

Cabinet

Held at:	Council Chamber - Civic Centre Folkestone
Date	Thursday, 16 June 2022
Present	Councillors John Collier, Ray Field, David Godfrey, Mrs Jennifer Hollingsbee (Vice-Chair), David Monk (Chairman), Stuart Peall, Tim Prater and Lesley Whybrow
Apologies for Absence	Councillors David Wimble
Officers Present:	Gill Butler (Chief Officer - Housing), Ewan Green (Director of Place), Andrew Hatcher (Revenues and Benefits Strategic Manager), Cheryl Ireland (Chief Financial Services Officer), Ellen Joyce (Democratic Services Trainee), Amandeep Khroud (Assistant Director), Rod Lean (Chief Officer - Place & Growth), Susan Priest (Chief Executive), Jo Robinson (Corporate Debt & Business Rates Senior Specialist), Jonathan Smith (Senior Accountant) and Charlotte Spendley (Director of Corporate Services)

NOTE: All decisions (except for the decision at Minute No 6 -Energy Rebate Scheme, which is exempt under paragraph 7 (call in and urgency) of part 7 (Overview and Scrutiny Rules and Procedures) of the constitution) are subject to call-in arrangements. The deadline for call-in is 27 June at 5pm. Decisions not called in may be implemented on 28 June 2022.

1. **Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest at the meeting.

2. **Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting held on 26 April 2022 were submitted, approved, and signed by the Leader.

3. **General Fund Revenue 2021/22 Provisional Outturn**

The report summarised the 2021/22 final outturn position (subject to audit) for the General Fund revenue expenditure compared to both the latest approved budget and quarter 4 projections.

Proposed by Councillor Peall
Seconded by Councillor Hollingsbee

RESOLVED:

1. **That report C/22/10 be received and noted.**
2. **That the carry forward of £1,049k unspent 2021/22 budgets to be allocated to the Carry Forward Reserve be agreed.**

(Voting figures: 8 for, 0 against, 0 abstentions).

REASONS FOR DECISION:

Cabinet was asked to agree the recommendations because Cabinet needs to be informed of the council's General Fund revenue 2021/22 final outturn position.

4. **General Fund Capital Programme Provisional Outturn 2021/22**

The report summarised the 2021/22 final outturn position (subject to audit) for the General Fund capital programme compared to the latest approved budget. The report also summarised the outturn position for the approved prudential indicators for capital expenditure in 2021/22.

Proposed by Councillor Peall
Seconded by Councillor Hollingsbee

RESOLVED:

1. **That report C/22/12 be received and noted.**

(Voting figures: 8 for, 0 against, 0 abstentions).

REASONS FOR DECISION:

- a) Cabinet was asked to agree the recommendations because it needs to be kept informed of the General Fund capital programme position and take appropriate action to deal with any variance from the approved budget.
- b) CIPFA's Prudential Code for Capital Finance requires the actual prudential indicators for the financial year to be reported.

5. **Housing Revenue Account Revenue and Capital Financial Outturn 2021/22**

The report summarised the 2021/22 provisional outturn position (subject to audit) for the HRA revenue expenditure and HRA capital programme compared to both the latest approved budget and quarter 4 projections.

Proposed by Councillor Godfrey

Seconded by Councillor Peall

RESOLVED:

1. That report C/22/11 be received and noted.
2. To approve the carry forward of £77k unspent 2021/22 budgets be approved.

(Voting figures: 8 for, 0 against, 0 abstentions).

REASONS FOR DECISION:

Cabinet was asked to agree the recommendations because it is essential they are kept informed of the Housing Revenue Account final 2021/22 position.

6. **Energy Rebate Discretionary Scheme**

The report presented the policy of allocating and managing the Discretionary Energy Rebate funding received from Government.

Proposed by Councillor Prater
Seconded by Councillor Peall

RESOLVED:

1. That report C/22/08 be received and noted.
2. That the Council's Discretionary Energy Rebate Scheme be approved and adopted.

(Voting figures: 8 for, 0 against, 0 abstentions).

REASONS FOR DECISIONS:

To support residents with Energy Rebate Payments that sit outside of the standard scheme.

7. **Income and Debt Management Policy**

The report was seeking a decision to adopt the proposed changes to the Income and Debt Management Policy.

Proposed by Councillor Monk
Seconded by Councillor Peall

RESOLVED:

1. That report C/22/06 be received and noted.
2. That the Income and Debt Management Policy be approved and adopted.

(Voting figures: 8 for, 0 against, 0 abstentions).

REASONS FOR DECISION:

Cabinet were asked to approve the recommendations in order to bring the Income and Debt Management Policy up to date.

8. Housing Repairs and Maintenance Policy and Housing Rechargeable Repairs Policy

The report set out the rationale for the development and adoption of two new policies for the housing service. The policies set out the Council's obligations with regard to the repair and maintenance of its housing stock, and how we propose to recover the cost of repairs deemed as rechargeable to tenants.

Proposed by Councillor Godfrey
Seconded by Councillor Peall

RESOLVED:

- 1) That report C/22/01 be received and noted.**
- 2) That the policy for Housing Repairs and Maintenance be approved and adopted.**
- 3) That the policy for Housing Rechargeable Repairs be approved and adopted.**
- 4) That delegated authority to make minor amendments to the policies be given to the Director – Housing & Operations in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Housing and Special Projects.**

(Voting figures: 8 for, 0 against, 0 abstentions).

REASONS FOR DECISION:

These policies are vital for the continued growth of the housing service, and the effective management and delivery of repairs and maintenance under FHDC.

9. Folkestone Town Centre Levelling up Fund Application

The report presented an overview of a proposed submission to the Government's Levelling Up Fund for Folkestone Town Centre. The report provided an update of the work undertaken so far to develop the submission, the projects to be included in the submission, associated funding requirements and next steps, and sought approval to submit a completed submission by 6th July 2022.

Proposed by Councillor Monk
Seconded by Councillor Peall

RESOLVED:

- 1. That report C/22/14 be received and noted.**
- 2. That the work undertaken to develop the Levelling Up Fund submission be noted.**
- 3. that the Levelling Up Fund submission be based on the projects and funding requirements detailed in section 3 of the report.**

4. **That the required 10% match funding be allocated for the submission and that the final funding requirements of the Council will be subject to a further report pending the outcome of the Levelling Up submission and is subject to approval by Full Council.**
5. **That up to £200,000 of budgeted funds be provided to support the continuation of project development required in the period prior to the LUF decision to ensure that delivery is achieved by the LUF deadline of 31 March 2025.**
6. **That the Director of Place be authorised to amend and finalise the Levelling Up Fund ready for submission.**

(Voting figures: 6 for, 0 against, 2 abstentions).

REASON FOR DECISION:

Cabinet agreement is required in order to submit a grant application to the Government's Levelling Up Fund and allocate funding to support the ongoing development of projects within the bid.