

**HIGH PEAK BOROUGH COUNCIL**

**Report to Council**

**21 February 2023**

<b>TITLE:</b>	<b>Recommendations from the Executive</b>
<b>CONTACT OFFICER:</b>	<b>Linden Vernon – Head of Democratic Services</b>
<b>WARDS INVOLVED:</b>	<b>As detailed in the attached report(s)</b>

To approve the following recommendations of the Executive.

**a) Council Tax Reduction Scheme 2023/24**

The Council approves the amendments in section 7.15 (m), section 7.14 and the introduction of a new income banded / grid scheme for working age applicants with effect from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2023 to reduce the administrative burden placed on the Council by the introduction of Universal Credit and to increase the overall level of support for the lowest income families.

**b) 2023/24 Budget & Medium Term Financial Plan 2023/24 to 2026/27**

**Recommended:**

That the Council:

- Approves the General Fund Budget for 2023/24 as detailed in Appendix A (section 9).
- Approves the revised Medium-Term Financial Plan (2023/24 to 2026/27) as detailed in Appendix A, including the revised Capital Programme (attached at Annex A).
- Approves the Capital Strategy 2023/24 as set out in Appendix B.
- Approves the proposed Fees and Charges for 2023/24 as detailed in Appendix C.

- Approves the proposed Procurement Forward Plan for 2023/24, providing the Authority to procure based on procurement activity detailed in Appendix D.
- Approves a Band D Council Tax of £211.36 for 2023/24 (an increase of £5.96 or 2.90% from 2022/23).
- Approves the adoption of the Council Tax premium on second homes outlined s7.1.7 and the empty property premium for properties that have remained empty for 1 year s7.1.10.
- HRA charges as follows:
  - All dwellings rents to increase by 5%, increasing the average rent from £73.96 to £77.78 per week (average rent takes into account new tenancies let over the previous year where the higher formula rent was charged. This gives an arithmetical increase of 5.16%)
  - Garage rents to be increased by 5% from £7.86 to £8.26 average per week
  - Other Charges including service charges to increase by a maximum of 5%
  - Fuel charges at individual blocks have been reviewed and the 2023/24 charge is based on the 2022/23 estimated costs and 2021/22 actual fuel usage/prices, charged on an individual scheme basis.
- Notes the Chief Finance Officer's view that the level of reserves are adequate for the Council, based on this budget and the circumstances in place at the time of preparing it (Appendix A Annex C).

**Mark Trillo**  
**Executive Director (Governance and Service Commissioning)**  
**& Monitoring Officer**