

CABINET

18 February 2014

PRESENT - Councillor Dixon (in the Chair); Councillors Copeland, Harker, C L B Hughes, D A Lyonette, McEwan and A J Scott. (7)

APLOGIES – Councillor Wallis.

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

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE – The Mayor; Councillors Long and Macnab. (3)

C116 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST – There were no declarations of interest reported at the meeting.

C117. REPRESENTATIONS – No representations were made by Members or members of the public in attendance at the meeting.

C118. MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL PLAN 2014/15 TO 2019/20 - The Leader introduced the report of the Chief Officers Executive (previously circulated) proposing a Revenue Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP) for 2014/15 to 2019/20 (also previously circulated), including the setting of a budget for 2014/15.

The submitted report stated that the Council had been proactive and successful in adapting to an environment of significant service pressure and resource reductions; the majority of spending reductions to date had been achieved without direct impact on the public, although it was regrettable a significant number of jobs had been lost in the process; and that the Council's approach to achieving those spending reductions, had been commended within the recent Corporate Peer Challenge.

Particular reference was made to the three key areas that offer the best prospects for the Council being in a position to continue to serve the public well into the long term and to reduce spending by £13.752, namely building strong communities, spending every public service pound well and growing our economy.

RESOLVED – That the proposed Revenue Medium Term Financial Plan, as summarised in Appendix 9 attached to the submitted report, be recommended to Council for approval at its meeting scheduled to be held on 27 February 2014 including:-

- (a) a 1.94% Council Tax increase for 2014/15 and subsequent years;
- (b) the schedule of charges, as set out in Appendix 3 attached to the submitted report;
- (c) spending reduction proposals and plans totalling £13.752m by 2016/17;

- (d) the use of £8.550m of revenue balances to fund revenue expenditure;
- (e) additional resources for shopmobility services of £3,000 and £16,000 in 2014/15 and 2015/16 respectively; and
- (f) additional resources of between £46,000 and £70,000 for paying a supplement up to Scale Point 10 for employees earning below that threshold.

REASONS - (a) To propose a Medium Term Financial Plan for consideration by Council.

(b) To meet the statutory timetable for setting the 2014/15 budget and the Council Tax.

C119. CAPITAL PROGRAMME - The Cabinet Member with the Efficiency and Resources Portfolio introduced the report of the Director of Neighbourhood Services and Resources (previously circulated) requesting that consideration be given to the 2014/15 Capital Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP) 2014/15 to 2017/18 (also previously circulated).

The submitted report stated that capital expenditure was significant 'one-off' expenditure used to purchase or improve assets to enable the Council to deliver its priorities; the majority of the funding for capital expenditure for Schools and Transport was received from government grants and for housing improvements from the Housing Revenue Account (HRA); the allocation of spending on those three priority areas was subject to on-going programmes and agreed outcome; the Council could supplement Government Capital funding from its own resources such as capital receipts and borrowing; and that there was a need to maintain the many buildings and assets which the Council owned and provision for this needed to be made within the Council's overall financial strategy.

RESOLVED - That the proposed Capital Medium Term Financial Plan 2014/15 to 2017/18, as appended at to the submitted report, be recommended to Council for approval at its meeting scheduled to be held on 27 February 2014.

REASON - To provide funding for capital schemes.

C120. HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT - MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL PLAN 2014/15 TO 2018/19 - The Cabinet Member with the Adult Social Care and Housing Portfolio introduced the report of the Director of Neighbourhood Services and Resources (previously circulated) requesting that consideration be given to proposals for the revenue budget, rent levels and service charges for the Council's Housing Revenue Account (HRA) for the financial year 2014/15, in the context of the HRA Medium Term Financial Plan to 2018/19 and 30 year business plan.

RESOLVED - That it be recommended to Council, at its meeting scheduled to be held on 27 February 2014, that:-

- (a) an average weekly rent increase for 2014/15 of 4.89% (£3.29) be implemented;
- (b) garage rents and service charges be increased, as shown in Table 3 of the submitted report;

- (c) the budget, attached at Appendix 1 to the submitted report, be approved;
- (d) the Housing Business Plan, attached at Appendix 2 to the submitted report, be agreed; and
- (e) that the Director of Neighbourhood Services and Resources be given delegated authority, in consultation with the Cabinet Members with the Adult Social Care and Housing and Efficiency and Resources Portfolios, to submit a bid through the Local Enterprise Partnerships (LEP) to remove the Housing Revenue Account Borrowing Limit.

REASONS - To enable the Council to deliver an appropriate level of service to tenants to meet housing need and to support the economic growth of the Borough through housing development.

C121. PRUDENTIAL INDICATORS AND TREASURY MANAGEMENT STRATEGY REPORT 2014/15 - The Cabinet Member with the Efficiency and Resources Portfolio introduced the report of the Director of Neighbourhood Services and Resources (previously circulated) requesting that consideration be given to adopting the Prudential Indicators and Limits for 2014/15 to 2016/17 relating to capital expenditure and treasury management activities; a policy statement relating to Minimum Revenue Provision; and the Treasury Management Strategy 2014/15, which includes the Investment Strategy for 2014/15.

RESOLVED – That it be recommended to Council, at its meeting scheduled to be held on 27 February, 2014, that:-

- (a) the Prudential Indicators and limits for 2014/15 to 2016/17, as summarised in Tables 1 and 2 of the submitted report, be approved;
- (b) the Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP) statement contained within paragraph 26 of the submitted report, be approved;
- (c) the Treasury Management Strategy 2014/15 to 2016/17, as summarised in paragraphs 34 to 53 of the submitted report, be approved; and
- (d) the Annual Investment Strategy 2014/15 contained in paragraphs 54 to 90 of the submitted report, be approved.

REASONS - (a) In order to comply with the Prudential Code for Capital Finance in Local Authorities and the Department for Communities and Local Government (CLG) 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.

C122. SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY STRATEGY - The Leader introduced the report of the Chief Executive (previously circulated) requesting that consideration be given to a

proposed vision for the Council, and for the vision to be used as the basis for a revised Sustainable Community Strategy.

Discussion ensued on the process for consideration of the Sustainable Community Strategy.

RESOLVED - That the updated vision, as appended to the submitted report, be recommend to Council for approval.

REASONS - (a) To ensure that the Council's vision is articulated and explained.

(b) To approve the vision statement and MTFP at the same time to ensure that one informs the other.

**DECISIONS DATED –
FRIDAY 21 FEBRUARY 2014**