

CABINET
3rd February, 2005

PRESENT - Councillor Williams (in the Chair); Councillors Dixon, Harker, Lister, D.A. Lyonette, McEwan, L. Vasey and Wallis. (8)

APLOGIES – Councillor Bristow.

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE – Councillor Johnson.

C188. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS – That in respect of Minutes C189(1) and (2) below, Councillor Williams declared a personal but non-prejudicial interest, as his wife was the Headteacher at Whinfield Primary School; Councillor Dixon declared a personal but non-prejudicial interest as he had a child at Hummersknott Comprehensive School; Councillor Harker declared a personal but non-prejudicial interest as he was a Governor at Reid Street Primary and George Dent Nursery Schools; Councillor D.A. Lyonette declared a personal but non-prejudicial interest as he had a grandchild at Carmel RC Technology College; Councillor McEwan declared a personal but non-prejudicial interest as he had children at Whinfield Primary and Haughton Comprehensive Schools; Councillor L. Vasey declared a personal interest as she had a grandchild and child at Kids & Co and North Road Primary School respectively; and Councillor Wallis declared a personal but non-prejudicial interest as he had a child at George Dent Nursery School.

C189. KEY DECISIONS – (1) Medium Term Financial Plan – Review – February 2005 - The Corporate Management Team submitted a report (previously circulated) outlining the review of the Council's Revenue Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP) in light of changes since its approval in March 2004, and requesting that consideration be given to the approval of the detailed budget for 2005/06 (also previously circulated), together with the Council Tax level for 2005/06.

A copy of the Medium Term Financial as approved by Council in March 2004; detailed reports from each Department; and departmental estimates, were appended to the submitted report.

The Director of Corporate Services reported at the meeting that the Council had now received the Final Settlement from the Government and that this did not impact on the recommendations as detailed below.

RESOLVED - That the following proposals of Cabinet be forwarded to the Resources Scrutiny Committee, and its views and comments be reported back to a special meeting of Cabinet scheduled for Tuesday, 1st March, 2005 :-

- (a) That the superannuation reserve be transferred to revenue balances.
- (b) That the capitalisation of the equal pay costs of up to £3.8million be agreed.
- (c) That the Director's proposals in the reports, attached at Appendices 3 to 8 of the submitted report, including carry forward of resources from 2004/05, expenditure reductions and fees and charges, be approved.

- (d) That a fund of £325,000 for implementing a strategic review of services be approved.
- (e) That the revised Medium Term Financial Plan, as set out in Appendix 10 to the submitted report, be approved.
- (f) That the Council Tax be increased by 4.8 per cent for 2005/06.

REASON - To enable the Council to set a budget for 2005/06.

(2) Capital Medium Term Financial Plan 2005/06 to 2008/09 - The Corporate Management Team submitted a report (previously circulated) informing Members of the Annual Capital Settlement and requesting that consideration be given to its proposals for the Capital Programme 2005/06 to 2008/09 (also previously circulated).

Details of capital resources available to the Council; capital funding already in place for the duration of the Capital Medium Term Financial Plan 2005/06 to 2008/09; a schedule of bids received from Departments; reports detailing the Dolphin Centre Refurbishment Business Plan and capitalised repairs to secondary school buildings; and detailed bids, were appended to the submitted report.

RESOLVED - That the following proposal of Cabinet be forwarded to the Resources Scrutiny Committee and its views and comments be reported back to the special meeting of Cabinet scheduled for Tuesday, 1st March, 2005 :-

- (a) That capital resources be passported to services as identified in Tables 1 and 2 of the report.
- (b) That the resources summary/spending plan (2005/06 – 2008/09) as set out in appendix 2 of the submitted report, be noted.
- (c) That the capital priorities as submitted by Corporate Management Team totalling £10.5m, as detailed in Appendix 3 of the submitted report (including unsupported borrowing of £5.2m in relation to the Dolphin Centre and Highway Maintenance), be approved.

REASON - To enable the Council to set a budget for 2005/06.

(3) (URGENT ITEM) HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT - REVENUE BUDGE 2005/06 - The Director of Community Services submitted a report (previously circulated) reviewing the draft revenue budget, rent levels and service charges for the Council's Housing Revenue Account (HRA) for the financial year 2005/06 (also previously circulated).

A copy of the report on the Housing Revenue Account 2004/05 was appended to the submitted report.

RESOLVED - That it be recommended to Council that :-

- (a) the proposed Housing Revenue Account Budget for 2005/06, as appended to the submitted report, be agreed;

- (b) the implementation of Rent Restructuring and formula rents be continued, as detailed in paragraphs 3 and 4, of the submitted report;
- (c) the outcome of the review of service charges for individual sheltered housing schemes, extra care sheltered housing schemes and blocks of flats, be implemented, as detailed in paragraphs 9 and 10, of the submitted report; and
- (d) the weekly service charges for extra care and sheltered schemes, garage rents and other service charges, as detailed in tables 3 and 4 of the submitted report, be agreed.

REASONS - (a) To enable the Council to deliver an appropriate level of service to Housing tenants.

(b) To reflect changing circumstances and conditions in the housing market.

(4) Treasury Management Strategy 2005/06 and Prudential Indicators - The Director of Corporate Services submitted a report (previously circulated) requesting that consideration be given to reviewing and adopting the Prudential Indicators and limits and approving the Treasury Management Strategy for 2005/06

RESOLVED - That the following proposals of Cabinet be forwarded to the Resources Scrutiny Committee and its views and comments be reported back to the special meeting of Cabinet scheduled for Tuesday, 1st March, 2005 :-

- (a) That the Council adopt the prudential indicators and limits for 2005/06 to 2007/08, as contained within Tables 3 to 10 of the submitted report.
- (b) That the Council approve the Treasury Management Strategy 2005/06 contained within paragraphs 28 to 56 and the treasury prudential indicators contained within Table 12, of the submitted report.
- (c) That the Investment Strategy 2005/06 contained in the Treasury Management Strategy, and the detailed criteria included in Appendix 2, of the submitted report, specifically the criteria for specified investments and the criteria for non-specified investments, be approved.

REASON - (a) In order to comply with the Prudential Code for Capital Finance in Local Authorities. and ODPM 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.

C190. 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 paragraphs 7 and 9 of Part I of Schedule 12A to the Act.

C191. KEY DECISION - CAPITAL MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL PLAN 2005/06 - 2008/09 (EXCLUSION NO. 7 AND 9) - Pursuant to minute C189(2) above, the Corporate Management Team submitted a report (previously circulated) detailing the asset disposal information as part of the Capital Medium Term Financial Plan 2005/06 to 2008/09.

RESOLVED - That the following proposal of Cabinet be forwarded to the Resources Scrutiny Committee and its views and comments be reported back to the special meeting of Cabinet scheduled for Tuesday, 1st March, 2005 :-

That the asset disposals programme, as detailed in the appendix in the submitted report, be approved.

REASON - To help fund the Capital Medium Term Financial Plan 2005/06 to 2008/09.

**DECISIONS DATED –
TUESDAY, 8TH FEBRUARY, 2005**