

EXECUTIVE

Minutes of a meeting of the Executive of the Bolsover District Council held in the Council Chamber, The Arc, Clowne on Monday 19th February 2018 at 1000 hours.

PRESENT:-

Members:-

Councillor A.M. Syrett in the Chair

Councillors S.W. Fritchley, B.R. Murray-Carr, M.J. Ritchie and B. Watson.

Officers:-

D. Swaine (Chief Executive Officer), K. Hanson (Strategic Director), L. Hickin (Strategic Director), S.E.A. Sternberg (Assistant Director – Governance, Solicitor to the Council and Monitoring Officer) (until Minute No. 0617), D. Clarke (Assistant Director – Finance and Revenues & Benefits) (until Minute No. 0617), G. Galloway (Assistant Director – Property and Estates) (until Minute No. 0617), P. Campbell (Assistant Director – Community Safety and Head of Housing (BDC)) (until Minute No. 0615), A. Brownsword (Senior Governance Officer) and L. Robinson (Finance Assistant) (until Minute No. 0617).

0608. APOLOGIES

An apology for absence was received from Councillor M. Dooley.

0609. URGENT ITEMS OF BUSINESS

There were no urgent items of business.

0610. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

0611. MINUTES – 15TH JANUARY 2018

Moved by Councillor S.W. Fritchley and seconded by Councillor B.R. Murray-Carr **RESOLVED** that the minutes of a meeting of the Executive held on 15th January 2018 be approved as a true and correct record.

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0612. ITEMS RECOMMENDED BY SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

There were no items recommended by Scrutiny Committee.

0613. POLICY AND BUDGET FRAMEWORK ITEMS

There were no Policy and Budget Framework Items.

0614. NON KEY DECISION LOCAL PLAN UPDATE REPORT

The Chief Executive Officer presented the report which updated the Executive on progress with the Local Plan and the issue of potential intervention.

The report noted that a response had been sent to the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) by the deadline of 31st January 2018. A reply from the MHCLG was awaited.

At its meeting on 7th February 2018, the Planning Committee had approved a revised Local Development Scheme (LDS) for a two week consultation, prior to publication. A visit to the Planning Inspectorate had also been undertaken and advice had been received regarding ensuring full consideration of the Sustainability Appraisal (SA) and taking legal advice regarding that SA, possible Green Belt issues and the Duty to Cooperate.

Members agreed with the revised LDS and a discussion took place regarding the need to ensure that the department was properly resourced in order to ensure that there was no slippage. The Chief Executive Officer noted that external support would be made available if Members felt there was a need.

Moved by Councillor A.M. Syrett and seconded by Councillor M.J. Ritchie.

RESOLVED that the Executive note that (1) a submission has been made to the Secretary of State setting out the Council's case for not being considered a Council suitable for Intervention,

(2) work has been completed in developing a new LDS and a robust project plan incorporating the advice of PINS and the MHCLG, which balances the need for a sound Plan against how quickly it can be brought forward,

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(3) the revised LDS was agreed by the Local Plan Steering Group on 1 February 2018 and reported to the Planning Committee on 7 February 2018, to be publicised for a period of two weeks prior to formal adoption,

(4) work has already been completed in relation to the Sustainability Appraisal and the taking of Counsel advice in relation to the development of the Plan.

REASON FOR DECISION: This report is an updating report and there is currently no action required in order for the Local Plan to continue to develop as intended

OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED: The purpose of this report is to provide a progress update on the Local Plan and no alternative options have been considered. However it is important to note that alternative options have been considered as part of the preparation of the Local Plan and these are documented through the Sustainability Appraisal that has been prepared alongside the Plan and within the various committee papers approving the content of the Plan.

(Interim Planning Policy Manager)

0615. KEY DECISION MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL PLAN 2018/19 TO 2021/22

The Executive considered a report of the Leader of the Council which proposed the budget in respect of 2018/19 as part of a consideration of the Council's Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP), covering the years 2018/19 to 2021/22.

The report presented the budgets and financial plans for the General Fund Revenue Account, Housing Revenue Account (HRA) and Capital Programme. The Council was on track to maintain a surplus of £950,000 and had been accepted as part of the 100% Business Rate Retention pilot.

A discussion took place regarding the level of Council Tax proposed for 2018/19 and the impact on households within the District. It was noted that the Council received only a small amount of the total Council Tax collected.

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

RECOMMENDED to Council that (1) the 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, be accepted,

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(2) 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 achieving the savings and efficiencies necessary to secure a balanced budget for 2019/20 and future years,

General Fund

(3) a Council Tax increase of £2.49 is levied in respect of a notional Band D property (1.50%),

(4) 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 2017/18, as the Original Budget in respect of 2018/19, and the financial projection in respect of 2019/20 to 2021/22,

(5) that any under spend in respect of 2017/18 is transferred to the Transformation Reserve,

(6) 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,

Housing Revenue Account

(7) that Council sets its rent levels in line with Government regulations, reducing rent levels by 1% to apply from 1st April 2018,

(8) that the increases in respect of other charges as outlined in **Appendix 3 Table 1** of the report be implemented with effect from 1 April 2018,

(9) the Medium Term Financial Plan in respect of the Housing Revenue Account as set out in **Appendix 3** of 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,

Capital Programme

(10) that the Capital Programme as set out in **Appendix 4** of the report be approved as the Estimated Outturn in respect of 2017/18, and as the Approved Programme for 2018/19 to 2021/22,

(11) The Assistant Director - Property and Estates be granted delegated powers in consultation with the Portfolio Holder and the

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Asset Management Group to approve the utilisation of the £260,000 of AMP Refurbishment allocation, with such approvals to be reported back to Executive through the Quarterly Budget Monitoring Report.

REASON FOR DECISION: This report presents a budget for consideration by Executive. It seeks to ensure approval to budgets in respect of the General Fund, the Housing Revenue Account and the Capital Programme

OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED: Council Tax increases indicated below were also considered

Increase	Band D £	Annual Increase £	Weekly Increase £	Change £
1%	167.86	1.66	0.03	35,688.75
2%	169.52	3.32	0.06	71,377.74
2.99%	171.17	4.97	0.10	106,709.84
£5	171.20	5.00	0.10	107,367.36

(Assistant Director – Finance and Revenues & Benefits)

The Assistant Director – Community Safety and Head of Housing (BDC) left the meeting.

0616. THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION) ACT 1985

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

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.

0617. KEY DECISION CONSIDERATION OF LAND SALE IN GLAPWELL EXEMPT – PARAGRAPH 3

The Assistant Director – Property and Estates presented the report which detailed an approach from a local developer to purchase a strip of land currently owned by the Council at Park Avenue, Glapwell.

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The Assistant Director – Governance, Solicitor to the Council and Monitoring Officer, the Assistant Director – Finance and Revenues & Benefits and the Assistant Director – Property and Estates left the meeting.

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

RESOLVED that (1) the Council does not proceed with the sale of Council land at Glapwell for the reasons outlined within the report at this time,

REASON FOR DECISION: (1) In accordance with the Council's Disposal and Acquisitions Policy, full and open consideration has been given to the request to sell the Council land at Park Avenue in Glapwell. This has included a valuation of the land and consideration of the Council's position in relation to strategic asset management and the development of the Local Plan

(2) Due to the fact that the land is not included within the current and proposed future Local Plan allocation for the area, the recommendation of this report is not to proceed with the sale of Council land at Park Avenue, Glapwell.

OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED: The alternative option would be to agree to the sale of the strip of land outlined in red, however, due to the reasons provided within the report, this is not considered to be a recommended option

0618. NON KEY DECISION STRATEGIC ALLIANCE MANAGEMENT TEAM REVIEW EXEMPT – PARAGRAPHS 1, 3 AND 4

The Chief Executive Officer presented the report which detailed a proposed new structure for the Strategic Alliance Management Team and sought referral to the Council for approval.

Moved by Councillor S.W. Fritchley and seconded by Councillor B.R. Murray-Carr

RECOMMENDED that (1) Executive recommend the proposed new structure for the Strategic Alliance Management Team (SAMT) to Council for approval,

RESOLVED that (2) Executive request that the Joint Chief Executive report to the Executive proposals for the recruitment to the two vacant roles within the structure taking into account previous practice for posts at that level

REASON FOR DECISION: (1) As the report sets out, the proposed structure is designed to provide capacity to enable the Council to meet strategic objectives, deliver sustainable transformation and maintain high quality service delivery. By aligning within an appropriate directorate it aims to enhance how services work together, it also

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aims to build capacity below the Joint Chief Executive and Joint Strategic Director levels

(2) The new roles also provide opportunities for all existing post holders at that level by way of slotting in. This will assist further in the delivery of the collective responsibilities and further development of leadership behaviours.

OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED: (1) During the 30 day consultation period, the Joint Chief Executive Officer received 15 responses to his proposals. They came from individual Joint Assistant Directors, Trade Union colleagues, Elected Members and employees affected by the proposals but not directly in scope. Responses covered all aspects including structural, portfolios, post titles and number of Direct Reports as well as procedural. They were all carefully considered during the collation of feedback in January 2018. The proposed structure was arrived at by taking the feedback into consideration. However not every counter proposal was accepted as:

- Some options would have been more expensive than the current cost envelope
- Some options did not offer enough capacity within the structure
- Some options offered little change
- Some options reduced the ability to ensure services were more aligned to Council priorities
- Some options reduced the ability to improve the delivery of corporate priorities and enhanced service delivery
- Some options did not provide a cohesive alignment of portfolios

(2) The option of doing nothing was also considered during the review and rejected given the current challenges facing the Council and the need to better align the management structure to support strategic priorities, transformation and service delivery.

The meeting concluded at 1100 hours.