

CABINET
16th February, 2010

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

INVITEES – Councillors Barker, Johnson and I. Haszeldine. (3)

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE – The Mayor; Councillors Coultas, Francis, Lawton, Lewis, Richmond and Walker. (7)

APOLOGIES – Councillors Harker and Williams and Mr. A. MacConachie. (3)

C143. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS – No declarations of interest were reported at the meeting.

C144. REPRESENTATIONS – In respect of Minute C145(2) below, representations were made, by Members, employees of the Council and members of the public, in attendance at the meeting.

C145. KEY DECISIONS – (1) Housing Revenue Account – Revenue Budget 2010/11 – The Cabinet Member with the Neighbourhood Services and Community Safety Portfolio introduced the report of the Director of Community Services (previously circulated) requesting that consideration be given to the revenue budget, rent levels and service charges for the Council’s Housing Revenue Account (HRA) for the financial year 2010/11.

RESOLVED – That it be recommended to Council that:-

- (a) an average weekly rent increase of 2 per cent (£1.10) be implemented in line with the Government rent restructuring model;
- (b) service charges be introduced for television aerials and door entry systems;
- (c) garage rents and service charges be increased, as detailed in Tables 2 and 3 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) Draft Medium Term Corporate Plan Incorporating the Medium Term Financial Plan 2010/14 – Pursuant to Minute C129(1)/Jan/10, the Deputy Leader introduced the report of the Corporate Management Team (previously circulated) requesting that consideration be given to the draft Corporate Plan and Medium Term Financial Plan (both also previously circulated), in light of consultation and scrutiny and changes made since the previous draft was considered by Cabinet at its meeting held on Tuesday, 12th January, 2010.

A Trade Union representative, in attendance at the meeting, addressed Cabinet in respect of the changes made to the budget proposals, in response to feedback received, particularly in relation to the Early Years Inclusion Service and the Story Sack/Toy Library Service, proposed zero per

cent rise in Council Tax; and to the proposed changes to car allowances and the terms and conditions of service, which would affect many of the Council's lowest paid employees.

Representations were also made at the meeting, by employees of the Council, on how the proposed changes to the terms and conditions of service, in particular the removal of the Essential User Car Allowance and the removal of the payment of premium rates for overtime, bank holidays and Sunday working would affect them and the impact of the proposed staff cuts in the Trading Standards Service.

Representatives of the Early Years Inclusion Service and the Story Sack/Toy Library Service, addressed Cabinet and thanked Members for the change in proposals, in respect of both these services.

Members of Cabinet responded to the issues raised thereon.

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

(b) That the results of consultation and the views of the Resources Scrutiny Committee, as detailed in the submitted report, be noted.

(c) That it be recommended to the special meeting of Council, scheduled to be held on Thursday, 25th February, 2010, that the Medium Term Financial Plan for 2010/14, including the 2010/11 budget and Council Tax, be approved.

(d) That it be recommended to the special meeting of Council, scheduled to be held on Thursday, 25th February, 2010, 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.

(e) That it be noted that:-

- (i) the budget proposals with workforce implications in terms of redundancy and changes to terms and conditions are subject to ongoing consultation in accordance with statutory requirements and that under delegated powers relevant officers will continue to seek to reach agreement on the proposed changes, with any financial impact of changes agreed as part of the ongoing consultation process being reported to Cabinet; and
- (ii) if after the statutory consultation period agreement cannot be reached on changes to terms and conditions then a report on the position will be presented 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 2010/14 and a budget and Council Tax for 2010/11.

(3) Prudential Indicators and Treasury Management Strategy Report 2010/11 – The Cabinet Member with the Efficiency and Resources Portfolio introduced the report of the Director of Corporate Services (previously circulated) requesting that consideration be given to

the Prudential Indicators and Limits for 2010/11 and 2012/13 relating to capital expenditure and Treasury Management activity; policy statement relating to Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP); and to the Treasury Management Strategy 2010/11, including the Investment Strategy for 2010/11.

RESOLVED – That it be recommended to Council that:-

- (a) the Prudential Indicators and limits for 2010/11 to 2012, as summarised within Tables 1 and 2, of the submitted report, be adopted;
- (b) the Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP) Statement, as contained within paragraph 27 of the submitted report, be approved;
- (c) the Treasury Management Strategy 2010/11 to 2012/13, as contained within paragraphs 40 to 59 of the submitted report, be approved;
- (d) the Investment Management Strategy 2010/11, as contained within paragraphs 60 to 76 of the submitted report, be approved; and
- (e) the revision to the Council’s Constitution, as detailed at Appendix 1 to 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.

**DECISIONS DATED -
FRIDAY, 19TH FEBRUARY, 2010**