

**HIGH PEAK BOROUGH COUNCIL**

**Report to Council**

**21 February 2024**

<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) 2024/25 Budget & Medium Term Financial Plan 2024/25 to 2027/28**

**Recommended:**

That the Council:

- Approves the General Fund Budget for 2024/25 as detailed in Appendix A (section 8).
- Approves the revised Medium-Term Financial Plan (2024/25 to 2027/28) as detailed in Appendix A, including the revised Capital Programme (attached at Annex A).
- Approves the Capital Strategy 2024/25 as set out in Appendix B.
- Approves the proposed Fees and Charges for 2024/25 as detailed in Appendix C.
- Approves the proposed Procurement Forward Plan for 2024/25, providing the Authority to procure based on procurement activity detailed in Appendix D.
- Approves a Band D Council Tax of £217.68 for 2024/25 (an increase of £6.32 or 2.99% from 2023/24).
- HRA charges as follows:
  - All dwellings rents to increase by 7.7%, increasing the average rent from £77.78 to £84.09 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 8.01%)
- Garage rents to be increased by 5% from £8.26 to £8.68 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 2024/25 charge is based on the previous years usage and estimated costs, 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).

**b) Council Tax Second Home and Empty Property Premiums**

**Recommended:**

That Members note the content of the report and approve the following recommendations:

- Implement the premium of 100% for properties that have been empty for over one year (applied to properties over two years currently) from 1 April 2024.
- Implement the maximum premium of 100% for second homes from 1 April 2025 (this being the earliest that the new charge can apply, as legislation states that twelve months' notice is required to be given to existing owners of second homes).
- Where premiums are to be applied, the Council is mindful of the current consultation by government, which recommends exceptions in certain circumstances outlined within this report. Subject to the outcome of that consultation, it is recommended that the Section 151 Officer be given delegated powers to implement the Council's policy on premiums in line with statute, the Council's requirements and any guidance given by the Secretary of State.

**Empty Properties**

**Recommended:**

That Members to note the content of the report and approve the removal of the council tax discounts for empty/unfurnished and uninhabitable properties – with a review after 12 months.

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