



**CORPORATE SERVICES DEPARTMENT**  
Caroline Holland - Director

To all Members of the Council

**Democratic Services**  
**London Borough of Merton**  
**Merton Civic Centre**  
**Morden, Surrey SM4 5DX**

**Tel:** 020 8545 3357  
**Email:** democratic.services@merton.gov.uk

***Date: 09 February 2022***

Dear Councillor

**Notification of Cabinet Decisions**

The decisions of the Cabinet meeting held on Monday 7 February 2022 are attached.

The call-in deadline is Monday 14 February 2022 at noon

The [call-in](#) form is attached for your use if needed and refers to the relevant sections of the constitution.

Yours sincerely

Democracy Services



# Decisions of the Cabinet held on Monday 7 February 2022

## Call-in deadline – Monday 14 February 2022 at Noon

4	Reference from the Overview and Scrutiny Commission - Scrutiny of the Business Plan 2022-26	<p>RESOLVED: That Cabinet, in taking decisions relating to the Business Plan 2022-26, took into account the recommendations made by the Overview and Scrutiny Commission (set out in paragraphs 2.7 to 2.12 below) and references from the other Overview and Scrutiny Panels (set out in paragraph 2.4)</p> <p><i>2.4. The Sustainable Communities Panel RESOLVED to recommend Cabinet hold saving ENV2022-23 03, regarding Deen City Farm, on the basis that it is a saving to be made in 2023/24 and in anticipation of finding an alternative saving.</i></p> <p><i>2.7. Commission members welcome the opportunity to scrutinise the Budget and Business Plan 2022-26, and acknowledge the difficulties officers have faced in finalising it while the legacy costs of the pandemic remain unfunded and unresolved. 2.8. Because of the timetable for the budget process, the Commission has consistently been one step behind the Cabinet e.g. scrutinising the third (December) iteration of the budget on 19 January when Cabinet has approved the fourth iteration two days earlier, on 17 January. The timetable should be reviewed to see whether the final Commission meeting can be delayed to ensure scrutiny of the latest budget iteration, while still allowing time to feed back to the final Cabinet meeting on 7 February.</i></p> <p><i>2.9. In recent years heavy reliance has been placed on the Balancing the Budget Reserve to close the gap and set a balanced budget ((£11.5m in 2022/23).</i></p> <p><i>2.10. The text notes: "It should be recognised that the use of reserves is a one off form of funding and alternative ongoing savings need to be identified to address the budget gap over the long term". Is the Cabinet satisfied that this dependence on the BtBR is sustainable?</i></p> <p><i>2.11. Resolution of the DSG deficit is now tantalisingly close, with the potential to impact the final budget for 2022/23. Cabinet will be faced with various options for allocating the provisions released, including amongst others: • replenishing the Balancing the Budget Reserve • cancelling "unachievable" savings • funding priorities identified by "Your Merton" • moving forward with the Climate Change Action Plan</i></p> <p><i>2.12. Cabinet is requested to ensure that scrutiny members are involved in the discussion of these alternatives</i></p>
5	Business Plan 2022-26	RESOLVED:

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		<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. That Cabinet considered and agreed the response to the Overview and Scrutiny Commission;</li> <li>2. That the Cabinet resolved that, having considered all of the information in this report and noted the positive assurance statement given by the Director of Corporate Services based on the proposed Council Tax strategy, the maximum Council Tax in 2022/23, equating to a Band D Council Tax of £1,380.87, which is an increase of below 3% be approved and recommended to Council for approval.</li> <li>3. That the Cabinet considered all of the latest information and the comments from the scrutiny process, and makes recommendations to Council as appropriate</li> <li>4. That Cabinet resolved that the Business Plan 2022-26 including the General Fund Budget and Council Tax Strategy for 2022/23, and the Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) for 2022-26 as submitted, along with the draft Equality Assessments (EAs), be approved and recommended to Council for approval subject to any proposed amendments agreed at this meeting;</li> <li>5. That the Cabinet resolved that, having considered all of the latest information and the comments from the scrutiny process, the Capital Investment Programme (as detailed in Annex 1 to the Capital Strategy); the Treasury Management Strategy (Section 5), including the detailed recommendations in that Section, incorporating the Prudential Indicators and the Capital Strategy (Section 4) as submitted and reported upon be approved and recommended to Council for approval, subject to any proposed amendments agreed at this meeting;</li> <li>6. That Cabinet noted that the GLA precept will not be agreed by the London Assembly until the 24 February 2022, but the provisional figure has been incorporated into the draft MTFS</li> <li>7. That Cabinet requested officers to review the savings proposals agreed and where possible bring them forward to the earliest possible implementation date</li> <li>8. That Cabinet noted that there may be minor amendments to figures and words in this report as a result of new information being received after the deadline for dispatch and that this will be amended for the report to Council in March.</li> <li>9. That Cabinet considered and approved the Risk Management Strategy.</li> </ol>
6	COVID-19 Additional Relief Fund Scheme	RESOLVED:

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		That Cabinet reviewed and agreed the Covid Additional Relief Fund (CARF) policy																																				
7	Financial Monitoring Report - Period 9 December 2021	<p>RESOLVED:</p> <p>A. That Cabinet noted the financial reporting data for month 9, December 2021, relating to revenue budgetary control, showing a forecast net adverse variance at year end on net service expenditure of £5.373m, increasing to £7.276m when corporate and funding items are included, a decrease of £82k compared to last month</p> <p>B. That CMT noted the contents of Section 5 and approve the adjustments to the Capital Programme contained in Appendix 5b and 5d That Cabinet noted the contents of Section 5 and Appendix 5b of the report and approved the adjustments to the Capital Programme in the Table below:</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="969 730 1982 1292"> <thead> <tr> <th></th> <th>Budget 2021-22</th> <th>Narrative</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td><b><u>Corporate Services</u></b></td> <td>£</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Business Systems - Payroll IT System</td> <td>3,000</td> <td>Additional Costs Funded from a Rev.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Invest to Save - Decarbonisation Scheme</td> <td>(397,240)</td> <td>Revised Grant Funded Scheme</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Business Systems - SENDIS</td> <td>(109,410)</td> <td>Remaining MIB or Revenue Money Project 53 t</td> </tr> <tr> <td><b><u>Children, Schools and Families</u></b></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Harris Academy Wimbledon</td> <td>72,740</td> <td>SCIL Funding for additional costs of the scheme</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Links - Capital Maintenance</td> <td>(15,000)</td> <td>Virement reflecting projected outturn</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Sherwood - Capital Maintenance</td> <td>15,000</td> <td>Virement reflecting projected outturn</td> </tr> <tr> <td><b><u>Environment and Regeneration</u></b></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Borough Regeneration - Carbon Offset</td> <td>150,000</td> <td>Section 106 Scheme</td> </tr> <tr> <td><b>Total</b></td> <td><b>(280,910)</b></td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table>		Budget 2021-22	Narrative	<b><u>Corporate Services</u></b>	£		Business Systems - Payroll IT System	3,000	Additional Costs Funded from a Rev.	Invest to Save - Decarbonisation Scheme	(397,240)	Revised Grant Funded Scheme	Business Systems - SENDIS	(109,410)	Remaining MIB or Revenue Money Project 53 t	<b><u>Children, Schools and Families</u></b>			Harris Academy Wimbledon	72,740	SCIL Funding for additional costs of the scheme	Links - Capital Maintenance	(15,000)	Virement reflecting projected outturn	Sherwood - Capital Maintenance	15,000	Virement reflecting projected outturn	<b><u>Environment and Regeneration</u></b>			Borough Regeneration - Carbon Offset	150,000	Section 106 Scheme	<b>Total</b>	<b>(280,910)</b>	
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8	Merton's climate delivery plan year	RESOLVED:																																				

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2	<p>A. That Cabinet adopted the Climate Delivery Plan – Year 2</p> <p>B. That delegated authority was given to the Director of Environment and Regeneration, Chris Lee in consultation with Cllr Martin Whelton, the Cabinet member for Housing, Regeneration and the Climate Emergency to make minor amendments.</p> <p>C. That Cabinet approved the allocation of £150k from Merton’s Carbon Offset fund to top-up national funding in the delivery of the Green Homes Grant Local Authority Delivery Scheme to retrofit fuel poor homes in Merton.</p>
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## Merton Council - call-in request form

### 1. Decision to be called in: (required)

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### 2. Which of the principles of decision making in Article 13 of the constitution has not been applied? (required)

Required by part 4E Section 16(c)(a)(ii) of the constitution - tick all that apply:

(a) proportionality (i.e. the action must be proportionate to the desired outcome);	
(b) due consultation and the taking of professional advice from officers;	
(c) respect for human rights and equalities;	
(d) a presumption in favour of openness;	
(e) clarity of aims and desired outcomes;	
(f) consideration and evaluation of alternatives;	
(g) irrelevant matters must be ignored.	

### 3. Desired outcome

Part 4E Section 16(f) of the constitution- select one:

(a) The Panel/Commission to refer the decision back to the decision making person or body for reconsideration, setting out in writing the nature of its concerns.	
(b) To refer the matter to full Council where the Commission/Panel determines that the decision is contrary to the Policy and/or Budget Framework	
(c) The Panel/Commission to decide not to refer the matter back to the decision making person or body *	
* If you select (c) please explain the purpose of calling in the decision.	

**4. Evidence which demonstrates the alleged breach(es) indicated in 2 above (required)**

Required by part 4E Section 16(c)(a)(ii) of the constitution:

**5. Documents requested**

**6. Witnesses requested**

**7. Signed (not required if sent by email): .....**

**8. Notes – see part 4E section 16 of the constitution**

Call-ins must be supported by at least three members of the Council.

The call in form and supporting requests must be received by 12 Noon on the third working day following the publication of the decision.

The form and/or supporting requests must be sent:

- **EITHER** by email from a Councillor’s email account (no signature required) to [democratic.services@merton.gov.uk](mailto:democratic.services@merton.gov.uk)
- **OR** as a signed paper copy to the Head of Democracy and Electoral Services, 1<sup>st</sup> floor, Civic Centre, London Road, Morden SM4 5DX.

For further information or advice contact the Head of Democracy and Electoral Services on 020 8545 3409