

EXECUTIVE DECISION MAKING

RECORD OF THE DECISION MAKING HELD ON 1st FEBRUARY 2010

Present:

Councillor Samuels	-	Leader of the Council
Councillor White	-	Adult social Care and Health
Councillor Holmes	-	Children's Services and Learning
Councillor Smith	-	Economic Development
Councillor Dean	-	Environment and Transport
Councillor Williams	-	Housing and Local Services
Councillor Hannides	-	Leisure, Culture and Heritage
Councillor Moulton	-	Resources and Workforce Planning
Councillor Walker	-	Safeguarding Children and Youth Services

130. EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

The Leader moved that in accordance with the Council's Constitution, specifically the Access to Information Procedure Rules contained within the Constitution, the press and the public be excluded from the meeting in respect of any consideration of the confidential appendix to the following item.

131. GENERAL FUND CAPITAL PROGRAMME – 2010/11 TO 2012/13

DECISION MADE (CAB 09/10 1697)

On consideration of the report of the Cabinet Member for Resources and Workforce Planning seeking approval to recommend to Council that the updated Capital Programme the decision-maker recommended the following:

- (i) Approve the revised General Fund Capital Programme and use of resources;
- (ii) Add an additional £2.0M to the Resources and Workforce Planning programme for Repairs and Maintenance backlog to be funded by unsupported borrowing;
- (iii) Add an additional £270,000 to the Adult Social Care and Health programme for essential Health and Safety works and equipment replacement at Care Homes to be funded by unsupported borrowing;
- (iv) Add an additional £2.660M to the Environment and Transport programme for the replacement of the cremators to be funded by £1.742M of unsupported borrowing and £918,000 of direct revenue financing both of which are funded from increased cremation charges;
- (v) Add an additional £312,000 to the Economic Development programme for feasibility studies and programme management to be funded by unsupported borrowing;

- (vi) Adds £13.585M to the Leisure Culture and Heritage Capital Programme for the balance of funding for the Heritage Centre Scheme the funding for which is explained in this report;
- (vii) Notes the transfer of £1.7M from the programmed maintenance budget to the ASAP Accommodation project in order to better co-ordinate works throughout the Civic Centre; and
- (viii) Approves the over programming of £7.1M as detailed in paragraph 11.

132. GENERAL FUND REVENUE BUDGET 2010/11 TO 2012/13

DECISION MADE (CAB 09/10 1698)

On consideration of the report of the Cabinet Member for Resources and Workforce Planning seeking approval to recommend to Council that the updated Revenue Budget, the decision-maker recommended the following:

- (i) To note the position on the estimated outturn and revised budget for 2009/10 as set out in paragraphs 4 to 9
- (ii) To approve £250,000 in 2009/10 for highway maintenance following the severe weather conditions at the start of this year, to be met from savings in the overall general fund budget in 2009/10.
- (iii) To note the position on the forecast roll forward budget for 2010/11 as set out in paragraphs 10 to 16.
- (iv) To delegate authority to Policy Coordinators following consultation with the relevant Cabinet Members to implement any changes to fees and charges that are part of the approved general fund budget.
- (v) To note and approve the arrangements made by the Leader, in accordance with the Local Government Act 2000, for the Cabinet Member for Resources and Workforce Planning to have responsibility for financial management and budgetary policies and strategies, and that the Cabinet Member for Resources and Workforce Planning will, in accordance with the Budget & Policy Framework Rules as set out in the Council's Constitution, be authorised accordingly to finalise the Executive's proposals in respect of the Budget for 2010/11, in consultation with the Leader, for submission to Full Council on 17th February 2010.

Recommends that Full Council

- (vi) To note the Consultation process that was followed outlined in Appendix 1.
- (vii) Approves the revised estimate for 2009/10 as set out in Appendix 2.
- (viii) To note the position on the forecast roll forward budget for 2010/11 as set out in paragraphs 10 to 16.
- (ix) To approve the Invest to Save Bids set out in Appendix 3.
- (x) To approve the revenue pressures, revenue developments and revenue bids as set out in Appendices 4, 5 and 6.

- (xi) To approve the efficiencies, income and service reductions as set out in Appendix 7.
- (xii) To approve the General Fund Revenue Budget as set out in Appendix 8 which assumes a council tax increase of 2.50%.
- (xiii) To delegate authority to the Chief Financial Officer (CFO) to action all budget changes arising from the approved pressures, bids, efficiencies, income and service reductions and incorporate any other approved amendments into the General Fund estimates.
- (xiv) To note that after taking these items into account, there is an estimated General Fund balance of £4.5M at the end of 2012/13 as detailed in paragraph 36.
- (xv) To delegate authority to the Executive Director of Resources in consultation with the Solicitor to the Council to do anything necessary to give effect to the recommendations in this report.
- (xvi) To set the Budget Requirement for 2010/11 at £183,269,600.
- (xvii) To note the estimates of precepts on the Council Tax collection fund for 2010/11 as set out in Appendix 10.
- (xviii) To note the Medium Term Forecast as set out in Appendix 11.
- (xix) To authorises the Chief Executive and Chief Officers to pursue the development of the options for efficiencies, income and service reductions as set out in Appendix 7 for the financial years 2011/12 and 2012/13 and continue to develop options to close the remaining projected gaps in those years in line with the proposed Efficiency Strategy.
- (xx) To approve a further £250,000 in 2009/10 for highway maintenance following the severe weather conditions at the start of this year, to be met from savings in the overall general fund budget in 2009/10.
- (xxi) To approve the Efficiency Strategy attached in Appendix 12.

133. HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT BUDGET REPORT

DECISION MADE (CAB 09/10 1690)

On consideration of the report of the Cabinet Member for Housing and Local Services seeking approval of the Housing Revenue Account budget proposals to be recommended to the budget setting Council meeting on 17th February 2010 the decision-maker recommended the following:

- (i) To thank Tenant Association Representatives for their input to the capital and revenue budget setting process and to note their views as set out in this report.
- (ii) To agree that, with effect from the 5th April 2010, the current average weekly dwelling rent figure of £63.57 should increase by 2.45%, which equates to an average increase of £1.56 per week, and to approve the following to calculate this increase:

- That the percentage reduction applied to all dwelling rents should be 0.9%, equivalent to a reduction of £0.57 per week
- That the revised phased introduction of the Government's Rent Restructuring regime should be followed, giving an increase in average rent levels of 2.96% (£1.88 per week)
- That the final step should be a further increase in average rent levels of 0.39% (£0.25 per week) for the caps and limits adjustment and,

to note that:

- The total percentage increase in individual rents will vary according to the restructured rent of their property in 2012/13.
- (iii) To agree that there is no increase in the charges for garages and parking spaces for 2010/11.
- (iv) To agree that there is no increase in tenants service charges for 2010/11.
- (v) To approve the Housing Revenue Account Revenue Estimates as set out in the attached Appendix 1.
- (vi) To approve the revised Housing Revenue Account Capital Programme set out in Appendix 2 which includes total spending of £82.214M on work that meets the definition of "affordable housing".
- (vii) To approve the use of resources to fund the HRA Capital Programme as shown in Appendix 3, including the following use of unsupported (prudential) borrowing:
- £2.150M to support the overall programme (unchanged from the report in September 2009)
 - £3.356M to fund the new build programme that is not funded from HCA grant
 - £2.600M to fund the digital TV proposals if this is more cost effectively purchased rather than leased
 - £0.870M to fund the estate regeneration programme pending the receipt of capital receipts from sale of the sites and
 - £3.100M of short term borrowing to sustain the programme in 2010/11, which can be repaid by the end of 2012/13.
- (viii) To note that, because the final HRA subsidy papers have not yet been received from the Government, it may be necessary for either:
- The Cabinet Member for Housing and Local Services to move changes to the recommendations in this report at Council if there is a material difference between the final subsidy papers and the draft subsidy papers that have been used in compiling these estimates; or

- For Council to agree to delegate to the Executive Director for Neighbourhoods, in consultation with the Executive Director for Resources and following consultation with the Cabinet Member for Housing and Local Services, authority to make changes to the recommendations in this report if the final subsidy papers have not been received by the time of the Council meeting and there is a material difference between the final subsidy papers and the draft subsidy papers that have been used in compiling these estimates.
- (ix) To note the savings that have been made in the budget process, as set out in paragraphs 13 to 15.
- (x) To note that rental income and service charge payments will be paid by tenants over a 48 week period.
- (xi) To note that the overall shortfall in resources of £2.561M to fund the capital programme is within the tolerances set by the Executive Director for Resources in the approved Medium Term Financial Strategy and that plans are in place to close this gap as set out in paragraph 31.
- (xii) To delegate to the Executive Director for Resources, following consultation with the Cabinet Members for Housing and Local Services and Resources and Workforce Planning, the Executive Director for Neighbourhoods and the Solicitor to the Council, authority to determine the Council's response to the "buy-out" offer for Reform of Council Housing Finance if the response is required in such a period that it is not possible to submit a report to Council.