

STOCKTON-ON-TEES BOROUGH COUNCIL

CABINET RECOMMENDATIONS

PROFORMA

Cabinet Meeting16th February 2017

1. Title of Item/Report

Medium Term Financial Plan Update and Strategy

2. Record of the Decision

Consideration was given to a report on the Medium Term Financial Plan Update and Strategy.

This was the final report in setting the Council's 2017/18 budget and Council Tax and outlining the Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP) position to 2021.

The MTFP report for 2017/18 to 2020/21 was attached and outlined the Council Tax proposals and budget for 2017/18 and the indicative MTFP for the next three years.

The report updated the position from that reported to Cabinet and Council in February 2016 and in particular reflected implications arising from the Autumn Statement and the Local Government Finance Settlement for 2017/18.

The Provisional Financial Settlement had provided indicative funding allocations for the next three years which outlined further funding reductions which would make the difficult financial position faced by the Council even more challenging.

The Council had a strong track record of prudent financial management and delivering savings early. This had enabled the use of reserves to support a planned and managed approach to addressing the financial challenges and this would continue.

The report also outlined future changes to Local Government Finance, most noticeably the proposal to move to 100% of business rates retained by Local Authorities. These were potentially major changes which were likely to have an impact on council funding. This meant that the position for 2020/21 onwards outlined in the report needed to be treated with some caution.

RECOMMENDED to Council:-

1. That in accordance with the Local Government Act 2003, Members note that the Section 151 Officer confirms that the following recommendations:

- a. represent a robust budget which has been prepared in line with best practice;
- b. provide adequate working balances;
- c. that the controlled reserves and provisions are adequate for their purpose.

General Fund Budget

2. A 2017/18 Council Tax requirement for Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council of £79,210,742 be approved.
3. A 2017/18 Council Tax requirement for Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council inclusive of Parish Precepts (£744,264) of £79,955,006 be approved.
4. The 2017/18 budget and indicative 2017/21 MTFP as outlined in paragraph 85 and the use of balances and reserves as outlined in paragraph 99 be approved.

Business Rate Relief System

5. The changes introduced in the 2016 Autumn Statement be noted.

Taxation

SBC

6. The Council Tax for Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council prior to Parish, Fire and Police Precepts be increased by 4.9%, which includes the Government Levy of 3% in respect of Social Care, i.e. to £1,457.87 at Band D (£971.92 at Band A) be approved.

Fire, Police & Parish

7. The Police precept of £11,656,645 which equates to a Council Tax of £214.54 at Band D (£143.03 at Band A) be noted.

8. The Fire precept of £3,969,586 which equates to a Council Tax of £73.06 at Band D (£48.71 at Band A) be noted.

9. The Parish precepts as set out in paragraph 125 of the budget report be noted.

Capital

10. The Capital Programme attached at Appendix A & B be approved.

Appointment of External Auditors

11. That Public Sector Appointments Ltd be appointed engaged to make the external audit appointment for the Council.

Attendance at Court

12. The members of the Revenues and Benefits Service outlined in paragraph 108, be authorised for attendance at Court under Section 223 of the Local Government Act 1972.

Organisational and HR

13. The Pay Policy Statement attached at Appendix D to the report be approved.

Members Allowances

14. Members allowances be frozen for 2017/18.

Council Tax - Statutory Requirements

15. The statutory requirements for Council Tax as shown in Appendix E be approved.

Treasury Management/Prudential Code

16. The Treasury Management Strategy, Minimum Revenue Provision Statement, Investment Strategy and Prudential Indicators for 2017/18 – 2018/19 as set out in Appendix F to the report be approved.

RESOLVED that:-

17. The Officer Appointments to Outside bodies and governing bodies at Appendix D (1) be noted and approved.

3. Reasons for the Decision

To update Members on the Council's financial position.

4. Alternative Options Considered and Rejected

None

5. Declared (Cabinet Member) Conflicts of Interest

Each of the Cabinet Members present declared a non-prejudicial interest in respect of agenda item 4 - Medium Term Financial Plan Update and Strategy and had a dispensation regarding any disclosable pecuniary interests they might have as Council Tax payers.

Councillor Nelson declared a non prejudicial interest in respect of agenda item 4 – Medium Term Financial Plan Update and Strategy as he was a member of the Tristar Home Board and Catalyst Board.

6. Details of any Dispensations

The Council's Monitoring Officer had granted a dispensation to all members of the Cabinet allowing them to participate in discussions and voting relating to the setting of the Council's Council Tax/Budget.

7. Date and Time by which Call In must be executed

Midnight, Friday, 24 February 2017 for recommendation 17 only.

Proper Officer
20 February 2017