

**DECISIONS SHOULD NOT BE IMPLEMENTED BEFORE
MONDAY 26 DECEMBER 2016**

CABINET

13 December 2016

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

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

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE – Councillors Crichlow, Johnson and Tostevin. (3)

C90. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST – There were no declarations of interest reported at the meeting.

C91. REPRESENTATIONS – No representations were made by Members or members of the public in attendance at the meeting.

C92. MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL PLAN - The Leader introduced the report of the Chief Officers Executive (previously circulated) requesting that consideration be given to proposing a Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP) for 2017/18 to 2020/21 for consultation including setting a budget and Council Tax increase for 2017/18.

In presenting the report the Leader of the Council, Councillor Dixon, stated that over 700 employees had been made redundant since 2010, and he thanked those employees who continued to work on the budget proposals, despite their own jobs being at risk.

Discussion ensued on the social care budget; the use of agency staff; the assistance given to assist with getting people out of hospital and back into the community; Economic Development; and the potential risks associated with the Sustainability and Transformation Plan.

RESOLVED - That the 2017/18 budget, as set out in Appendix 7 of the submitted report, be approved, for consultation including the following, namely:-

- (a) Council Tax increase of 1.99 per cent plus a two per cent levy agreed by the government to help fund Adult Social Care for 2017/18 and subsequent years;
- (b) schedule of charges, as set out in Appendix 3 of the submitted report; and
- (c) the use of capital receipts to assist in funding the Medium Term Financial Plan.

REASONS - (a) The Council must set a budget for the next financial year.

(b) To enable the Council to continue to plan services and finances over the medium term.

(c) To ensure decisions can be made in a timely manner.

C93. HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT – MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL PLAN 2017/18 TO 2021/22 - The Cabinet Member with 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 consultation, in respect of the revenue budget, rent levels and service charges for the Council's Housing Revenue Account (HRA) for the financial year 2017/18 in the context of the HRA Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP) to 2021/22 and the 30 year Business Plan.

RESOLVED – That the following, be approved for consultation, namely, that:-

(a) an average weekly social rent reduction of one per cent for 2017/18 be implemented, giving an average rent of £71.49;

(b) garage rents and service charges be increased, as shown in Table 3 of the submitted report;

(c) the budget, as detailed at Appendix 1 of the submitted report, be approved; and

(d) the Housing Business Plan, as detailed at Appendix 2 of the submitted report, be agreed.

REASONS - To enable consultation on the recommendations which 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.

C94. COUNCIL TAX EMPTY PROPERTY DISCOUNT - 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 consulting on proposals to withdraw the Council Tax discount for empty properties from April 2017.

RESOLVED - That the proposed change to the Council Tax discount for empty properties, as detailed in paragraph 4 of the submitted report be approved, to move forward for consultation.

REASONS - (a) The Council has the flexibility to set and review Council Tax discounts for empty and unfurnished properties.

(b) Public consultation on the proposal is appropriate, prior to a decision being made.

(c) The financial position of the Council has not improved and therefore the withdrawal of the Council Tax empty property discount is appropriate.

**DECISIONS DATED –
FRIDAY 16 DECEMBER 2016**