

## **COUNCIL – 26TH FEBRUARY 2024**

### **Report of the Cabinet**

#### 2024-25 GENERAL FUND AND HRA REVENUE BUDGETS AND COUNCIL TAX

##### Purpose of Report

To consider the proposed General Fund and Housing Revenue Account (HRA) Revenue Budgets for 2024-25 and proposed Council Tax levy.

##### Recommendations

1. To approve the Original General Fund Revenue Budget for 2024/25 at £20,395,951 as set out in Appendix 1 to the report (attached as an Annex).
2. To set a base Council Tax at £144.68 at Band D, an increase of 3.00% (£4.21) on the 2023/24 rate as set out in Appendix 2 to the report (attached as an Annex).
3. To set the Loughborough Special Levy at £82.72, an increase of 1.99% (£1.61) on the 2023/24 rate, as set out in Appendix 3 to the report (attached as an Annex).
4. To approve the Original HRA Budget for 2024/25 as set out in Appendix 5 to the report (attached as an Annex).
5. To amend the HRA weekly rents in line with the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) guidance.
6. To amend the non-HRA dwelling properties in line with the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) guidance.
7. To approve the HRA service charges in accordance with the MHCLG Guidance.
8. To approve that the shop rents retain their current rents in accordance with an assessment by the Valuation Office.
9. To approve that garage rents are increased in accordance with an assessment by the Valuation Office.
10. To approve that the Leasehold Management and Administration charge increases to £180.35 per annum for Leasehold flats, and £112.98 for Leasehold shops.
11. That the Lifeline weekly charge is increased in-line with CPI + 1% and that the new digital Lifeline Service charge is set to recover costs.
12. To determine that the basic amount of Council Tax for 2024/25 is not excessive according to the principles set out by the Secretary of State.

## Reasons

1. So that the necessary finance is approved to carry out services in 2024/25.
2. So that the Council Tax can be set in accordance with legal and statutory requirements.
3. So that a Loughborough Special Levy can be set in accordance with legal and statutory requirements.
4. To ensure sufficient funding for the Housing Revenue Account in 2024/25.
5. To comply with social housing rents guidance.
6. To be consistent with the other council house stock.
7. To ensure the correct alignment of costs and service charges for tenants in accordance with best practice.
8. So that shop rents follow the assessment and guidance provided by the Valuation Office.
9. To increase the rent generated for garages in line with the guidance from the Valuation Office.
10. So that there is sufficient recovery of the costs associated with operating the leasehold flat and shop services.
11. So that there is sufficient recovery of the costs associated with operating the Lifeline service.
12. To comply with the requirements of the Local Government Finance Act 1992.

## Policy Justification and Previous Decisions

Policy justification detailed in the attached Annex.

At its meeting on 8th February 2024, the Cabinet considered a report of the Head of Finance setting out the proposed 2024-25 General Fund and HRA Revenue Budgets and Council Tax, for recommendation to Council. A copy of that report is attached as an Annex.

The following minute extract details Cabinet's consideration of the matter:

*"70. 2024-25 GENERAL FUND AND HRA REVENUE BUDGETS AND COUNCIL TAX*

*Considered, a report of the Head of Finance: 2024-25 General Fund and HRA Revenue Budgets and Council Tax, for recommendation to Council (item 7 on the agenda filed with these minutes).*

**RESOLVED that Council is recommended:**

1. *to approve the Original General Fund Revenue Budget for 2024/25 at £20,395,951 as set out in Appendix 1 to the report;*
2. *to set a base Council Tax at £144.68 at Band D, an increase of 3.00% (£4.21) on the 2023/24 rate as set out in Appendix 2 to the report;*
3. *to set the Loughborough Special Levy at £82.72, an increase of 1.99% (£1.61) on the 2023/24 rate, as set out in Appendix 3 to the report;*
4. *to approve the Original HRA Budget for 2024/25 as set out in Appendix 5 to the report;*
5. *to amend the HRA weekly rents in line with the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) guidance;*
6. *to amend the non-HRA dwelling properties in line with the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) guidance;*
7. *to approve the HRA service charges in accordance with the MHCLG Guidance;*
8. *to approve that the shop rents retain their current rents in accordance with an assessment by the Valuation Office;*
9. *to approve that garage rents are increased in accordance with an assessment by the Valuation Office;*
10. *to approve that the Leasehold Management and Administration charge increases to £180.35 per annum for Leasehold flats, and £112.98 for Leasehold shops;*
11. *that the Lifeline weekly charge is increased in-line with CPI + 1% and that the new digital Lifeline Service charge is set to recover costs;*
12. *to determine that the basic amount of Council Tax for 2024/25 is not excessive according to the principles set out by the Secretary of State.*

Reasons

1. *So that the necessary finance is approved to carry out services in 2024/25.*
2. *So that the Council Tax can be set in accordance with legal and statutory requirements.*
3. *So that a Loughborough Special Levy can be set in accordance with legal and statutory requirements.*
4. *To ensure sufficient funding for the Housing Revenue Account in 2024/25.*

5. *To comply with social housing rents guidance.*
6. *To be consistent with the other council house stock.*
7. *To ensure the correct alignment of costs and service charges for tenants in accordance with best practice.*
8. *So that shop rents follow the assessment and guidance provided by the Valuation Office.*
9. *To increase the rent generated for garages in line with the guidance from the Valuation Office.*
10. *So that there is sufficient recovery of the costs associated with operating the leasehold flat and shop services.*
11. *So that there is sufficient recovery of the costs associated with operating the Lifeline service.*
12. *To comply with the requirements of the Local Government Finance Act 1992.”*

#### Implementation Timetable including Future Decisions and Scrutiny

As detailed in the attached Annex.

The draft budgets were considered by the Budget Scrutiny Panel and its report submitted to Cabinet on 8th February 2024.

#### Report Implications

As detailed in the attached Annex.

Key Decision:	Yes
Background Papers:	None
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