

Shetland Islands Council – 22 February 2024
[Shetland Islands Council Committee Information - Meetings](#)

Item	Subject	Decision
1	Approval of the Band D Council Tax and Housing Rents and Charges for 2024/25	<p>The Council NOTED the advice received from the Executive Manager – Finance regarding setting Council Tax in advance of confirmation of the 2024/25 Revenue Budget, as set out in Section 4 of the report, and RESOLVED to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NOTE the terms of the Local Government Finance Settlement with regard to Council Tax • AGREE to freeze Council Tax rates for the forthcoming financial year at the current 2023/24 rates • ADOPT the formal resolution confirming the Band D Council Tax for the year beginning 1 April 2024 of £1,260.61 (Appendix 3) • INSTRUCT the Executive Manager – Finance to bring forward a report to a future meeting of the Council, seeking strategic direction on future Council Tax increases and allocations, as referred to in paragraph 2.6 • APPROVE an increase of 5% to housing rents and charges for both Housing Revenue Account and General Fund (Appendix 4) • Intimate to the Scottish Government that next year the Council Tax is set to rise by 7.5%
2	Council Tax – Second Homes and Long-Term Empty Properties	<p>The Council RESOLVED to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AGREE to increase the Council Tax charge for long-term empty properties to 125% from 1 April 2024 and thereafter increase it by 25% per annum up to 200%, with some of the funding being used to appoint an empty homes officer to assist the community to ready their homes for the market • AGREE to increase the Council Tax charge for second homes by 110% to 200% from 1 April 2024

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AGREE not to extend the statutory 6-month relief timescale for properties undergoing repairs or renovations as set out in Appendix 1.
3	Free School Meals and School Clothing Grant – Spring Holiday Payments 2024	<p>The Council APPROVED Free School Meal payments for the Spring Holiday period (from Friday 29 March to Friday 12 April 2024) to the following groups of pupils:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Primary and secondary aged pupils in receipt of locally extended Free School Meals • Early learning and childcare aged pupils, including eligible two year olds ('Eligible 2s') who are in receipt of Scottish Government Free School Meals or locally extended Free School Meals.
4	Asset Investment Plan - Business Cases	The Council RESOLVED to approve the proposals described in Section 4.0 of the report and included as appendices to the report, subject to affordability and the availability of funding being resolved as part of the budget setting process for 2024/25.
5	Notice of Motion – Israel/Palestine: Councillor Alex Armitage	The Council agreed to call for an immediate and permanent ceasefire by all parties in Israel/Palestine, for the immediate provision of all necessary humanitarian aid and the release of all hostages, and agreed to urge the UK government to use the power at its disposal to achieve these ends.

END