



MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE CABINET HELD ON 29th NOVEMBER 2018

PRESENT: Councillor R Pritchard (Vice-Chair), J Chesworth, S Claymore, S Doyle and M Cook

The following officers were present: Andrew Barratt (Chief Executive), Stefan Garner (Executive Director Finance), Lynne Pugh (Assistant Director Finance), Michael Buckland (Head of Revenues) and Stephen Lewis (Head of Environmental Health)

69 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor D Cook

70 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the meeting held on 8th November 2018 were approved and signed as a correct record.

(Moved by Councillor J Chesworth and seconded by Councillor M Cook)

71 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no Declarations of Interest.

72 QUESTION TIME:

None

73 MATTERS REFERRED TO THE CABINET IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY PROCEDURE RULES

The Chair of Corporate Scrutiny Committee attended Cabinet to present the following recommendations of the Committee regarding Festive Ward Grants and the Private Sector Housing Policy for Cabinet consideration:

- to investigate the potential for there to be more flexibility in the festive grant scheme to allow smaller groups that do not meet the exacting requirements that the scheme currently prescribes to participate;
- the Festive Ward Grants scheme should not be openly promoted through the press;
- no issues were found in allowing grants to be awarded to the previous years' recipients;
- in terms of the Private Sector Housing Policy, work be undertaken under to consider the benefits associated with establishing a self-financing inspection scheme to regulate HMOs.

74 QUARTER 2 PERFORMANCE REPORT 2018/19

Report of the Leader of the Council to provide Cabinet with a performance and financial health-check. The report was considered by Corporate Scrutiny Committee on 14th November 2018.

RESOLVED That Cabinet,

Endorsed the contents of this report.

(Moved by Councillor R Pritchard and seconded by Councillor M Cook)

75 DRAFT BASE BUDGET FORECASTS 2019/20 TO 2023/24

Report of the Leader of the Council to inform Members of the re-priced base budget for 2019/20, base budget forecasts for the period 2019/20 to 2023/24 (the 5 Year Medium Term Planning Period) and the underlying assumptions and to consider the future strategy to address the financial trends.

RESOLVED That Cabinet

approved technical adjustments and re-priced base budget figures for 2019/20 & indicative budgets to 2023/24 (as attached at Appendix B, C, D, E, F, G & H);

Considered the proposed Policy Changes and Capital Programmes, as detailed within the report;

Considered planned changes to Council Tax and Housing Rent for 2019/20, as detailed within the report;
and

In compliance with the Constitution of the Council, the Leader's Budget Workshop considered the budget proposals contained within this report.

(Moved by Councillor R Pritchard and seconded by Councillor S Claymore)

76 COUNCIL TAXBASE 2019/20

The Portfolio Holder for Assets and Finance reported the Council Tax Base for the Borough Council for 2019/20.

RESOLVED That Cabinet

Resolved its calculation of the Council Tax Base for the year 2019/20 to be 21,761 (2018/19 – 21,438).

(Moved by Councillor R Pritchard and seconded by Councillor J Chesworth)

77 WRITE OFFS 01/04/18 TO 30/09/18

Report of the Portfolio Holder for Assets and Finance to provide Members with details of debt written off for the period 01 April 2018 to 30 September 2018

RESOLVED That Cabinet;

Endorsed the amount of debt written off for the period of 01 April 2018 to 30 September 2018

(Moved by Councillor R Pritchard and seconded by Councillor S Doyle)

78 TREASURY MANAGEMENT STRATEGY STATEMENT AND ANNUAL INVESTMENT STRATEGY MID-YEAR REVIEW REPORT 2018/19

Report of the Portfolio Holder for Assets and Finance to present to Members the Mid-year Review of the Treasury Management Strategy Statement and Annual Investment Strategy.

RESOLVED That Cabinet

Accepted the Treasury Management Strategy Statement and Annual Investment Strategy Mid-year Review Report 2018/19.

(Moved by Councillor R Pritchard and seconded by Councillor M Cook)

79 LOCAL COUNCIL TAX REDUCTION SCHEME 2019/20 ONWARDS

Report of the Portfolio Holder for Assets and Finance to advise Members of the results and feedback from the recently undertaken consultation on the proposed Local Council Tax Reduction Scheme from 2019/20 onwards and to review the consultation feedback when considering potential changes to be applied in the 2019/20 onwards Local Council Tax Reduction Scheme.

The report is also to advise members that the Local Council Tax Reduction Scheme for working age customers for 2019/20 should include continued alignment to Applicable Amounts with those of Housing Benefit

RESOLVED That Cabinet

Considered the results of the public consultation on the current scheme, carried out from August 2018 to October 2018, and endorsed the proposed recommended changes detailed below:

Recommended to Council that the base scheme goes forward with the following;

- (a) That the Local Council Tax Reduction Scheme for working age customers for 2019/20 will continue to be aligned to Applicable Amounts with those of Housing Benefit.
- (b) That the Local Council Tax Reduction Scheme for 2019/20 be aligned with the Universal Credit Regulations for self-employed working age earners.

(Moved by Councillor R Pritchard and seconded by Councillor J Chesworth)

80 REVISED GAMBLING ACT 2005 STATEMENT OF PRINCIPLES

It is a requirement of the Gambling Act 2005 that the Council publishes a revised Statement of Principles in respect of the requirements of the Act by 3 January 2019. Following appearances before Licensing Committee on 21 June, 11 October 2018 & Infrastructure and Growth Committee on 23 October 2018 and a consultation between 11 July - 30 September 2018, a revised Statement of Principles has been prepared and is included at Appendix 1 of this report.

RESOLVED That Cabinet

Endorsed the Statement of Principles and recommended them to Council for adoption

(Moved by Councillor D Doyle and seconded by Councillor R Pritchard)

81 RELEASE OF CAPITAL CONTINGENCY FUNDING

Report of the Portfolio Holder for Culture and Operational Services to request that members approve the release of £14,210 from the GDPR capital contingency budget, established to cover the costs of General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) compliance responsibilities

RESOLVED

That Cabinet

Approved the release of £14,210 from the GDPR capital contingency budget established to cover costs associated with GDPR compliance for the Council's line of business software applications, approved as part of the 2018/19 budget process.

(Moved by Councillor R Pritchard and seconded by Councillor J Chesworth)

Leader