

EXTRAORDINARY EXECUTIVE

Minutes of a meeting of an Extraordinary Executive of the Bolsover District Council held in the Council Chamber, The Arc, Clowne, on Monday 20th February 2017, at 1000 hours.

PRESENT:-

Members:- T. Connerton, M. Dooley, S. Fritchley, B.R. Murray-Carr, K. Reid and J. Ritchie.

Officers:- D. Swaine (Chief Executive Officer), B. Mason (Executive Director – Operations) (to Minute No. 0693), D. Clarke (Assistant Director – Finance, Revenues and Benefits) (to Minute No. 0693), S.E.A. Sternberg (Monitoring Officer) (to Minute No. 0693), P. Campbell (Assistant Director Housing and Community Safety) (to Minute No. 0693) and A. Bluff (Governance Officer).

Also sat in the public gallery where Councillors G. Buxton, T. Munro, B.R. Murray-Carr and D. McGregor.

Councillor A. M. Syrett in the Chair

0690. APOLOGIES

There were no apologies for absence.

0691. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest made.

0692. MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL PLAN 2017/18 to 2020/21

Executive considered a report of the Leader of the Council which proposed the budget in respect of 2017/18 as part of a consideration of the Council's Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP), covering the years 2017/18 to 2020/21.

The report presented the budgets and financial plans for the General Fund Revenue Account, Housing Revenue Account (HRA) and Capital Programme. These budgets were fully funded within the year and therefore met the Council's legal obligation to agree a balanced budget.

In addition to the consideration of the MTFP, Council would also be requested to consider the proposed Treasury Management Strategy, which linked the financial plans into the Borrowing and Investment Strategy. This helped to ensure that the Council's financial plans were affordable, prudent and sustainable.

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Whilst the report was predominantly concerned with financial issues, it needed to be recognised that the Council's financial plans were part of a wider service planning framework incorporating both service plans, together with the range of related Council strategies and policies. This framework helped to ensure that the available resources were targeted at securing agreed Council priorities.

2016/17 Estimated Outturn Position - this was the current year budget revised to reflect changes, which had taken place or, which it was anticipated would take place during the remainder of the current financial year. It therefore provided a more accurate indication of the likely outturn position than the original budget.

2017/18 Original Budget - this was the proposed budget for the next financial year, commencing 1st April 2017, which Council would consider for approval at its meeting on 20th February 2017.

2018/19 to 2020/21 Financial Plan - in accordance with good practice, the Council agreed its annual budgets within the context of a MTFP which set out financial projections in respect of the next four financial years. This approach provided the Council with a longer planning horizon over which to develop service plans and to ensure that its underlying level of expenditure remained in line with its underlying level of resources. Effective multi-year planning was particularly important given that central Government plans were based upon significant year-on-year expenditure reductions for local government.

Robustness of the Estimates - the Council's S151 Officer (the Executive Director Operations) was satisfied that the methodology adopted to calculate the estimates was robust and provided Members with reliable information on which to base their decisions. Likewise, the S151 Officer was satisfied that the proposed level of reserves were adequate to cover the issues and potential risks which faced the Council.

The recommendations in the report had also previously been considered by Audit Committee on 16th January 2017 and Budget Scrutiny Committee on 27th January 2017.

Moved by Councillor A.M. Syrett and seconded by Councillor S. Fritchley

RECOMMENDED that (1) Council approve;

a) the view of the Chief Financial Officer that the estimates included in the Medium Term Financial Plan 2016/17 to 2020/21 are robust and that the level of financial reserves whilst at minimum levels are adequate, be accepted,

b) officers report back to Executive and to the Audit Committee on a quarterly basis regarding the overall position in respect of the Council's budgets. These reports to include updates on progress in achieving the agreed range of savings and efficiencies necessary to secure a balanced budget for the 2017/18 financial year, together with progress on actions to ensure the longer term financial sustainability of the Council.

2) in addition to the above, the following specific recommendations be approved in respect of the main accounts of the Council;

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GENERAL FUND;

- a) a Council Tax increase of £4.97 in respect of a notional Band D property (3.08%) as part of a range of measures necessary to manage the continued reduction in the level of central government funding,
- b) the Medium Term Financial Plan in respect of the General Fund as set out in **Appendix 1** of the report be approved as the Estimated Outturn Budget in respect of 2016/17, as the Original Budget in respect of 2017/18, and the financial projection in respect of 2018/19 to 2020/21,
- c) officers continue to progress the implementation of measures designed to secure the forecast surplus in respect of 2016/17 together with the agreed savings targets in respect of 2017/18 with progress to be reported back to Executive, Budget Scrutiny Committee and Audit Committee on a quarterly basis,
- d) any under spend in respect 2016/17 be transferred to the Transformation Reserve,
- e) in the light of the financial pressures facing the Council, the grant subsidy in respect of the Local Council Tax scheme be reduced on an annual basis with 2020/21 being the final year of payment,
- f) on the basis that income from Planning Fees is anticipated to exceed £400k the Chief Executive Officer, 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,
- g) a further report be presented to Executive to update the Council's Efficiency Plan in line with the revised financial projections as set out within the report and to provide further details concerning measures to secure the required level of savings over the period of the current MTFP.

HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT;

- a) rent levels be set in line with Government regulations reducing rent levels by an amount of 1% to apply from 1st April 2017,
- b) the increases in respect of other charges as outlined in **Appendix 2 Table 2** of the report be implemented with effect from 1st April 2017,
- c) the Medium Term Financial Plan in respect of the Housing Revenue Account as set out in **Appendix 2 Table 1** of the report be approved as the Estimated Outturn Budget in respect of 2016/17, as the Original Budget in respect of 2017/18, and the financial projection in respect of 2018/19 and 2020/21.

CAPITAL PROGRAMME;

- a) the Capital Programme as set out in **Appendix 3 Table 1** of the report be approved as the Estimated Outturn in respect of 2016/17, and as the Approved Programme in respect of 2017/18 to 2020/21,

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b) the Assistant Director - Property and Estates be granted delegated powers in consultation with the Portfolio Member and the Asset Management group to approve the utilisation of the £260,000 of AMP Refurbishment allocation, which such approvals to be reported back to Executive through the Quarterly Budget Monitoring Report,

c) the inclusion of an additional phase of the B@Homes programme of 22 new Council Homes at Pinxton and South Normanton at a total cost of £3.363m, be approved,

d) the Asset Management Group be requested to continue its work of identifying suitable assets for disposal or redevelopment in order to fund the Council's Capital Programme, reduce revenue costs and support the wider regeneration of the District.

REASON FOR DECISION: To meet the Council's legal obligation to achieve a balanced budget.

OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED: As set out in the report.

The Executive Director – Operations, the Assistant Director – Finance, Revenues and Benefits, the Monitoring Officer and the Assistant Director Housing and Community Safety left the meeting.

0693. THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION) ACT 1985

Moved by Councillor J. Ritchie and seconded by Councillor K. Reid

RESOLVED that under Section 100(A)(4) of the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended), the public be excluded from the meeting for the following item of business on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in the stated Paragraph of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Act and it is not in the public interest for that to be revealed.

0694. STRATEGIC ALLIANCE – SENIOR MANAGEMENT TEAM REVIEW - PROPOSALS PARAGRAPHS 1, 3 AND 4

Executive considered a report of the Portfolio Holder for Corporate Services which sought approval to engage specialist external support to the Chief Executive Officer to undertake a full review of the current Strategic Alliance Management Team (SAMT). Full details were included in the report.

Moved by Councillor K. Reid and seconded by Councillor S. Fritchley

RESOLVED that Executive agrees the recommendations as outlined in the report.

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REASON FOR DECISION: These were outlined in paragraphs 2.1, 2.2 and 2.3 of the report.

OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED: The options for Executive's consideration were detailed in paragraph 4.1 of the report. There were no alternative options considered and rejected.

(Chief Executive Officer)

0695. STRATEGIC ALLIANCE – SENIOR MANAGEMENT TEAM REVIEW – EARLY VOLUNTARY RELEASE REQUEST PARAGRAPHS 1, 3 AND 4

Executive considered a report of the Portfolio Holder for Corporate Services which sought approval for an early voluntary release request (redundancy only) for a Joint Assistant Director of the Senior Management team. Full details were included in the report.

Moved by Councillor A. M. Syrett and seconded by Councillor T. Connerton
RESOLVED that Executive agrees the recommendations as outlined in the report.

REASON FOR DECISION: These were outlined in paragraphs 2.1 and 2.2 of the report.

OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED: The options for Executive's consideration were detailed in paragraph 4.1 of the report. There were no alternative options considered and rejected.

(Chief Executive Officer)

The meeting concluded at 1025 hours.