



	Decision	Summary of Reasons
Approval to renew four contracts over £50,000 to enable preparation of the new Harborough Local Plan	<p>That Cabinet:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Approved the renewal of four contracts from 1st February until 30th September 2025 - Renewed delegated authority to the Director of Planning, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Planning and the Head of Legal Services, to negotiate (including minor variations) and finalise all necessary legal agreements to facilitate the transaction. 	<p>To ensure experienced, specialist, technical support, contracted to the council under fixed-term contracts to prepare the new local plan, are retained until all local plan preparation processes up to, and including, submission of the new local plan for public examination, are concluded in accordance with the programme set out in the updated Local Development Scheme to be considered by the Cabinet at their meeting on 20th February 2025.</p>
Final Budget 2025/26 & the Medium-Term Financial Strategy (2026/27 to 2029/30)	<p>A. That Cabinet recommended to Council the approval of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The Fees & Charges Schedule; including the delegation to the S.151 officer to vary Fees & Charges throughout the year in consultation with the respective portfolio holder for the service that the fee and charge is applicable. - The allocation of UK Shared Prosperity Fund 2025/26 funding to be agreed by the Leader, Portfolio Holder for Culture, Leisure, Economy & Tourism, the Chief Executive and the Director of Communities. - The Consolidated Final Budget 2025/26 and the Medium-Term 	<p>To present Cabinet the Final Budget and MTFS prior to presentation to Full Council, along with the results of the consultation with stakeholders and the equalities analysis.</p>

	<p>Financial Strategy (2026/27 to 2029/30).</p> <p>In respect of the 2025/26 Final Budget, this includes a:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Budget Requirement of £16.9m- Council Tax Requirement of £7.3m- Increasing Council Tax by 2.99% to £183.29 giving a Band D.- Capital Programme of £33m. <p>In respect of the Medium-Term Financial Strategy, by 2029/30:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Budget Requirement of £16.9m- Council Tax Requirement of £8.4m- 'Notional' increase in Council Tax of 2.99% (and notionally for each year of the MTFS). <p>B. Noted the comments of the Director of Resources (&S.151 Officer) in respect of the 'Robustness of the 2025/26 Budget and Medium-Term Financial Strategy 2026/27 to 2029/30.</p> <p>C. Commented on the Equalities Analysis in respect of implications of the Final Budget 2025/26 and MTFS (2026/27 to 2029/30).</p>	
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<p>Corporate Plan 2024-31</p>	<p>That Cabinet:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Reviewed the consultation results on the Draft Corporate Plan 2024-31 and advise of any amendments to the documentation they wish to be made. - Recommended to Council that the Corporate Plan 2024-31 is agreed and adopted. 	<p>The Corporate Plan outlines the Council's Vision, Priorities, and Critical Outcomes. It is essential to engage with the key stakeholders on its content before it is finalised to help the Council deliver better outcomes for communities, which reflects the views of those affected.</p>
<p>Empty Property Strategy and Council Tax Premiums</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The Draft Empty Property Strategy was approved. - The following proposals were approved: <p>Proposal 1 – From 1st April 2025, remove one month 100% Council Tax Discount for empty, unoccupied and unfurnished empty properties and charge full Council Tax from point of ownership.</p> <p>Proposal 2 – From 1st April 2025, charge properties empty for one to five years, twice standard Council Tax (200%). Empty Properties for five to ten years, three times standard Council Tax (300%). Empty Properties ten years or more, four times standard Council Tax (400%).</p>	<p>The updated empty homes strategy and the changes to council tax premiums, discounts and exemptions should help to incentivise the owners of respective empty or second homes to bring them back into residential use.</p>



	<p>Proposal 3 – From April 1st 2026, second homeowners would pay double Council Tax (a 100% surcharge) from day one.</p>	
<p>Anti-social Behaviour Policy Refresh 2025</p>	<p>Cabinet approved the HDC ASB Policy 2025</p>	<p>To ensure HDC has a robust ASB policy in place, to help achieve sustained low levels of anti-social behaviour thus creating a safer environment.</p>
<p>Bad Debt Write Offs (Revenues and Benefits)</p>	<p>That Cabinet:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Noted the amounts written off under delegated powers. - Approved the write off amounts in respect of Business Rates totalling £70,475.54. - Approved the write off amounts in respect of Housing Benefit Overpayments totalling £20,443.21. 	<p>All reasonable steps to recover the debt have been taken, and therefore where write off is recommended, it is the only course of action that is left available.</p>
<p>Car parking pay and display machine contract award.</p>	<p>That Cabinet:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Approved the award of a contract for the replacement of the car parking pay and display machines to Contractor 3, identified through the recent open procedure tender process. - Delegated authority to the Director of Communities, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Environmental and Climate Change, together with the Head of Legal Services, to 	<p>To ensure that the Council appoint a suitable contractor to replace the car parking pay and display machines. The evaluation panel agreed that Contractor 3 should be offered preferred provider status based on the tenders submitted. Awarding a contract based on the tender submitted by Contractor 3 offers the best option for the replacement of the parking machines.</p>



Harborough District Council - Decisions taken by the Cabinet on 28.10.2024

	negotiate and finalise the contract, including minor variations.	
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Note: this decision list is for guidance only. The text of the minutes, which may be different is definitive.