

Report for: DECISION

Item Number:

Contains Confidential or Exempt Information	No
Title	BUDGET STRATEGY 2021/22
Responsible Officers	Ross Brown, Chief Finance Officer
Authors	Shabana Kausar, Assistant Director Strategic Finance
Portfolio	Councillor Bassam Mahfouz, Cabinet Member for Finance & Leisure Services
For Consideration By	Ealing Business Partnership
Date to be considered	2 February 2021
Implementation Date if Not Called In	N/A
Affected Wards	All
Area Committees	All
Keywords/Index	Savings. Budget, Revenue, Capital

Purpose of Report

This report invites Ealing Business Partnership to express views on the Council's Budget for 2021/22.

1. Recommendations

It is recommended that Ealing Business Partnership:

- 1.1 Notes and considers the content of this report, its appendices and the presentation on the 2021/22 budget delivered by Ealing's Finance team at this meeting; and
- 1.2 Notes that any views formally expressed by the EBP regarding the 2021/22 budget will be submitted to the Council meeting on 2 March 2021 for consideration as part of the Council's annual budget report.

2. Reason for Decision and Options Considered

- 2.1 The Council is required to consult non-domestic ratepayers on its budget proposals. The purpose of this report is to satisfy that requirement.

3. Key Implications

Financial Implications

- 3.1 This whole report is concerned with the Council's 2021/22 budget.

4. Legal

- 4.1 The Non-Domestic Ratepayers (Consultation) Regulations were made under section 65 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992. The Act places a duty on the Council to consult non-domestic ratepayers in its area about proposals for expenditure for each financial year.

- 4.2 The Non-Domestic Ratepayers (Consultation) Regulations prescribe the format and content of the information which is to be made available to non-domestic ratepayers.

- 4.3 The Council has a legal duty to set a balanced budget.

5. Community Consultation

- 5.1 This report forms part of the Council's consultation process on its 2021/22 budget.

6. Background

- 6.1 The Assistant Director of Strategic Finance will give a presentation on the 2021/22 budget at the meeting.

- 6.2 Further details of Ealing's 2021/22 budget, which will reflect the final budget position being considered at Cabinet on 9 February 2021 and Council on 3 March 2021, will be provided prior to the Ealing Business Partnership (EBP) meeting. Budget strategy updates have been provided to Cabinet in October and December 2020. The final Budget Strategy report will be published on 1 February as part of the Cabinet agenda and a link to this report will be emailed to all EBP members in advance of the EBP meeting where the forum will be invited to express their views on the budget.

- 6.3 Consultation on the Council's budget strategy for 2021/22 has taken place via 3 separate sessions targeted at residents, businesses and the voluntary led by Cllr Mahfouz and Cllr Bell during December 2020. These sessions were

attended by over 100 consultees.

7. Sustainability Impact Assessment

- 7.1 Any sustainability impacts will be considered before final decisions are taken on whether to implement each proposal. All capital budget proposals are required to set out how the proposal contributes towards carbon emission reduction.

8. Risk Management

- 8.1 The Council has a legal duty to set a balanced budget for the forthcoming year ensuring that its expenditure obligations are matched by the available resources. Councils are not allowed to run deficits and must therefore take actions to ensure the two sides of the equation are kept in balance. This requires the Council amongst activities to put forward savings if the resources generated through its various income streams and grants are insufficient to meet the expected obligations.
- 8.2 The Council's Medium Term Financial Strategy is continually under review and builds in projections for the MTF period (2021/22 – 2023/24 and beyond) as further details and analysis become available. These updates are regularly reviewed by Strategic Leadership Team and the Portfolio Holder and updates on the financial environment the Council is operating in are provided in Budget Strategy reports to Cabinet

9. Community Safety

- 9.1 Any community safety implications will be considered before final decisions are taken on whether or not to implement each proposal.

10. Links to Strategic Objectives

- 10.1 The Council's medium-term financial strategy, budgets and capital programme are designed to deliver the Council's strategic priorities. The budget set for 202/22 supported delivery of national and local priorities.
- 10.2 Budget proposals have been developed and impacts considered in line with the principles set out under S149 Equality Act 2010 and Human Rights Act 1988, including the need to protect elderly, disabled, children and young people who are the most vulnerable residents of the borough.
- 10.3 Implementation of each of the proposals will follow the Councils processes, policies and local terms and conditions to ensure fair selection, assimilation and recruitment and to ensure on-going monitoring of diversity.

11. Equalities Analysis Assessments (EAAs)

11.1 Where proposals will have equalities implications an EAA is required. If an EAA is required, it will be prepared and taken into account prior to the final decision on whether or not to proceed with the proposal being taken.

11.2 In Regard to the Council's Public Law Duties

11.2.1 When making decisions the Council must act reasonably and rationally. It must take into account all relevant information and disregard all irrelevant information and consult those affected, taking into account their views before final decisions are made. It must also comply with its legal duties, including those relating to equalities as referred to above. Many proposals will impact upon third parties and where this is the case there may be a requirement for the Council to consult those affected before a final decision is taken on whether or not to implement the proposal or to amend the proposal prior to implementation.

12. In Regard to the Council's Public Law Duties

12.1 When making decisions the Council must act reasonably and rationally. It must take into account all relevant information and disregard all irrelevant information and consult those affected, taking into account their views before final decisions are made. It must also comply with its legal duties, including those relating to equalities as referred to above. Many proposals will impact upon third parties and where this is the case there may be a requirement for the Council to consult those affected before a final decision is taken on whether or not to implement the proposal or to amend the proposal prior to implementation.

13. Staffing/Workforce and Accommodation Implications

13.1 Some of the savings proposals have potential staffing implications. Any such proposals are subject to consultation. Detailed proposals affecting staff will be developed in advance of consultation with staff affected by any proposals commencing. However, those proposals may not go ahead or may go ahead in a revised form as an outcome of consultation.

14. Property and Assets

14.1 The Capital investment proposals set out in the Budget Strategy report for approval in principle reflect the need to make efficient use of the Council's property and assets at an affordable cost to support the delivery of Council priorities.

15. Consultation

- 15.1 Consultation may be required in relation to some savings proposals. Where this is the case, the consultation will be undertaken in accordance with legal requirements and within a timetable appropriate to the individual circumstances of the proposal in question, including with recognised trade unions and affected individuals. The outcomes from each consultation undertaken will be considered before a final decision is taken on whether or not to proceed with the proposal in question, either as presently proposed or in an amended form.

16. Appendix

- 16.1 Cabinet report (to follow when available)

17. Background Information

- 17.1 Cabinet reports:

- 2021-2024 MTFS Budget Strategy Report – 8 December 2020
[Budget Strategy Cabinet Report - December 2020](#)
- 2021-2024 MTFS Budget Strategy Report – 13 October 2020
[Budget Strategy Cabinet Report - October 2020](#)

- 17.2 Council report:

- Budget Strategy and MTFS 2020/21 to 2022/23 – 25 February 2020
[2020/21 Budget Report \(Council Resolution\) - February 2020](#)

Consultation

Name of consultee	Department	Date sent to consultee	Date response received from consultee	Comments appear in report para:
Internal				
Ross Brown	Chief Finance Officer	Continuous	Continuous	Throughout
Helen Harris	Director of Legal and Democratic Services	18 January 2021	19 January 2021	Legal section

Report History

Decision type: For decision	Urgency item? No
Authorised by Cabinet member:	Date : Report deadline: Date report sent:
Report	Report authors and contacts for queries: Shabana Kausar, Assistant Director Strategic Finance, 020 8825 7549