



# **MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE CABINET HELD ON 16th FEBRUARY 2017**

**PRESENT:** Councillors D Cook (Chair), S Claymore, S Doyle, J Goodall and M Thurgood

**VISITORS:** Councillors A James and J Oates

The following officers were present: Anthony E Goodwin (Chief Executive), John Wheatley (Executive Director Corporate Services), Andrew Barratt (Corporate Director Growth, Assets and Environment), Stefan Garner (Director of Finance), Matthew Bowers (Head of Managed Growth, Regeneration and Development), Sarah McGrandle (Head of Environmental Management) and John Day (Corporate Performance Officer)

## **84 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor R Pritchard

## **85 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING**

The minutes of the meeting held on 19 January 2017 were approved and signed as a correct record.

*(Moved by Councillor S Claymore and seconded by Councillor J Goodall)*

## **86 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no Declarations of Interest.

## **87 QUESTION TIME:**

None

## **88 MATTERS REFERRED TO THE CABINET IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY PROCEDURE RULES**

Councillor J Oates updated Members on the Joint Scrutiny (Budgets) recommendations from the meeting held on 21 February 2016

**RESOLVED:**

That Members agreed that

- 1 Aspire and Prosper Scrutiny Committee is to review the potential to implement higher rents for high earning Council tenants.

*(Moved by Councillor D Cook and seconded by Councillor S Claymore)*

- 2 a report be bought to full Council following the completion of the review for consideration and debate by all members.

*(Moved by Councillor D Cook and seconded by Councillor J Goodall)*

- 3 Aspire and Prosper Scrutiny Committee to continue to look at findings before bringing a report to Cabinet.

*(Moved by Councillor D Cook and seconded by Councillor S Claymore)*

Councillor A James updated Members on the joint report of both Aspire and Prosper Scrutiny and Healthier and Safer Scrutiny on teenage pregnancy

**RESOLVED:**

That Members hand over to Tony Goodwin (Chief Executive) and Rob Barnes (Corporate Director Communities, Partnerships and Housing) to prepare an implementation plan to go to Cabinet in one month.

*(Moved by Councillor D Cook and seconded by Councillor J Goodall)*

**89 CORPORATE VISION, PRIORITIES PLAN, BUDGET & MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL STRATEGY 2017/18**

The Leader of the Council requested the approval of the Vision Statement, Priority Themes, Corporate Priorities and Outcomes and their inclusion in the Corporate Plan and Support Service Plan. Also to seek approval of the recommended package of budget proposals and to comply with the requirement of the Council's Treasury Management Policy in reporting to Council the proposed

strategy for the forthcoming year and the Local Government Act 2003 with the reporting of Prudential Indicators.

- RESOLVED:**
- 1 That Council be requested to approve the Vision Statement, Priority Themes, Corporate Priorities and Outcomes for 2017/18;
  - 2 the proposed revisions to Service Revenue Budgets (Policy Changes);
  - 3 the sum of £80,965 be applied from Council Tax Collection Fund surpluses in reducing the Council Tax demand in 2017/18;
  - 4 the sum of £338,112 be applied from Business Rates Collection Fund surpluses in 2017/18;
  - 5 that on 24<sup>th</sup> November 2016, the Cabinet calculated the Council Tax Base 2017/18 for the whole Council area as 21,093 [Item T in the formula in Section 31B(3) of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, as amended (the "Act")];
  - 6 that the Council Tax requirement for the Council's own purposes for 2017/18 is £3,517,258;
  - 7 the following amounts as calculated for the year 2017/18 in accordance with Sections 31 to 36 of the Act:
    - a. £53,723,148 being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 31A(2) of the Act (Outgoings excluding internal GF Recharges);
    - b. £50,205,890 being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 31A(3) of the Act (Income excluding internal GF Recharges);
    - c. £3,517,258 being the amount by which the aggregate at 7(a) above exceeds the aggregate at 7(b) above, calculated by the Council in accordance with Section 31A(4) of the Act as its Council Tax requirement for the year (Item R in the formula in Section 31A(4) of the Act);
    - d. £166.75 being the amount at 7(c) above (Item R), all divided by Item T (at 5 above),

calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 31B(1) of the Act, as the basic amount of its Council Tax for the year;

- 8** the Council Tax level for the Borough Council for 2017/18 of £166.75 (an increase of £5.00 (3.09%) on the 2016/17 level of £161.75) at Band D;
- 9** an aggregate Council Tax (comprising the respective demands of the Borough Council, Staffordshire County Council, Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent and Staffordshire Fire and Rescue Authority) of £1,562.01 at Band D for 2017/18 be noted;
- 10** the Council Tax levels at each band for 2017/18;
- 11** the sum of £1,454,266 be transferred from General Fund Revenue Balances in 2017/18;
- 12** the Summary General Fund Revenue Budget for 2017/18;
- 13** the Provisional Budgets for 2018/19 to 2019/20 as the basis for future planning;
- 14** the minimum level for balances of £500k to be held for each of the General Fund, Housing Revenue Account, General Capital Fund and Housing Capital Fund;
- 15** that Cabinet be authorised to release funding from the General Contingency budget and that the release of funding for Specific Contingency items be delegated to the Corporate Management Team in consultation with the Leader of the Council;
- 16** the proposed HRA Expenditure level of £15,178,750 for 2017/18;
- 17** rents for Council House Tenants in General Accommodation for 2017/18 be reduced by an average of £0.86 per week (1%) to £85.29 (2016/17 £87.38), over a 48 week rent year;
- 18** rents for Council House Tenants in Supported Accommodation for 2017/18 be reduced by of 1%;

- 19 rents for Council House Tenants due for 52 weeks in 2017/18 be collected over 48 weeks;
- 20 the HRA deficit of £359,990 be financed through a transfer from Housing Revenue Account Balances in 2017/18;
- 21 the proposed 3 year General Fund Capital Programme of £5.765m;
- 22 the proposed 5 year Housing Capital Programme of £50.557m;
- 23 to delegate authority to Cabinet to approve/add new capital schemes to the capital programme where grant funding is received or there is no net additional cost to the Council;
- 24 the Treasury Management Strategy Statement, the Treasury Management Policy Statement, Minimum Revenue Provision Strategy and Annual Investment Statement 2017/18;
- 25 the Prudential and Treasury Indicators and Limits for 2017/18 to 2019/20 contained within;
- 26 the adoption of the Treasury Management Practices contained within ANNEX 7; and
- 27 the detailed criteria of the Investment Strategy 2017/18 contained in the Treasury Management Strategy within ANNEX 3.

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

## **90 QUARTER THREE 2016/17 PERFORMANCE REPORT**

The Leader of the Council provided Members with a performance and financial health-check.

**RESOLVED:** That Members endorsed the contents of this report

*(Moved by Councillor D Cook and seconded by Councillor S Claymore)*

## 91 REVENUE RESERVES POLICY REVIEW

The Portfolio Holder for Assets and Finance seeking Member approval of the proposed amended Revenue Reserves Policy Statement process and to advise Members of the existing levels of reserves

**RESOLVED:** That Members

- 1 approved and adopted the amended Revenue Reserves Policy Statement;
- 2 approved delegated authority to the Executive Director Corporate Services to approve the use and creation of reserves;
- 3 authorised the return of the reserves in the sum of £331,990 to General Fund balances; and
- 4 receive a further report in October following a review of reserves.

*(Moved by Councillor D Cook and seconded by Councillor M S Claymore)*

## 92 WRITE OFFS 01/04/16 - 31/12/16

The Portfolio Holder for Assets and Finance provided Members with details of write offs from 1st April 2016 to 31st December 2016 and seeking approval to write off irrecoverable debt in line with policy re Business Rates in excess of £10k

**RESOLVED:** That Members

- 1 endorsed the amount of debt written off for the period of 1st April 2016 to 31<sup>st</sup> December 2016; and
- 2 approved the write off of irrecoverable debt for Business Rates of £142,150.19

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

**93 TAMWORTH ENTERPRISE QUARTER**

The Portfolio Holder for Regeneration updated Members with progress to the Enterprise Quarter project.

**RESOLVED:**

- That Members
- 1 approved the revised project timetable;
  - 2 noted the amended capital profile for the overall project and revenue budget for the Enterprise Centre which are included in the Medium Term Financial Strategy report elsewhere on this agenda;
  - 3 endorsed the current design of the Assembly Rooms and gives delegated Authority to the Corporate Director (Growth, Assets and Environment) in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Regeneration to agree minor amendment's and to authorise the final design;
  - 4 give authority to make use of the County Councils existing arrangements for professional services and contractors for the detailed design and construction of various elements of the project if required;
  - 5 approved the operating name of the business centre as the Tamworth Enterprise Centre;
  - 6 approved the Tamworth Enterprise Centre pricing, services offered, the policies and the draft licence agreement and gives delegated authority to the Corporate Director (Growth, Assets and Environment) to finalise and approve;
  - 7 requested that a long term business plan for the Enterprise Centre is produced and brought back to Cabinet in the next 12 months which will set the operating budget based upon demand;
  - 8 approved the marketing and branding proposals for the Enterprise Centre;
  - 9 authorised a waiver from the financial regulations to appoint a specialist consultant to undertake marketing of the Enterprise Centre if required;
  - 10 approved the creation of a new role to run the Enterprise Centre and gives authority to start the recruitment process subject to a report to Appointment and Staffing Committee;

- 11 endorsed the design of the public realm and gives authority to the Corporate Director (Growth, Assets and Environment) in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Regeneration to agree minor amendments and to approve the final design;
- 12 noted the design of the library; and
- 13 approved the TIC project initiation document

*(Moved by Councillor S Claymore and seconded by Councillor D Cook)*

#### **94 TAMWORTH LOCAL DEVELOPMENT SCHEME 9**

The Portfolio Holder for Regeneration seeking approval to adopt the revised version of the Tamworth Borough Council Local Development Scheme (LDS 9)

**RESOLVED:** That Members approved the adoption of LDS 9 to supersede the existing Local Development Scheme (LDS 8) dated September 2014 and resolves that LDS 9 shall have effect from 01 March 2017.

*(Moved by Councillor S Claymore and seconded by Councillor J Goodall)*

#### **95 RELEASE OF SECTION 106 MONIES**

The Portfolio Holder for Environment and Culture requested Members to approve the release of Section 106 Agreement monies as a contribution towards the refurbishment of Broad Meadow Local Nature Reserve (LNR) footbridge, Phase 2 of the Warwickshire Moor Local Nature Reserve boardwalk and works to the Castle Grounds.

**RESOLVED:** That Members approved the release of the Section 106 Agreement monies to the allocated areas as and when they are available through the terms of each individual Section 106 agreement. Existing budgets within the Approved Capital Programme will be increased to reflect the additional funding available.

*(Moved by Councillor J Goodall and seconded by Councillor D Cook)*



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Leader