

CABINET
1st February, 2006

PRESENT - Councillor Williams (in the Chair); Councillors Bristow, Dixon, Harker, D.A. Lyonette, McEwan, Thistlethwaite and L. Vasey. (8)

APOLOGIES – Councillor Wallis.

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE – Councillors Francis, Johnson and Richmond. (3)

C144. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS – That in respect of Minute C145(1) below, Councillor D. A. Lyonette declared a personal but non-prejudicial interest in the Concessionary Fares and Leisuresaver elements of that report and in respect of Minute C145(3) the Chair, Councillor Williams, declared a personal but non-prejudicial interest as he had a relative in one of the properties detailed within the report.

C145. KEY DECISIONS – (1) Medium Term Financial Plan 2006/07 – Review – The Corporate Management Team submitted a report (previously circulated) outlining the review of the Council's Revenue Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP) in light of changes since its approval in March 2005, and requesting that consideration be given to the approval of the detailed budget for 2006/07 (also previously circulated), together with the Council Tax level for 2006/07.

A copy of the Medium Term Financial as approved by Council in March 2005; the budget monitoring report for November 2005; a draft Reserves Policy; detailed reports from each Department; value for money service assessments; and revised departmental estimates 2006/07, were all appended to the submitted report.

RESOLVED - That the following proposals of Cabinet be forwarded to the Resources Scrutiny Committee, and its views and comments be reported back to a special meeting of Cabinet scheduled for Wednesday, 1st March, 2006 :-

- (a) That an earmarked reserve for Single Status costs be established and £2.5m be set aside for backdated costs in 2005/06.
- (b) That £0.8m from the Private Finance Initiative Reserve and £1m from the Insurance Reserve, be utilised.
- (c) That the Reserves Policy, as detailed in Appendix 3, be approved.
- (d) That the Director's proposals in the reports, attached at Appendices 4 to 8 of the submitted report, including carry forward of resources from 2005/06, expenditure reductions and fees and charges, be approved.
- (e) That additional resources be allocated for:-
 - (i) Concessionary Fares, £1,068,000; and

(ii) Service Planning initiatives, £426,000 in 2006/07 and varying amounts in future years.

(f) That the revised Medium Term Financial Plan, as set out in Appendix 11 of the submitted report, be approved.

(g) That the Council Tax be increased by 4.8 per cent for 2006/07.

REASON - (a) To enable the Council to set a budget and Council Tax for 2006/07.

(b) To enable the Council to determine its financial strategy for the medium term with due regard to other strategies and plans.

(2) Capital Medium Term Financial Plan 2006/07 to 2009/10 - The Corporate Management Team submitted a report (previously circulated) informing Members of the Annual Capital Settlement and requesting that consideration be given to its proposals for the Capital Programme 2006/07 to 2009/10 (also previously circulated).

Details of capital resources available to the Council over the duration of the Capital Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP) 2006/07 to 2009/10; allocation of earmarked capital funding which were to be passported to services in line with previous practice and government guidelines; a schedule of bids received from Departments; a schedule of schemes proposed by the Corporate Management Team to proceed; and the detailed bids, were appended to the submitted report.

RESOLVED - That the following proposals of Cabinet be forwarded to the Resources Scrutiny Committee and its views and comments be reported back to the special meeting of Cabinet scheduled for Wednesday, 1st March, 2006 :-

(a) That the allocation of Supported Capital Expenditure, as identified in Tables 1 and 2 of the submitted report, be agreed.

(b) That the Capital spending plans 2006/07 to 2009/10, as detailed in Appendix 2 of the submitted report, be agreed.

(c) That the capital priorities as submitted by Corporate Management Team totalling £1.54m, as detailed in Appendix 4 of the submitted report, be agreed.

REASON - To approve the allocation of capital resources to specific programmes.

(3) HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT - REVENUE BUDGET 2006/07 - The Director of Community Services submitted a report (previously circulated) reviewing the draft revenue budget, rent levels and service charges for the Council's Housing Revenue Account (HRA) for the financial year 2006/07 (also previously circulated).

The Housing Revenue Account 2006/07 and examples of proposed weekly rent increases, were appended to the submitted report.

RESOLVED - That it be recommended to Council that :-

- (a) the implementation of rent restructuring and formula rents be continued;
- (b) an average weekly rent increase of 4.78% (£2.20) be implemented in line with the Government rent re-structuring model;
- (c) service charges for Extra Care and Sheltered Housing Schemes be increased as shown in Table 3 of the submitted report; and
- (d) garage rents and service charges be increased, as detailed in Table 4 of the submitted report.

REASONS - (a) To enable the Council to deliver an appropriate level of service to Housing tenants.

(b) To reflect changing circumstances and conditions in the housing market.

(4) Prudential Indicators and Treasury Management Strategy 2006/07 - The Director of Corporate Services submitted a report (previously circulated) requesting that consideration be given to reviewing and adopting the Prudential Indicators and limits and approving the Treasury Management Strategy for 2006/07.

RESOLVED - That the following proposals of Cabinet be forwarded to the Resources Scrutiny Committee and its views and comments be reported back to the special meeting of Cabinet scheduled for Wednesday, 1st March, 2006 :-

- (a) That the the prudential indicators and limits for 2006/07 to 2008/09, as contained within Tables 3 to 10 of the submitted report, be adopted.
- (b) That the Treasury Management Strategy 2006/07, as contained within paragraphs 32 to 54 and the treasury prudential indicators contained within Table 12, of the submitted report, be approved
- (c) That the Investment Strategy 2006/07, as contained within the Treasury Management Strategy, and the detailed criteria included in Appendix 2, of the submitted report, specifically the criteria for specified investments and the criteria for non-specified investments, be approved.

REASON - (a) In order to comply with the Prudential Code for Capital Finance in Local Authorities and ODPM guidance on investments.

(b) To comply with the requirements of the Local Government Act 2003.

(c) To approve a framework for Officers to work within when making investment decisions.

C146. EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC - RESOLVED - That, pursuant to Sections 100A(4) and (5) of the Local Government Act 1972, the public be excluded from the meeting during the consideration of the ensuing item on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in exclusion paragraphs 7 and 9 of Part I of Schedule 12A to the Act.

C147. KEY DECISION - CAPITAL MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL PLAN 2006/07 - 2009/10 (EXCLUSION NOS. 7 AND 9) - Pursuant to Minute C145(2) above, the Corporate Management Team submitted a report (previously circulated) requesting that consideration be given to the asset disposal information as part of the Capital Medium Term Financial Plan 2006/07 to 2009/10.

RESOLVED - That the following proposal of Cabinet be forwarded to the Resources Scrutiny Committee and its views and comments be reported back to the special meeting of Cabinet scheduled for Wednesday, 1st March, 2006:-

That the asset disposals programme, as detailed in the appendix in the submitted report, be approved.

REASON - To help fund the Council's Capital Medium Term Financial Plan 2006/07 to 2009/10.

**DECISIONS DATED –
THURSDAY, 2ND FEBRUARY, 2006**