

**DECISIONS SHOULD NOT BE IMPLEMENTED BEFORE  
FRIDAY 22 DECEMBER 2017**

**CABINET**

12 December 2017

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

**INVITEES** – Councillors I G Haszeldine, Kelley and Mrs Scott. (3)

**ALSO IN ATTENDANCE** – Councillors Carson, Donoghue, Johnson, Knowles, Lawton and Tostevin. (6)

**C88. REPRESENTATIONS** – In respect of Minute C91(1) below, representations were made by members of the public in attendance at the meeting.

**C89. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST** – There were no declarations of interest reported at the meeting.

**C90. SENIOR MANAGEMENT RESTRUCTURE** - The Leader introduced the report of the Chief Executive (previously circulated) requesting that consideration be given to a review of the senior management structures, as previously signalled in earlier reports, and proposed changes resulting in a revenue saving over the Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP). A copy of the current and revised Senior Management Structures were appended to the submitted report.

The submitted report stated there had been three major reviews of senior management structures, since the Governments programme of austerity started in public spending; the Council had agreed in 2016 to move to a new model, which invested almost all its resources in delivering the Core Offer; outlined the proposed new Senior Management Structure; and the financial, human resource and legal implications of the proposed changes to the Senior Management Structure.

Particular reference was made at the meeting to the proposal and whether other options had been investigated. The Leader and Chief Executive responded thereon.

**RESOLVED** – (a) That the revenue savings that will be achieved by the proposed changes to senior management, as detailed in the submitted report, be noted.

(b) That the early retirement of the Chief Executive on 31 May 2018, subject to Council agreeing the early release of the pension, be approved.

(c) That it be recommended to the Human Resources Committee that Paul Wildsmith be appointed to the newly created post of Managing Director and that Council consider and approve the appointment.

(d) That it be recommended to Council that Elizabeth Davison be appointed as this Council's Statutory Chief Financial Officer.

(e) That the structural and financial implications, as detailed in the submitted report, be approved, subject to the above.

**REASONS –** (a) To further reduce the costs of senior management to facilitate the delivery of MTFP savings.

(b) To ensure that sufficient capacity exists in senior management to meet the financial and business challenges faced by the Council.

(c) To make statutory appointments.

**C91(1) KEY DECISIONS – (1) Medium Term Financial Plan** - The Leader introduced the report of the Chief Officers Executive (previously circulated) requesting that consideration be given to a Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP) for 2018/19 to 2021/22 for consultation including setting a budget and council tax increase for 2018/19 and Capital Programme for 2018/19 to 2021/22 for consultation.

The submitted report stated that since 2010/11 the Council had faced unprecedented financial challenges from reductions in public sector spending, which had meant an overall real terms decrease in government funding of £42.2M and anticipated to increase to £51.1M by 2021/22; the report had been prepared prior to the Local Government Finance Settlement (LGFS); the Council undertook a significant consultation exercise in 2016, following an in-depth and detailed review of all services which resulted in the agreement of a Core Offer budget by Council on 29 June 2016; although the Core Offer remained challenging, the Council had identified £4.4M to add to the Futures Fund for investment in services across the life of this MTFP; and proposed a number of areas, to be consulted upon, where the funds could be invested.

In presenting the report the Leader of the Council stated that the Local Government Pay Settlement would be higher than identified in the MTFP, and that unless additional funding was received from the Government to cover this, some of the funding identified for the Futures Fund, would need to be used to cover the additional cost to the Council.

Members of the public in attendance at the meeting addressed Cabinet in respect of the additional funding identified for the Futures Fund and requested that consideration be given to using some of the funding to keep the Library in Crown Street.

Discussion ensued on the use of the funding identified; the consultation process; projections contained with the MTPF, and in particular the number of houses proposed to be built; and the process involved in producing the MTFP for consultation.

**RESOLVED** - That the 2018/19 budget, as set out in Appendix 7 of the submitted report, be approved for consultation, including the following:-

- (a) a Council tax increase of 1.99 per cent plus the 3 per cent social care levy to fund Adult Social Care for 2018/19;
- (b) the schedule of charges, as set out in Appendix 3 of the submitted report; and
- (c) the proposed investments, as set out in paragraphs 53 to 60 of the submitted report.

**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.

(NOTE – All Cabinet Members voted in favour of the recommendations detailed above).

**(2) Housing Revenue Account – MTFP 2018/19 to 2021/22** - The Cabinet Member with the Housing, Health and Partnerships 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 2018/19 in the context of the HRA Medium Term Financial Plan to 2021/22 and the 30 year Business Plan.

The submitted report stated that the Government had introduced a compulsory one per cent reduction in social and affordable rents for four years commencing in 2016/17, through the Welfare Reform and Work Bill 2015, and as a result, all Council tenants would receive an average 61p reduction in weekly rent.

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

- (a) an average weekly social rent reduction of one per cent for 2018/19 be implemented giving an average social rent of £70.88 and affordable rent of £81.72;
- (b) garage rents and service charges be increased, as shown in Table 3 of the submitted report;
- (c) the budget, as set out in Appendix 1 of the submitted report, be approved; and
- (d) the Housing Business Plan, as detailed in Appendix 2 of the submitted report, be agreed.

**REASON** - 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.

(NOTE – All Cabinet Members voted in favour of the recommendations detailed above).

**DECISIONS DATED –  
THURSDAY 14 DECEMBER 2017**