

**DECISIONS SHOULD NOT BE IMPLEMENTED
BEFORE MONDAY, 31ST JANUARY, 2011**

CABINET

18th January, 2011

PRESENT - Councillor Williams (in the Chair); Councillors Copeland, Dixon, Harker, Hughes, McEwan, D.A. Lyonette, A.J. Scott and Wallis. (9)

INVITEES – Councillors Curry, Haszeldine and Mrs. H. Scott. (3)

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE – Councillors Coultas, Dunstone, Francis, Galletley, B. Jones, D. Jones, Johnson, Lee, Lewis, Long, Richmond, Ruck and Walker. (13)

APOLOGIES – Councillors Mrs. H. Scott and Swainston. (2)

C128. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST – No declarations of interest were reported at the meeting.

C129. REPRESENTATIONS – In respect of Minute C130(1) below, representations were made, by Members, members of the public, union representatives and officers, in attendance at the meeting.

C130. KEY DECISIONS – (1) Draft Medium Term Financial Plan – The Leader introduced the report of the Corporate Management Team (previously circulated) presenting a detailed Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP) (also previously circulated), as a basis for consultation in light of the feedback received on initial proposals released in November 2010 and the Local Government Settlement received in December 2010.

A Member of the public addressed Cabinet seeking clarification as to the actual percentage of cuts facing this Council and to the effect that those cuts would have on services which this Council provided. Particular reference was made to the loss of the subsidy to bus services and the effect that would have on those members of the public who used that service.

Union representatives and officers in attendance at the meeting, addressed Cabinet in respect of a number of proposals contained within the MTFP including the loss of front line officers from the Trading Standards Section and to the restructure of that Section; the scale of the grant reduction, and the need for a clear understanding of what that reduction was; the proposed Council Tax freeze; concerns in respect of the Connexions Service; the current ballot on terms and conditions; the opposition to local pay bargaining; and the effect the proposed changes in terms and conditions would have on the lower paid employees of the Council. In addressing Cabinet particular reference was made to the poor morale of staff.

A Member in attendance at the meeting addressed Cabinet in respect of two issues contained within the MTFP which he felt would particularly impact on the rural areas of the Borough, namely:- the reduction in grass cutting and the proposal to charge for Parish Council Elections, and the resultant perceived inequalities with the urban areas of the Borough.

The Leader, the Cabinet Member with the Efficiency and Resources Portfolio, the Director of Resources, the Director of Place and the Assistant Director Resources, responded thereon to the issues raised.

RESOLVED – (a) That the draft Revenue Medium Term Financial Plan, as appended to the submitted report, be approved for consultation, which included:-

- (i) the establishment of a redundancy and decommissioning reserve of £5.240m;
- (ii) the capitalisation order for redundancies being utilised to fund redundancies;
- (iii) all available capital receipts being utilised to fund redundancy costs and repay debt;
- (iv) a zero Council tax increase for 2011/12 with the following potential increases being included in the MTFP for future years :-

2012/13	3 per cent;
2013/14	3 per cent; and
2014/15	3 per cent; and
- (v) budget reduction proposals, as detailed in Table 2 (page 16) and Appendix 8, of the submitted report.

(b) That the draft Capital Medium Term Financial Plan, as appended to the submitted report, be approved for consultation.

(c) That, following consultation a report be presented to Cabinet at its meeting scheduled to be held on Tuesday, 22nd February, 2011 to enable Cabinet to finalise the Medium Term Financial Plan and propose it to Council, at its meeting scheduled to be held on Thursday, 3rd March 2011.

REASONS – (a) To approve a draft Medium Term Financial Plan for consultation.

(b) To meet the statutory timetable for setting the 2011/12 budget.

(2) Civic Theatre – The Cabinet Member with the Health and Leisure Portfolio introduced the report of the Director of Place (previously circulated) presenting to Members options for removing the subsidy from the Civic Theatre

RESOLVED – (a) That officers proceed with Option 2, to market the theatre as a going concern.

(b) That the outcome of the marketing exercise be reported back to a future meeting of Cabinet scheduled to be held in September, 2011.

(c) That due to contractual commitments, the theatre remain open until the end of January 2012.

REASON – To enable the Civic Theatre the best opportunity to continue as a going concern whilst minimising the Council’s liability for contractual commitments.

DECISIONS DATED - FRIDAY, 21ST JANUARY, 2011