

CABINET

17th February, 2009

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

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

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE – Councillors Coultas, Dunstone, Johnson, B. Jones, Lee, Lewis, Long, Robson, Richmond and Walker. (10)

C145. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS – In respect of Minute C147(3) below, Councillor Wallis declared a personal but non-prejudicial interest.

C146. REPRESENTATIONS – In respect of Minute C147(2) and (3) below, representations were made, by Members and members of the public, in attendance at the meeting.

C147. KEY DECISIONS – (1) Housing Revenue Account – Revenue Budget 2009/10 – The Cabinet Member with the Neighbourhood Services and Community Safety Portfolio introduced the report of the Director of Community Services (previously circulated) reviewing the revenue budget, rent levels and service charges for the Council's Housing Revenue Account (HRA) for the financial year 2009/10.

RESOLVED – That it be recommended to Council that:-

- (a) an average weekly rent increase of 6.02 per cent (£3.21) be implemented in line with the Government rent restructuring model;
- (b) service charges for Extra Care and Sheltered Housing Schemes, be increased as show in Table 3 of the submitted report;
- (c) all other service charges be increased, as detailed in Table 4 of the submitted report; and
- (d) the budget, as detailed at Appendix 1 to the submitted report, be approved.

REASON – To enable the Council to deliver an appropriate level of service to tenants.

(2) Supported Bus Service Contracts 2009/14 – The Cabinet Member with the Transport Portfolio introduced the report of the Assistant Chief Executive (Regeneration) presenting evidence, in relation to the travel needs in the Borough for bus services funded by the Council and providing information on tenders for the operation of supported bus services from 3rd May, 2009, to enable a decision to be made on the Supported Bus Service Contracts 2009/14.

The Assistant Chief Executive (Regeneration) circulated an Addendum Report at the meeting, presenting the recommendations of the Economy and Environment Scrutiny Committee in respect of the Supported Bus Service Contracts 2009/14, and including implications of the Committee's recommendations and revised information about net-cost and gross-cost contracts.

A number of representations were made at the meeting, including the Chair of the Economy and Environment Scrutiny Committee in respect of the recommendations of that Scrutiny Committee in relation to the Supported Bus Service Contracts 2009/14 and members of the public and Members in relation to a number of services including Glebe Road/Mayfair Road to the Town Centre; Town Centre/Harrowgate Hill to Whinfield (6A/6B) evening service; Blackwell Service; and West Park Hospital Sunday service. Discussion took place on the representations made, that social needs in Harrowgate Hill and Brafferton justified additional services in the former and retaining some service for the latter.

RESOLVED – (a) That the services, as detailed in Table 2 of the submitted report, be supported.

(b) That tenders be sought for the following additional bus services, namely:-

- (i) from Glebe Road/Mayfair Road to the Town Centre to Broadway (Monday to Saturday day times); and
- (ii) Service 6A/6B each evening between Harrowgate Hill and Whinfield.

(c) That Officers be requested to explore the cost of a reduced frequency daytime-only service through Brafferton, and the Assistant Chief Executive (Regeneration) in consultation with the Cabinet Member with the Transport Portfolio, be authorised to negotiate a reduced cost variation of the existing arrangements for the commercial service diverted through Brafferton.

REASON – (a) To balance the needs of the community against value for money considerations, the overall affordability of the bundle of services in the context of the Medium Term Financial Plan and risks to future service provision.

(b) To allow Cabinet to consider the cost of meeting social needs in the Harrowgate Hill area.

(c) To meet social need in the Brafferton area.

(3) Draft Medium Term Corporate Plan 2009 to 2013 Incorporating the Medium Term Financial Plan – Pursuant to Minute C132/Jan/09, the Leader introduced the report of the Corporate Management Team (previously circulated) presenting the Council's combined Corporate Plan and Medium Term Financial Plan (also previously circulated) in light of consultation and scrutiny and requesting that consideration be given to the changes made to the plan since it was considered by Cabinet at its meeting held on 14th January, 2009.

The Director of Corporate Services circulated additional information in relation to the budget consultation responses received and the views of the Resources Scrutiny Committee.

The Chair of the Resources Scrutiny Committee addressed Cabinet in relation to the recommendations of that Scrutiny Committee in response to the consultation on the combined Corporate Plan and Medium Term Financial Plan.

Representations were made at the meeting in respect of the proposed closure of the public conveniences in Heighington, highlighting the usage of those facilities and the role of the toilet attendant in assisting with the parking issues around Heighington Primary School.

RESOLVED – (a) That the revised Corporate Plan and Medium Term Financial Plan, as appended at Annex A to the submitted report, be noted.

(b) That it be recommended to Council that the Corporate Plan, attached at Appendix 1 in Annex A to the submitted report, be approved and the Chief Executive be authorised, in consultation with the Leader of the Council, to make any minor amendments to enable the Plan to be completed and published by 31st March, 2009.

(c) That following the results of consultation the following amendments to the draft Medium Term Financial Plan be made: -

- (i) the closure of the Mayors Charity shop be deferred whilst discussions continue with the shop volunteers and local charities to investigate options to retain the shop whilst reducing the Councils' financial contribution and no decision be taken until a further report is presented to Cabinet;
- (ii) the closure of the South Park Aviary be deferred to enable alternative options to be examined, the final decision be taken at a future meeting of Cabinet and the saving of £29,000 in 2009/10 be deleted;
- (iii) the Cycle and Pedestrian training continue during the 2009/10 financial year, as a result of discussions with various organisations to secure funding and work be continued to develop bids and partnerships to fund the services in future years; and
- (iv) in relation to (2) above, provision be made in the Medium Term Financial Plan to cover the estimated cost of the additional subsidised bus services.

(d) That the additional expenditure, as detailed at (c) above, be funded by: -

- (i) increasing contributions from balances in 2009/10 by £11,000; and
- (ii) reducing headroom within the MTFP as follows: -

	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13
	£000's	£000's	£000's	£000's
Draft Headroom	NIL	250	250	250
Revised Headroom	NIL	165	165	165

(e) That the Medium Term Financial Plan, as appended to the submitted report and as amended by (c) and (d) above be recommended to Council for approval.

(e) That a budget requirement of £77,418,000 be recommended to Council

REASONS – (a) To note changes to the Corporate Plan and Medium Term Financial Plan and give further considerations to proposals in light of consultation and scrutiny.

(b) To enable Cabinet to recommend a Corporate Plan and Medium Term Financial Plan for 2009/13 and a budget and Council Tax for 2009/10.

(4) Prudential Indicators and Treasury Management Strategy Report 2009/10 – The Cabinet Member with the Resources Portfolio introduced the report of the Director of Corporate Services (previously circulated) requesting that consideration be given to the Prudential Indicators and limits relating to capital expenditure and Treasury Management activity; policy statement relating to Minimum Revenue Provision; and to the Treasury Management Strategy 2009/10, which includes the Investment Strategy for 2009/10.

RESOLVED – That it be recommended to Council that:-

- (a) the Prudential Indicators and limits for 2009/10 to 2011/12, as contained within Tables 3 to 10 and 12 to 14 of the submitted report, be adopted;
- (b) the Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP) Policy Statement, as contained within paragraph 22 of the submitted report, be approved;
- (c) the Treasury Management Strategy 2009/10, as contained in paragraphs 36 to 64 of the submitted report, be approved; and
- (d) the Investment Management Strategy 2009/10, as contained within the Treasury Management Strategy, and the detailed criteria included in Appendix 3 to the submitted report, be approved, specifically the criteria for specified investments and the criteria for non-specified investments.

REASONS – (a) In order to comply with the Prudential Code for Capital Finance in Local Authorities and 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.

C148. 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.

C149. SUPPORTED BUS SERVICES CONTRACT 2009/14 (EXCLUSION PARAGRAPH NO. 3) – Pursuant to Minute C147(2) above, consideration was given to the award of the new Supported Bus Services Contract 2009/14.

The Assistant Chief Executive (Regeneration) circulated amended Appendices 6 and 7 at the meeting, with an Addendum Report covering the implications of net-cost and gross-cost contracts.

RESOLVED – That the contracts, as detailed in the revised Appendix 6 circulated at the meeting, be approved.

REASON – (a) To award the contracts in accordance with the evaluation criteria in relation to quality and price.

**DECISIONS DATED -
WEDNESDAY, 18TH FEBRUARY, 2009**