Tuesday 7 January 2025

SUBJECT / TITLE OF REPORT

Annual Complaints Performance and Service Improvement Report for 2023-24

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	Assistant Director (Customer Services & Transformation)	No

DECISION:

Decision taken

The Cabinet noted and approved the Action Plan as set out in Appendix 1 of the report

Reason for decision

This report set out the Council's annual complaints performance and service improvement for 2023-24. It also summarised key lessons learned, compliance against the Housing Ombudsman Complaint Handling Code and Action Plan to ensure improvements identified are implemented to improve complaint handling and to continue to develop a positive complaints culture across the organisation.

Several improvements had been made to the complaints process this year including additional resources and a new complaints policy.

BACKGROUND:

Please note that a copy of the Part 1 report is available on the Council's website

Cabinet Decisions
Tuesday 7 January 2025

SUBJECT / TITLE OF REPORT

Introduction of Resident Permit Parking Scheme, Other Waiting Restrictions and Verge & Footway Prohibition - Sherrards Ward

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	Sherrads	None	Non-Key	Assistant Director (Regeneration and Economic Development)	No 16 January 2025

DECISION:

Decision taken

Cabinet agreed the recommendations and included an amendment that the verge footway prohibition order only be implemented once additional parking bays had been installed in Greenfield by Hertfordshire County Council.

Reason for decision

A review of restrictions would be considered if feedback was received by residents as with all parking consultation there would be a 6 month period for review.

Discussions had taken place with Hertfordshire County Council to provide additional parking in Greenfields.

BACKGROUND:

Please note that a copy of the Part 1 report is available on the Council's website

Cabinet Decisions
Tuesday 7 January 2025

SUBJECT / TITLE OF REPORT

Transition To Net Zero Strategy (TTNZS)

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	Climate Change Officer	No

DECISION:

Decision taken

The Cabinet approved the Net Zero Strategy.

Reason for decision

On 10 July 2024, the Climate Biodiversity Cabinet Panel approved the Transition to Net Zero Strategy (TTNZS) for public consultation. A total of 88 responses were received by the deadline and this report outlines feedback from the Transition to Net Zero Strategy consultation.

The Transition to Net Zero strategy was written as Members of the Climate Biodiversity Cabinet Panel had previously asked for a robust standalone climate change strategy document.

This strategy replaced the old one and was more aligned with a new corporate priority, 'Action on Climate'. It supports all four objectives within that priority and sets out an overall vision for the borough"

BACKGROUND:

Please note that a copy of the Part 1 report is available on the Council's website