



MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE CABINET HELD ON 19th JANUARY 2017

PRESENT: Councillors D Cook (Chair), R Pritchard (Vice-Chair), S Claymore, S Doyle, J Goodall and M Thurgood

The following officers were present: Anthony E Goodwin (Chief Executive), John Wheatley (Executive Director Corporate Services), Rob Barnes (Corporate Director Communities, Partnerships and Housing), Stefan Garner (Director of Finance), Michael Buckland (Head of Revenues) and Tina Mustafa (Head of Landlord Services)

76 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

None

77 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the meeting held on 24 November 2016 were approved and signed as a correct record.

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

78 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no Declarations of Interest.

79 QUESTION TIME:

None

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

None

81 DRAFT BUDGET & MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL STRATEGY 2017/18

The Leader of the Council requested Members to approve the draft package of budget proposals and to consult with the Joint Scrutiny Committee (Budget) on 24th January 2017 and receive their feedback on the General Fund Revenue (GF) Budget and Council Tax for 2017/18, Housing Revenue Account (HRA) Budget for 2017/18, Capital Programme – General Fund & HRA and Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS).

RESOLVED:

That Members

- 1 approved the draft package of budget proposals including the proposed policy changes; and
- 2 as required by the Constitution of the Council, the Joint Scrutiny Committee (Budget) on 24th January 2017 considered the budget proposals contained within this report.

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

82 BUSINESS RATES INCOME FORECAST 2017/18

The Portfolio Holder for Assets and Finance reported and sought endorsement from Members on the Business Rates income forecast for 2017/18.

RESOLVED:

That Members

- 1 approved the Business Rates income forecast for 2017/18 and subsequent NNDR1 form for submission to DCLG by 31 January 2017, in line with the scheme of delegation;
- 2 approved that should material amendments be required to the forecast NNDR1, that Members authorised the Executive Director Corporate Services, in consultation with the Leader of the Council, to make such required amendments as necessary; and
- 3 noted discretionary relief granted to qualifying bodies in line with the existing policy

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

83 WELFARE REFORM - IMPACT ON COUNCIL TENANTS

The Portfolio Holder for Housing Services updated Members on the welfare reform, specifically changes contained within the Welfare Reform and Work Act 2016. Details around commencement are still emerging and therefore it is intended to continue to update members as key actions and recommendations on the detail are known. Also further reports will be necessary on the wider strategic implications of the above and it is therefore it is intended to report routinely throughout 2017/18.

RESOLVED:

- That Members
- 1 accepted and noted the key changes impacting on council tenants because of the latest welfare reform and legislative changes;
 - 2 accepted and noted findings from the Independent Accreditation around the Landlord Income Collection Service in 2016;
 - 3 approved the action plan to mitigate impact of welfare changes and support claimants during the changes; and
 - 4 delegated authority to the Director Communities, Partnerships and Housing in consultation with the Portfolio of Housing on updating the Rent and Income Policy to take account of legislative changes in line with the principles contained within the report

(Moved by Councillor M Thurgood and seconded by Councillor D Cook)

Leader