

COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of Council held in the Council Chamber, The Arc, Clowne on Wednesday 21st February at 1400 hours.

PRESENT:-

Members:-

Councillor T. Munro in the Chair

Councillors T. Alexander, P. Barnes, J.E. Bennett, R.J. Bowler, P.M. Bowmer, T. Cannon, J.A. Clifton, T.J. Connerton, M.G. Crane, M.J. Dooley, S.W. Fritchley, H.J. Gilmour, D. McGregor, C.R. Moesby, T. Munro, B.R. Murray- Carr, S. Peake, K. Reid, J.E. Smith, P. Smith, S.J. Statter, E. Stevenson, A.M. Syrett, R. Turner, K.F. Walker, B. Watson, D. Watson, J. Wilson

Officers also in attendance:-

D. Swaine (Chief Executive Officer), L. Hickin (Strategic Director), K. Hanson (Strategic Director), S. Sternberg (Assistant Director – Governance, Solicitor to the Council and Monitoring Officer), D. Clarke (Assistant Director – Finance and Revenues & Benefits) and Nicola Calver (Governance Manager)

0619. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors A. Anderson, G. Buxton, C.P. Cooper, P.A. Cooper, M. Dixey, A. Joesbury, J. Ritchie

0620. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No Declarations were made at the meeting.

0621. QUESTIONS BY THE PUBLIC

There were no questions from the public or Members at this meeting.

0622. REPORTS ON URGENCY DECISIONS TAKEN BY THE EXECUTIVE

There were no reports on key decisions taken under special urgency provisions or where key decisions were exempt from call-in.

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0623. MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 17 JANUARY 2018

Moved by Councillor B. Watson and seconded by Councillor D.S. Watson

RESOLVED that the Minute of the meeting of Council held on 17th January 2018 be agreed as a correct record.

0624. MINUTE BOOK

Moved by Councillor B. Watson and seconded by Councillor A.M. Syrett

RESOLVED – That the Minutes as printed in the minute book dated 21st February be noted.

0625. RECOMMENDED ITEMS

There were no recommended items considered at this meeting.

0626. MOTIONS ON NOTICE

Members gave consideration to a motion submitted by the Leader of the Council in regard to the acknowledgement of the Centenary of the Representation of the People's Act. The motion was put as follows:

That this Council resolves:

- (a) To note that this year marks the Centenary of Representation of the People Act 1918 on 6 February 1918, which, in granting (some) women the right to vote, was a significant step forward to universal suffrage and to achieving gender equality. The Act permitted many women to vote in local and national elections and to stand for election to Parliament for the first time.
- (b) That the Council mark this important event over the coming months with our partners.
- (c) To note that universal suffrage was finally achieved in July 1928, through the Representation of the People Act 1928.

Proposed by Councillor A. M. Syrett and seconded by Councillor M. Dooley

RESOLVED that –

- i) The motion be supported;
- ii) This event be marked over the coming months with the Council's partners;
and
- iii) The achievement of universal suffrage be noted.

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0627. MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL PLAN 2018/19 TO 2021/22

Council considered a report of the Leader and Portfolio Holder of Strategic Planning and Regeneration, which recommended the approval of the proposed budget for 2018/19 for the General Fund, Housing Revenue Account and Capital Programme as part of the Council's Medium Term Financial Plan covering the years 2018/19 to 2021/22.

The report confirmed the position previously reported to Members with regard to the estimated outturn for 2017/18, this being that the Council had achieved efficiencies of £950,000 which would be committed to reserves.

The report had also taken in to account the recent settlement figures and the introduction of the Business Rates Pilot for a one year period, following which, the Council would revert back to the previous funding regime where RSG would have been phased out.

In preparing the budgets, all known factors had been taken account of and included in assumptions. This included a 2% pay award for staff. Members queried the increase from 1% and it was confirmed that this was in line with best practice.

An amendment was proposed by Councillor A.M. Syrett, duly seconded by Councillor M. Dooley, for:

“A Council Tax increase of £4.97 to be levied in respect of a Notional Band D property (2.99%)”

On being put to the vote, the amendment was carried in line with the provisions set out in the Council's Constitution then a recorded vote was taken on the motion (where matters affecting the setting of the Council's budget or Council Tax are considered.)

For the motion – 27

(Councillors T. Alexander, P. Barnes, J.E. Bennet, R.J. Bowler, P.M. Bowler, T. Cannon, J.A. Clifton, T.J. Connerton, M.G. Crane, M. Dooley, S.W. Fritchley, H.J. Gilmour, D. McGregor, C. Moesby, T. Munro, B.R. Murray-Carr, S. Peake, J.E. Smith, P. Smith, S.J. Statter, E. Stevenson, A.M. Syrett, R. Turner, K.F. Walker, B. Watson, D. Watson, J. Wilson).

Against the motion – 0

Abstentions – 0

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Moved by Councillor A.M. Syrett and seconded by Councillor M. Dooley

RESOLVED that:

- i) It be accepted that in view of the Chief Financial Officer, that the estimates included in the Medium Term Financial Plan 2018/19 to 2021/22 are robust and that the level of financial reserves whilst at minimum levels are adequate;
- ii) Officers be requested to report back to Executive and the Audit Committee on a quarterly basis regarding the overall position in respect of the Council's budgets. These reports should include updates on achieving the savings and efficiencies necessary to secure a balanced budget for 2018/19 and future years;
- iii) a Council Tax increase of £4.97 is levied in respect of a notional Band D property (2.99%);
- iv) the Medium Term Financial Plan in respect of the General Fund as set out in Appendix 1 to the report be approved as the Estimated Outturn Budget 2017/18, as the Original Budget 2018/19, and as the financial projections in respect of 2019/20 to 2021/22;
- v) any under spend in respect of 2017/18 be transferred to the Transformation Reserve;
- vi) On the basis that income from Planning Fees is anticipated to exceed £0.500m in 2018/19, the Chief Executive in consultation with the Leader be granted delegated powers to authorise such additional resources as are necessary to effectively manage the resultant increase in workload;
- vii) Council sets its rent levels in line with Government regulations, reducing rent levels by a further 1% from 1 April 2018;
- viii) the increases in respect of all other charges be implemented in line with the table shown in table 1 in Appendix 3 from 1 April 2018;
- ix) the Medium Term Financial Plan in respect of the Housing Revenue Account as set out in Appendix 3 to the report be approved as the Estimated Outturn Budget in respect of 2017/18, as the Original Budget in respect of 2018/19, and the financial projection in respect of 2019/20 and 2021/22;
- x) the Capital Programme as set out in Appendix 4 to the report be approved as the Estimated Outturn in respect of 2017/18 and as the Approved Programme for 2018/19 to 2021/22; and

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- xi) the Head of Service - Property and Estates be granted delegated powers in consultation with the Portfolio Member with responsibility for Asset Management to approve utilisation of the £260,000 of AMP Refurbishment Allocation with such approvals to be reported back to Executive through the Quarterly Budget Monitoring Report.

0628. TREASURY MANAGEMENT STRATEGY

Council considered a report of Councillor A.M. Syrett, Leader of the Council, which provided the necessary information to approve the Council's Treasury Management Strategy 2018/19 to 2021/22.

It was advised that the Treasury Management Strategy was all but an appendix to the Medium Term Financial Plan and followed the requirements of the Prudential Code Framework. The key objectives of the Prudential Code are to ensure that:-

- The Capital investment plans of local authorities are affordable, prudent and at sustainable levels.
- To ensure and demonstrate that the local authority is aware of its financial position and therefore able to take corrective action should it be in danger of failing to ensure the above.
- To ensure that treasury management decisions are taken in accordance with good professional practice and in a manner that supports prudence, affordability and sustainability.

Moved by Councillor T. Munro, seconded by Councillor R. Turner

RESOLVED – That

- i) the Capital Financing Requirement as summarised in Table 2 of the report be approved;
- ii) the Borrowing Strategy as summarised in section 1.45 of the report be approved;
- iii) the Minimum Revenue Provision Policy for 2018/19 as set out in section 1.46 of the report be approved;
- iv) the Investment Strategy as set out in sections 1.52 to 1.75 of the report be approved;

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- v) the use of the external treasury management advisors Counterparty Weekly List – or similar be approved – to determine the latest assessment of the counterparties that meet the Council's criteria under section 1.52 to 1.75 of the report before any investment is undertaken; and
- vi) the Prudential Indicators for 2018/19 as detailed in Appendix 2 to the report be approved, in particular:-

| | |
|-------------------------------|--------------|
| Authorised Borrowing Limit | £131,805,000 |
| Operational Boundary | £126,805,000 |
| Capital Financing Requirement | £121,802,000 |

0629. EXCLUSIONS OF THE PUBLIC

RESOLVED - That the public be excluded from the meeting during the discussion of the following items of business to avoid the disclosure to them of exempt information as defined in Paragraphs 1, 3 and 4, Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972, (as amended by the Local Government (Access to Information) (Variation) Order 2006).

0630. STRATEGIC ALLIANCE MANAGEMENT TEAM REVIEW

Council considered a report of the Leader of the Council, which sought approval from Council for a proposed new structure for the Strategic Alliance Management Team (SAMT).

The report detailed the consultation period that took place during November 2017 which enabled early dialogue with the affected employees and their trade union representatives. The process had helped to identify potential options which had formed part of the formal 30 days consultation period.

A full consultation process had been undertaken, including meetings with the Executive and Scrutiny Chairs.

The proposed structure was designed to provide sufficient capacity to enable the Council to meet both its strategic objectives and service provision obligations, providing an efficiency saving of £140,000.

Paragraph 4.1 of the report set out the proposed structure which involved the slotting in of the six current post holders and a proposed recruitment process for the remaining positions.

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RESOLVED that:-

- i) the proposed new structure for the Strategic Alliance Management Team (SAMT) be approved;
- ii) the Joint Chief Executive be requested to report to Cabinet proposals for the recruitment of the two vacant roles within the structure, taking in to account previous practice for posts at that level; and
- iii) Six months from the two vacant posts within the new structure being filled, the Joint Chief Executive be requested to undertake a light touch review of the arrangements in order to measure effectiveness and a further more comprehensive assessment of the structure be undertaken after twelve months and the outcome of this be reported to Council in due course.

0631. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chairman advised that the Customer Service and Transformation Scrutiny Committee had circulated a survey to collect Members views on the Strategic Alliance. All Members were encouraged to submit a response.

The meeting concluded at 14:40 hours.
