

CABINET
30th January, 2007

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

APOLOGIES – Councillor Williams.

C131. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS – There were no declarations of interest reported at the meeting.

C132. KEY DECISIONS – (1) Medium Term Financial Plan 2007/08 – 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 2006, and requesting that consideration be given to the approval of the detailed budget for 2007/08 (also previously circulated), together with the Council Tax level for 2007/08.

A copy of the Medium Term Financial as approved by Council in March 2006; the budget monitoring report for November 2006; detailed reports from each Department; value for money service assessments; and revised departmental estimates 2007/08, 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, 28th February, 2007 :-

- (a) That the Director's proposals, as detailed in the reports attached at Appendices 3 to 7 to the submitted report, including carry-forward of resources from 2006/07, expenditure reductions and fees and charges, be approved.
- (b) That the Medium Term Financial Strategy, as detailed in Appendix 10 to the submitted report, be approved.
- (c) That the revised Medium Term Financial Plan, as detailed in Appendix 11 to the submitted report, be approved.
- (d) That the Council Tax be increased by 3.9 per cent for 2007/08.

REASON - (a) To enable the Council to set a budget and Council Tax for 2007/08.

(b) To approve the Medium Term Financial Plan Strategy.

(2) Capital Medium Term Financial Plan 2007/08 to 2010/11 - 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 2007/08 to 2010/11 (also previously circulated).

Details of capital resources available to the Council over the duration of the Capital Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP) 2007/08 to 2010/11; capital spending plans for 2007/08 to 2010/11; and a schedule of bids received from departments, 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, 28th February, 2007 :-

- (a) That the allocation of up to £1m for Equal Pay claims in 2006/07, as outlined in paragraph 5 of the submitted report, be agreed.
- (b) That the allocation of Supported Capital Expenditure, as identified in paragraphs 6 to 12 of the submitted report, be agreed.
- (c) That the Capital spending plans 2007/08 to 2010/11, as detailed in Appendix 2 to the submitted report, be agreed.
- (d) That the capital priorities, as submitted by the Corporate Management Team, totalling £0.57m, as detailed in paragraph 24 of the submitted report, be agreed.

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

(3) HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT - REVENUE BUDGET 2007/08 - 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 2007/08 (also previously circulated).

The Housing Revenue Account 2007/08 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 5 per cent (£2.43) be implemented in line with the Government rent re-structuring model;
 - (c) the Ground Maintenance and Building Cleaning service charges for Extra Care and Sheltered Housing Schemes, be increased, as shown in Table 3 of the submitted report;
 - (d) all other service charges, with the exception of resident warden charges and garage rents, be increased, as detailed in Appendix 4 to the submitted report;
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- (e) Resident Warden Charges be increased to £8.51 per week, in accordance with Option (iv) at Paragraph 8 of the submitted report;
- (f) garage rents be increased to £5.43 per week, in accordance with Option (iv) at Paragraph 13, of the submitted report, and
- (g) the budget, as detailed in Appendix 1 of the submitted report, be approved.

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 2007/08 - 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 2007/08.

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, 28th February, 2007 :-

- (a) That the prudential indicators and limits for 2007/08 to 2009/10, as contained within Tables 3 to 10 of the submitted report, be adopted.
- (b) That the Treasury Management Strategy 2007/08, as contained within paragraphs 33 to 57 and the treasury prudential indicators contained within Table 12, of the submitted report, be approved
- (c) That the Investment Strategy 2007/08, as contained within the Treasury Management Strategy, and the detailed criteria included in Appendix 2 to 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.

C133. 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 paragraph 3 of Part I of Schedule 12A to the Act.

C134. KEY DECISION - CAPITAL MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL PLAN 2007/08 to 2010/11 (EXCLUSION NOS. 7 AND 9) - Pursuant to Minute C132(2) above, the Corporate Management Team submitted a report (previously circulated) requesting that consideration be given to the asset disposal programme (also previously circulated), as part of the Capital Medium Term Financial Plan 2007/08 to 2010/11.

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, 28th February, 2007:-

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 2007/08 to 2010/11.

**DECISIONS DATED –
1ST FEBRUARY, 2007**
