

## **Council**

**Wednesday, 28 February**

### **Decisions**

Set out below is a summary of the decisions taken at the meeting of the Council held on Wednesday, 28 February 2024. The wording used does not necessarily reflect the actual wording that will appear in the minutes.

#### **11 Council Tax Support Scheme 2024/2025**

##### **Resolved:**

The change to the Housing Benefit Modified Scheme to increase the disregard for War Pension income from £290 to 100% is approved.

The proposal to increase the disregard for War Pension income from £290 to 100% in the Council Tax Support Scheme is approved.

#### **12 Council Tax Local Discounts & Premiums Policy**

##### **Resolved:**

The following amounts of council tax local discounts on empty and substantially unfurnished properties are approved from 1 April 2024:

- a. 100% discount for up to three months
- b. 50% discount for three to six months
- c. 0% discount for six to twenty four months

The period after which a long term empty premium applies is amended from two years to one year from 1 April 2025.

A council tax premium of 100% on second homes is approved from 1 April 2025.

The Government's proposed exceptions when empty homes and second homes council tax premiums should not be applied are mirrored in the revised Local Discounts and Premiums Policy.

#### **13 Revenue Budget 2024/25 Medium Term Financial Strategy and Capital Programme 2024-2027**

##### **Resolved:**

That Council,

- a. Approves the budget and proposals set out in this report, including the level of Council Tax as set out in the Formal Council Tax Resolution for 2024/25, including Parish Precepts, at **Appendix A**;
- b. Notes the advice of the Chief Finance Officer in relation to the robustness of the estimates within the overall budget, including the risks contained within it and the adequacy of the proposed level of financial reserves, as set out in the Statutory Report at **Appendices B1 – B3**;
- c. Approves the council's Medium-Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) at **Appendix C**;
- d. Notes the council's forecast Cumulative Budget Deficit and Budget Strategy 2024/25 to 2026/27 at **Appendix D**, including the analysis of the movement in the 2024/25 Budget from the position approved by Council in March 2023;
- e. Notes the analysis of the Directorate Budgets for 2024/25, by expense type, at **Appendix E**;
- f. Approves the capital programme for 2024/25 to 2026/27 (**Appendices F1, F2 & F3**);
- g. Approves the Capital Strategy at **Appendix G**;
- h. Approves the Treasury Management Strategy at **Appendix H1** and note the advice of the treasury management consultants at **Appendix H2**;
- i. Approves the council's Pay Policy at **Appendix I** for publication on the council's website from April 2024 (including Appendix I (i) – the payscales for South Ribble Council and Appendix I (ii) – the payscales for Shared Services);
- j. Notes the Budget Consultation 2024/25 Report at **Appendix J**;
- k. Notes the Impact Assessment of the Budget Proposals for 2024/25 at **Appendix K**.