

Public Document Pack  
Crawley Borough Council  
**Full Council**



**Supplementary Agenda – Order Paper**  
**Wednesday, 21 February 2024**

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'J. D.', written in a cursive style.

**Chief Executive**

**Live Streaming Committee Meetings: Facebook Live Guidance**

**Pages**

As a trial, Committee meetings will be lived streamed via the Council's Facebook Live account. A copy will then later be stored on the Council's YouTube channel.

Here's the procedure for **watching a live stream** on Facebook:  
Go to <https://www.facebook.com/crawleycouncil>

You will be prompted to log in. If you don't have a Facebook account, you can click the X to ignore this, and the box will close.  
Details of the upcoming meeting will be posted on the Crawley Borough Council Facebook page in advance.

Come back to the page when the meeting is due to start, and a live video feed will appear. To watch it in larger size, click the two arrows on the bottom right of the picture.

Please note that the live stream will not have the comment function enabled.

The **recording of the meetings** will then be placed on the Council's YouTube channel <https://www.youtube.com/crawleybc> the day after the meeting

**2 Disclosures of Interest**

**5 - 6**

Enclosed are the Disclosures of Interests received in advance of this meeting.

**4 Communications**

**7 - 8**

Enclosed are some Cabinet Member announcements.

<b>5</b>	<p><b>Public Question Time</b></p> <p>To answer public questions under Full Council Procedure Rule 1.1-E. The questions must be on matters which are relevant to the functions of the Council, and should not include statements.</p> <p>One supplementary question from the questioner will be allowed.</p> <p>A written public question has been submitted in advance and the response has been provided. The requester, if present, may ask supplementary question on the response.</p> <p>Up to 30 minutes is allocated to Public Question Time.</p>	<b>9 - 12</b>
<b>6</b>	<p><b>Consideration of Full Council Recommendations and Call-In Decisions</b></p> <p>Item to follow - Notice of Precept - (Recommendation 5).</p>	<b>13 - 16</b>
<b>8</b>	<p><b>Councillors' Questions Time</b></p> <p>There are <b>three</b> written questions submitted in advance for Full Council to consider.</p> <p>There are two methods for Councillors asking questions:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Councillors can submit written questions in advance of the meeting and written answers will be provided on the evening of the Full Council.</li> <li>2. Councillors can also verbally ask questions during the CQT.</li> </ol> <p>Councillors have the opportunity to ask oral supplementary questions in relation to either of the methods above</p>	<b>17 - 18</b>
<b>9</b>	<p><b>Receiving the Minutes of the Cabinet, Overview and Scrutiny Commission and Other Committees including Items for Debate</b></p> <p>There are <b>no</b> items for Debate.</p> <p><i>NB: In advance of the meeting Political Groups can identify any items they wish to debate as a Reserved Item. These Reserved Items will then be the only matters to be the subject of debate.</i></p>	
<b>11</b>	<p><b>Amendment 1 to Recommendation 1 2024-2025 Budget and Council Tax</b></p> <p>Enclosed is the Labour Amendment 1 to Recommendation 1 2024-2025 Budget and Council Tax. Mover Councillor Jones and Seconder Councillor Nawaz.</p> <p>This is an update report FIN/650 to the original 2024-2025 Budget and Council Tax report) FIN/642 and contains an amendment to</p>	<b>19 - 20</b>

Recommendation 1a following the recent announcement of additional Government funding. As such this amendment will be moved with the main report, rather than as a separate Amendment.

This amendment will be discussed under item 6 Consideration of Full Council Recommendations and Call-in Decision, as part of the discussion on Recommendation 1 2024-2025 Budget and Council Tax

<b>12</b>	<b>Amendment 2 to Recommendation 1 2024-2025 Budget and Council Tax</b>	<b>21 - 22</b>
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Enclosed is the Conservative Amendment 2 to Recommendation 1 2024-2025 Budget and Council Tax Mover Councillor Crow and Seconder Councillor Lanzer

This amendment will be discussed under item 6 Consideration of Full Council Recommendations and Call-in Decision, as part of the discussion on Recommendation 1 2024-2025 Budget and Council Tax

<b>13</b>	<b>Amendment 3 to Notice of Motion - Declaring a Housing Emergency</b>	<b>23 - 26</b>
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Enclosed is the Conservative Amendment 3 to Notice of Motion - Declaring a Housing Emergency, Mover Councillor Crow and Seconder Councillor McCarthy

This amendment will be discussed under item 7 Notice of Motion - Declaring a Housing Emergency.

***NOTE: The Mayor has agreed that, although this report and information was not available for at least five clear days before the meeting, there are special circumstances justifying its urgent consideration.***

### **INFORMATION ON DURATION OF THE MEETING**

*If the business of the meeting has not been completed within two and a half hours (normally 10.00 p.m.), then the Mayor will require the meeting to consider if it wishes to continue for a period of up to 30 minutes. A vote will be taken and a simple majority in favour will be necessary for the meeting to continue. (Following the meeting's initial extension, consideration will be given to extending the meeting by further periods of up to 30 minutes if required).*

*Should the vote be in favour of not continuing, there is a process for dealing with motions and recommendations which have not been dealt with within the two and a half hours, or at the expiry of any agreed extension(s). In these circumstances, such motions and recommendations will be deemed as formally moved and seconded (together with any amendments). No speeches will be allowed on these items and the vote will be taken in the usual way. If a recorded vote is called for during this process, it will be taken immediately. This process will also apply in instances where the Council is statutorily required to make a decision about any matter before a particular date.*

*During the process set out above, the only other motions which may be moved are that a matter be withdrawn or referred to an appropriate body or individual for decision or report. When all motions and recommendations have been dealt with, the Mayor will declare the meeting closed.*

# Agenda Item 2

## Disclosures of Interest Received

<b>Councillor</b>	<b>Item and Minute</b>	<b>Meeting</b>	<b>Type and Nature of Disclosure</b>
Councillor Ali	Planning Application CR/2023/0357/OUT – Former Pay and Display Car Park, Telford Place, Three Bridges (Minute 7)	Planning Committee 4 December 2023	Personal interest – a West Sussex County Councillor
Councillor Ali	Statement of Licensing Policy (Minute 5)	Licensing Committee 12 December 2023	Personal Interest – a West Sussex County Councillor
Councillor Burgess	Statement of Licensing Policy (Minute 5)	Licensing Committee 12 December 2023	Personal Interest – a West Sussex County Councillor
Councillor Crow	Statement of Licensing Policy (Minute 5)	Licensing Committee 12 December 2023	Personal Interest – a West Sussex County Councillor
Councillor Crow	Statement of Licensing Policy (Minute 5)	Licensing Committee 12 December 2023	Personal Interest – the West Sussex County Council Cabinet Member for Community Support, Fire and Rescue (with responsibility for Trading Standards).
Councillor Hart	Statement of Licensing Policy (Minute 5)	Licensing Committee 12 December 2023	Personal Interest – secretary of Ewhurst Sports and Social Club (a licensed premises).
Councillor Nawaz	Statement of Licensing Policy (Minute 5)	Licensing Committee 12 December 2023	Personal Interest – leases a commercial unit from Crawley Borough Council
Councillor Ali	Planning Application CR/2023/0395/FUL – 10 Kithurst Close, Southgate (Minute 4)	Planning Committee 9 January 2024	Personal interest – a West Sussex County Councillor for Southgate & Gossops Green Ward.
Councillor Lanzer	2023-2025 Budget and Council Tax (Minute 5)	Overview and Scrutiny Commission 29 January 2024	Personal Interest – Member of WSCC

# Agenda Item 2

Councillor Lanzer	Health and Adult Social Care Scrutiny Committee (HASC) (Minute 10)	Overview and Scrutiny Commission 29 January 2024	Personal Interest – Member of WSCC
Councillor Lanzer	Health and Adult Social Care Scrutiny Committee (HASC) (Minute 10)	Overview and Scrutiny Commission 29 January 2024	Personal Interest – Cabinet Member for Health & Wellbeing
Councillor Crow	2024-2025 Budget and Council Tax (Minute 7)	Cabinet 31 January 2024	Personal Interest – Member of WSCC
Councillor Nawaz	Allocating Monies Collected Through CIL (Minute 13).	Cabinet 31 January 2024	Personal Interest – Councillor for Three Bridges Ward
Councillor Crow	Notice of Precept Recommendation 5	Full Council 21 February 2024	Personal Interest – Member of WSCC
All Officers attending this meeting of the Full Council	2024/2025 Budget and Council Tax (Minute 5)	Cabinet 31 January 2024	Personal Interest, as Officers of the Council in relation to the Pay Policy Statement

# Agenda Item 4

## **Cabinet Member Announcements – 21 February 2024**

*Councillor Yasmin Khan (Cabinet Member for Public Protection) –*  
Crime and Anti-Social Behaviour public meeting

There is a forthcoming public meeting and panel discussion with key representatives taking place on 7 March at 6pm. This event will explore community safety issues affecting Crawley, ranging from knife crime and exploitation to hate crime, online safety, and anti-social behaviour.

*Councillor Yasmin Khan - Cabinet Member for Public Protection) –*  
CCTV upgrade

A major upgrade of the council's CCTV cameras located around the Borough will be provided by the Cabinet Member.

*Councillor Bob Noyce (Cabinet Member for Environment, Sustainability and Climate Change) –*  
New waste and recycling vehicles

Crawley Borough Council have recently purchased 15 brand new waste fleet vehicles that will collect rubbish, recycling, and garden waste across the borough. Further details will be provided of the purchase including the improvements this will bring to service delivery.

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# Agenda Item 5

## Public Written Questions and the Responses

### Full Council – 21 February 2024

Written Question for the Crawley Borough Council Full Council meeting of 21 February 2024.  
From Mr Robin Burnham, Bewbush.

In 2011, the then Coalition government of the Conservatives and Liberal Democrats introduced a new housing tenure called Affordable Housing. This is rents being set at between 50% and 80% of market rents for socially rented housing.

1. .When did Crawley Borough Council first introduce affordable rents??

2014

2. For each year since then, please state how many new-build social housing tenancies have been set at social rent and how many at affordable rent?

Rent Type	Number of New Properties Let at Affordable / Social Rent
<b>Affordable</b>	<b>346</b>
2014	11
2015	50
2016	1
2017	15
2018	63
2019	104
2020	74
2021	8
2023	20
<b>Social</b>	<b>400</b>
2014	10
2015	1
2016	53
2017	14
2018	31
2019	71
2020	31
2021	88
2022	83
2023	17
2024	1
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>746</b>

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3. For those properties let at affordable rent, please state how many have been set at 80% of market rents and how many have been set at a different percentage of market rent?
4. For those not set at 80%, please provide a breakdown of how many have been set at what percentage? (table below answers Questions 3 & 4)

Rent Charged as % of Market Rate	Affordable Rent Properties Current Rent as % of Market Rate
53%	4
54%	3
55%	11
56%	6
58%	7
59%	17
60%	10
61%	34
62%	21
63%	69
64%	9
65%	16
66%	3
67%	1
68%	25
69%	12
70%	80
71%	3
72%	4
73%	4
79%	3
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>342</b>

5. If some affordable have been set at less than 80% of market rents, why has it not been possible for all those rents set at 80% market rent, to be at a similar level??

The council's policy is to cap affordable rents at the lower of 80% Market Rent or LHA (Local Housing Allowance) rates. Due to the freeze on LHA rates for the past few years, all of our affordable properties LHA rates are lower than 80% market rent for 23-24.

Of the 346 affordable rent properties shown in the table in question 2, decisions were made on affordable rents on the following basis:

Scheme	Reason for affordable rent
Breezehurst Drive	Grant funding requirement
Brunel Place	Grant funding requirement
Forge Wood	Scheme viability
Gales Place	Scheme viability
Three Bridges	Scheme viability

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Apex apartments	Scheme viability
Dobbins Place	Scheme viability
Goffs Park	Scheme viability
Kilnmead	Scheme viability
Barnfield Rd	Scheme viability
Northgate surgery	Scheme viability
Bridgefield House	Scheme viability
Ifield Rd	Scheme viability
London Rd	Scheme viability
Brighton Rd	Scheme viability

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# Agenda Item 6

## NOTICE OF PRECEPT 2024/25 – ‘COUNCIL TAX RESOLUTION’ (Recommendation 5)

### 1 BACKGROUND

- 1.1 The Localism Act 2011 has made significant changes to the Local Government Finance Act 1992, and now requires the billing authority to calculate a Council Tax requirement for the year, not its budget requirement as previously.
- 1.2 Since the meeting of the Cabinet the precept levels of other precepting bodies have been received. These are detailed below.

### 2 PROPOSALS

#### 2.1 Crawley Borough Council

The Crawley Borough Council Precept for 2024/25 totals £8,503,448. The increase in the Band D Council Tax for Crawley Borough is 2.99% and results in a Band D Council tax of £232.10 for 2024/25.

#### 2.2 West Sussex County Council

West Sussex County Council met on 16 February 2024 and set their precept for Crawley at £62,830,571.70 adjusted by a contribution from the Collection Fund of £1,241,205.21 (Council Tax: £895,559.21; Business Rates: £345,646). This results in a Band D Council Tax of £1,714.95. The County Council's charge includes an additional 2% for Adult Social Care.

#### 2.3 Police and Crime Commissioner for Sussex

The Police and Crime Commissioner for Sussex met on 5 February 2024 and set their precept at £9,265,863.67 adjusted by a surplus contribution from the Collection Fund of £131,537. This results in a Band D Council Tax of £252.91.

#### 2.4 Total Band D Council Tax

If the formal Council Tax Resolution is approved (in Recommendation 5 below), the total Band D Council Tax will be as follows

	2023/24 £	2024/25 £	Increase %
Crawley Borough Council	225.34	232.10	2.99
West Sussex County Council	1,633.41	1,714.95	4.99
Police and Crime Commissioner for Sussex	239.91	252.91	5.40
<b>Total</b>	2,098.66	2,199.96	

# Agenda Item 6

## **RECOMMENDATION 5**

That the Full Council, following the receipt of the notice of precept from the Police and Crime Commissioner for Sussex and West Sussex County Council and the approval of the Council's budget be RECOMMENDED to approve of the following:

1. That it be noted that on 31 January 2024 the Leader of the Council under delegated powers calculated the Council Tax Base 2024/25 for the whole Council area as **36,637.0** [Item T in the formula in Section 31B of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, as amended (the "Act")]; and
2. That the Council Tax requirement for the Council's own purposes for 2024/25 is calculated at £8,503,448.
3. That the following amounts be calculated for the year 2024/25 in accordance with Sections 31 to 36 of the Act:

(a)	£130,916,257	being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 31A(2) of the Act taking into account all precepts issued to it by Parish Councils.
(b)	£122,412,809	being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 31A(3) of the Act.
(c)	£8,503,448	being the amount by which the aggregate at 3(a) above exceeds the aggregate at 3(b) above, calculated by the Council in accordance with Section 31A(4) of the Act as its Council Tax requirement for the year. (Item R in the formula in Section 31B of the Act).
(d)	£232.10	being the amount at 3(c) above (Item R), all divided by Item T (1(a) above), calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 31B of the Act, as the basic amount of its Council Tax for the year (including Parish precepts).
(e)	£0	being the aggregate amount of all special items (Parish precepts) referred to in Section 34(1) of the Act.
(f)	£232.10	being the amount at 3(d) above less the result given by dividing the amount at 3(e) above by Item T (1(a) above), calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 34(2) of the Act, as the basic amount of its Council Tax for the year for dwellings in those parts of its area to which no Parish precept relates.

4. That it be noted that the County Council have proposed precepts and the Police and Crime Commissioner for Sussex have issued precepts to the Council in accordance with Section 40 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 for each category of dwellings in the Council's area as indicated in the table below.

# Agenda Item 6

5. That the Council, in accordance with Sections 30 and 36 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, hereby sets the aggregate amounts shown in the table below as the amounts of Council Tax for 2024/25 for each part of its area and for each of the categories of dwellings.

## COUNCIL TAX SCHEDULE 2024/25

	CRAWLEY BOROUGH COUNCIL	WEST SUSSEX COUNTY COUNCIL	POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER FOR SUSSEX	TOTAL
BAND A	154.73	1,143.30	£168.61	1,466.64
BAND B	180.51	1,333.85	£196.71	1,711.07
BAND C	206.30	1,524.40	£224.81	1,955.51
BAND D	232.10	1,714.95	£252.91	2,199.96
BAND E	283.68	2,096.05	£309.11	2,688.84
BAND F	335.25	2,477.15	£365.31	3,177.71
BAND G	386.83	2,858.25	£421.52	3,666.60
BAND H	464.20	3,429.90	£505.82	4,399.92

6. That it be determined in accordance with Section 52ZB Local Government Finance Act 1992 that the Council 's basic amount of Council Tax for 2024/25 is NOT excessive in accordance with principles approved by the Secretary of State under Section 52ZC of the Act.

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# Agenda Item 8

## **Councillors Written Questions and the Responses**

### **Full Council – 21 February 2024**

#### **Q1 – Question to Councillor Chris Mullins (Cabinet Member for Leisure & Wellbeing) from Councillor Simon Piggott**

*Goffs Park House in Goffs Park has recently been boarded up and the majority of windows and doors closed off. Can the Council confirm why this step has been taken and in addition, what the short, medium and long term plans are for the entire building?*

#### **Response**

Goffs House is being marketed by our agents as office accommodation. The dilapidations negotiations continue with the Ministry of Justice. These have taken longer than the Council feels is reasonable and we continue to push to bring these to an appropriate conclusion. Updates on progress are available through the Goffs Park Member Working Group, but with commercial discussions ongoing, further public comment is not possible.

#### **Q2 – Question to Councillor Michael Jones (Leader of the Council) from Councillor Duncan Crow**

*On 6 June this year, the UK will commemorate the 80th anniversary of the Normandy Landings on 6 June 1944 with a series of major commemorations and events across the UK and in France. The D-Day 80 Campaign has been created to enable councils and communities to commemorate the anniversary and pay tribute to the many thousands of people that sacrificed so much in helping secure the freedom of our country.*

*The campaign encourages Local Authorities who have beacons, to light them at 9.15pm on 6 June. This is being supported by the Prime Minister, Rishi Sunak.*

*Will the Council be taking part and if so, given that the previous beacon 'lighting' in Tilgate Park on 9 June 2022 for Her Late Majesty The Queen's Platinum Jubilee, was very underwhelming and attracted much public ridicule, will every effort be made in advance to get it right this time?*

#### **Response (from Councillor Sue Mullins, Cabinet Member for Community Engagement & Culture)**

The Parks Team and Events Officer have already been working together on the planning of the 80 years of D-Day event, which will take place in Tilgate Park on the evening of 6 June 2024 with the lighting of the beacon, speeches and entertainment. The gas-lit beacon is being repaired and will be lit for this commemoration. The details of the event programme will be confirmed and shared nearer the date.

# Agenda Item 8

## **Q3 - Question to Councillor Ian Irvine (Cabinet Member for Housing) from Councillor Bob Lanzer**

On what date was the decision implemented to augment housing sub-contractor sickness pay arrangements with funds from the HRA (Housing Revenue Account)?

Can you please remind Full Council of the objectives of this policy and advise how the outcomes obtained compare with the original intentions?

What has been the total sum allocated and paid to each housing sub-contractor by financial year to augment their sickness pay arrangements?

### Response

The decision referred to was implemented in July 2019. The objectives behind the decision are a matter of record, but for ease a link to the original report can be found here ([Private Pack](#))Agenda Document for Full Council, 17/07/2019 19:30 ([modern.gov.co.uk](http://modern.gov.co.uk)). The outcomes have not deviated from the intended objectives. As per the report, budgets were increased by £100,000 for this change. The information requested includes the current year and whilst work is underway to provide this it has not been possible to complete within the timeframes. This information will be published subsequently within the Members Information Bulletin.

# Agenda Item 11

## Crawley Borough Council

**Full Council**  
**21 February 2024**

### **Amendment 1 to 2024/2025 Budget and Council Tax – Recommendation 1**

Report of the Head of Corporate Finance (s151 officer) FIN/650

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#### **1. Purpose**

- 1.1. To amend Recommendation 1 a) of the 2024/2025 Budget and Council Tax report FIN/642.
- 1.2. This is to reflect the final Local Government Finance Settlement for 2024/2025 published on the 5 February 2024.

#### **2. Recommendation**

- 2.1. The Full Council is recommended to approve the amendment to Recommendation 1 a) in FIN/642 as set out below

**Approve the proposed 2024/25 General Fund Budget which includes using £1,065,439 of general fund reserve as set out in 4.2 below.**

Replaced

Approve the proposed 2024/25 General Fund Budget which includes using £1,202,470 of general fund reserve as set out in section 6 (of FIN/642).

#### **3. Reasons for the Recommendation**

- 3.1. On 5 February 2024, the Secretary of State for the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities released a written statement to Parliament on the final local government finance settlement 2024-25.
- 3.2. The final settlement contained a number of changes to the provisional settlement contained in the budget papers submitted to Overview and Scrutiny Commission on the 29 January 2024 and Cabinet on the 31 January 2024. The Budget Seminar on 8 February 2024 informed Members of these changes.

#### **4. Changes to 2024/24 Budget Gap as a result of the final settlement**

- 4.1. The changes resulted in extra grant funding to the Council as summarised below:

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<b>Funding changes as part of the final 2024/25 local government finance settlement</b>	<b>Additional grant £</b>
Services grant – increased grant pot distributed	2,251
Funding guarantee - allocations have been updated to reflect a higher 4% guarantee level resulting in an	134,780
<b>Total extra funding</b>	<b>137,031</b>

4.2. The impact of the final settlement is to reduce the budget gap in table 2 of FIN/642 as below:

	£'000
Budget gap table 2 FIN/642	1,202,470
Extra funding from final settlement	137,031
Amended budget gap	1,065,439

4.3. In addition the Government also confirmed:

- Funding will be released from the safety net and levy account in 2023/24 on a one-off basis, distributed using 2013/14 settlement funding assessment shares. This amounts to an extra £31k for the Council.
- Compensation for green business rates exemptions. The allocations for Crawley are – 2022/23 £58k and 2023/24 £61k

The impact of these extra grants is to increase the estimated General Fund Balance as at 31/03/24 as follows:

	£'000
Estimated General Fund balance as at 31/3/24 reported in FIN/642	3,328
Additional grants final settlement	150
Estimated available balance 31/3/2024	3,478

## 5. Background Papers

2024/2025 Budget and Council Tax FIN/642  
[2024-2025 Budget and Council Tax.pdf \(crawley.gov.uk\)](#)

Report author and contact officer:

Officer name – Carolin Martlew, Head of Corporate Finance  
Email address – [carolin.martlew@crawley.gov.uk](mailto:carolin.martlew@crawley.gov.uk)  
Phone number – 01293 438263

# Agenda Item 12

## Full Council 21 February 2024

### Amendment 2 To Recommendation 1 2024-2025 Budget and Council Tax

*Mover Councillor Crow and  
Seconder Councillor Lanzer*

*(The new words are in **Red**)*

#### **RECOMMENDATION 1**

That the Full Council be recommended to approve the following items regarding the 2024/25 Budget:

- a) approve the proposed 2024/25 General Fund Budget which includes using £1,202,470 of general fund reserve as set out in Section 6 of report FIN/642
- b) approve the proposed 2024/25 Housing Revenue Account Budget as set out in Appendix 5 of report FIN/642 which includes the savings and growth items as set out in Section 9 of report FIN/642,
- c) approve the 2024/25 and future years Capital Programme and funding as set out in Section 10 of the report FIN/642,
- d) agree the transfers between reserves as outlined in Section 11 of report FIN/642.
- e) agree that the Council's share of Council Tax for 2024/25 be increased by 2.99% an increase of £6.76 from £225.34 to £232.10 for a Band D property as set out in paragraph 5.11 of report FIN/642,
- f) approve the Pay Policy Statement for 2024/2025 as outlined in paragraph 12.4 and Appendix 8 of the report FIN/642 noting that the pay award has yet to be agreed,
- g) approve the Capital Strategy as outlined in paragraph 10.1 and Appendix 9 of the report FIN/642
- h) undertake a review of the capital programme to identify projects to a total value of between £2 million and £5 million, that could potentially be delayed by one year in order to generate additional revenue funding of between £100,000 to £250,000, as well enabling the deferral of any need to borrow to sustain the capital programme.
- i) Increase the draw on general fund reserve by £21,000 and remove the saving on NASB Team vacancy and operational costs, reinvesting this amount back into the NASB Team to strengthen it and recommendation 1a) be adjusted accordingly.

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## **Proposed Amended Recommendation 1, if approved now reads:**

### **RECOMMENDATION 1**

That the Full Council be recommended to approve the following items regarding the 2024/25 Budget:

- a) approve the proposed 2024/25 General Fund Budget which includes using £1,202,470 of general fund reserve as set out in Section 6 of report FIN/642
- b) approve the proposed 2024/25 Housing Revenue Account Budget as set out in Appendix 5 of report FIN/642 which includes the savings and growth items as set out in Section 9 of report FIN/642,
- c) approve the 2024/25 and future years Capital Programme and funding as set out in Section 10 of the report FIN/642,
- d) agree the transfers between reserves as outlined in Section 11 of report FIN/642.
- e) agree that the Council's share of Council Tax for 2024/25 be increased by 2.99% an increase of £6.76 from £225.34 to £232.10 for a Band D property as set out in paragraph 5.11 of report FIN/642,
- f) approve the Pay Policy Statement for 2024/2025 as outlined in paragraph 12.4 and Appendix 8 of the report FIN/642 noting that the pay award has yet to be agreed,
- g) approve the Capital Strategy as outlined in paragraph 10.1 and Appendix 9 of the report FIN/642
- h) undertake a review of the capital programme to identify projects to a total value of between £2 million and £5 million, that could potentially be delayed by one year in order to generate additional revenue funding of between £100,000 to £250,000, as well enabling the deferral of any need to borrow to sustain the capital programme.
- i) Increase the draw on general fund reserve by £21,000 and remove the saving on NASB Team vacancy and operational costs, reinvesting this amount back into the NASB Team to strengthen it and recommendation 1a) be adjusted accordingly.

# Agenda Item 13

## Full Council 21 February 2024

### AMENDMENT 3 To NOTICE OF MOTION 1 - DECLARING A HOUSING EMERGENCY

*Mover Councillor Crow and  
Seconder Councillor McCarthy*

*(The new words are in **Red**)*

This Council notes the Office of National Statistics (ONS) published report of 30 January 2024 on National Population Projections, which stated that:

- In the 25 years between mid-1996 (58.2 million) and mid-2021 (67.1 million), the UK population grew by 15.3% (8.9 million)
- In the 25 years between mid-2021 (67.1 million) and mid-2046 (76.6 million), the UK population is projected to grow by 14.2% (9.5 million)
- In the 15 years from 2021-2036, UK population is projected to grow by 6.6 million people, with 0.5 million (8.2%) projected to result from the higher number of births than deaths, and 6.1 million (91.8%) projected to result from net international migration.

This Council further notes ONS census data showing Crawley's population of 118,500 in 2021 has grown by the following amounts:

- 11.2% in 10 years since 2011 (106,597)
- 18.81% in 20 years since 2001 (99,740)
- 35.21% in 30 years since 1991 (87,644)
- 63.35% in 40 years since 1981 (72,543)

This Council recognises the growing pressures on Local Authorities relating to housing, and that Crawley is one of the worst affected areas in the country with a number of factors driving increasingly unsustainable revenue costs relating to temporary accommodation for the Council. These factors include:

- The provision of new housing not keeping up with population growth.
- The unaffordability of home ownership for an increasing number of people
- A shrinking private rented sector with soaring rents (8% increase in the last year) that also makes this option for housing unaffordable for a growing number of people
- the shortage of council and other social housing to meet demand
- Water Neutrality planning restrictions imposed by Natural England slowing down new development

As of 6 February 2024, this has resulted in:

# Agenda Item 13

- 2796 applications made for the 243 housing units made available in the last 8 months, so over 11 applicants per property resulting in over 260 bids for every property
- 485 households, or 1224 people, living in temporary accommodation
- One pound in every three of the Council's net revenue budget being spent on temporary accommodation

The Council also recognises the likelihood of a worsening situation given the presence of four Asylum Contingency hotels in the borough and the decision of the Home Office to disperse those seeking asylum directly into communities without a managed process or proper support in place.

This is despite the range of Council efforts to tackle structural pressures including, but not limited to:

- One of the best records in the country developing social housing, delivering over 1600 affordable units over the past 10 years, and continuing to bring new sites forward
- Buying additional properties such as the recent acquisition of 6-9 Ifield Road
- Retrofitting thousands of our social housing stock with water saving devices to allow us to build more homes
- Pursuing long leasing opportunities for temporary accommodation to increase supply and reduce costs
- Bidding for funding streams from multiple sources to support new affordable housing and temporary accommodation delivery
- Using over £500k of funding over the past two years to support people to stay in their accommodation and prevent them from becoming homeless

Whilst the Council's teams will continue to do everything in its powers to meet the needs of our residents and meet our statutory obligations, the system was not created to deal with these numbers. The driving forces are not in the Council's control and the Council under the current funding arrangements does not have the resources to solve the problem alone.

## **The Council therefore resolves to:**

1. declare a Housing Emergency for the Borough of Crawley
2. request the Leader of the Council and the Cabinet Member for Housing to write to the Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities calling for additional resources to help local housing authorities and councils worst affected such as Crawley, including unfreezing the Local Housing Allowance for councils currently set at 2011 levels.
3. work with the sector and with Government to develop long term solutions to fix the national housing crisis



# Agenda Item 13

## **Proposed Amended Notice of Motion 1 – Declaring a Housing Emergency, if approved, now reads:**

This Council notes the Office of National Statistics (ONS) published report of 30 January 2024 on National Population Projections, which stated that:

- In the 25 years between mid-1996 (58.2 million) and mid-2021 (67.1 million), the UK population grew by 15.3% (8.9 million)
- In the 25 years between mid-2021 (67.1 million) and mid-2046 (76.6 million), the UK population is projected to grow by 14.2% (9.5 million)
- In the 15 years from 2021-2036, UK population is projected to grow by 6.6 million people, with 0.5 million (8.2%) projected to result from the higher number of births than deaths, and 6.1 million (91.8%) projected to result from net international migration.

This Council further notes ONS census data showing Crawley's population of 118,500 in 2021 has grown by the following amounts:

- 11.2% in 10 years since 2011 (106,597)
- 18.81% in 20 years since 2001 (99,740)
- 35.21% in 30 years since 1991 (87,644)
- 63.35% in 40 years since 1981 (72,543)

This Council recognises the growing pressures on Local Authorities relating to housing, and that Crawley is one of the worst affected areas in the country with a number of factors driving increasingly unsustainable revenue costs relating to temporary accommodation for the Council. These factors include:

- The provision of new housing not keeping up with population growth.
- The unaffordability of home ownership for an increasing number of people
- A shrinking private rented sector with soaring rents (8% increase in the last year) that also makes this option for housing unaffordable for a growing number of people
- the shortage of council and other social housing to meet demand
- Water Neutrality planning restrictions imposed by Natural England slowing down new development

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