

Council

A meeting of Council was held on Wednesday, 24th February, 2010.

Present: The Worshipful the Mayor (Cllr Paul Kirton); Cllr Hilary Aggio, Cllr Mrs Lynne Apedaile, Cllr Jim Beall, Cllr Mrs Jennie Beaumont, Cllr Phillip Broughton, Cllr Mrs Ann Cains, Cllr Dick Cains, Cllr Julia Cherrett, Cllr Aidan Cockerill, Cllr David Coleman, Cllr Robert Cook, Cllr Alex Cunningham, Cllr Ian Dalgarno, Cllr Ken Dixon, Cllr Jackie Earl, Cllr Kevin Faulks, Cllr John Fletcher, Cllr Mrs Suzanne Fletcher, Cllr Maurice Frankland, Cllr John Gardner, Cllr Robert Gibson, Cllr David Harrington, Cllr Miss Barbara Inman, Cllr Mohammed Javed, Cllr Jean Kirby, Cllr Terry Laing, Cllr Miss Tina Large, Cllr Colin Leckonby, Cllr Alan Lewis, Cllr Ken Lupton, Cllr Mrs Ann McCoy, Cllr Mrs Kath Nelson, Cllr Steve Nelson, Cllr Mrs Liz Nesbitt, Cllr Bill Noble, Cllr Ross Patterson, Cllr Maurice Perry, Cllr Mrs Maureen Rigg, Cllr Roy Rix, Cllr Fred Salt, Cllr Andrew Sherris, Cllr Michael Smith, Cllr Mick Stoker, Cllr Steve Walmsley, Cllr Mrs Sylvia Walmsley, Cllr Mrs Mary Womphrey, Cllr Mick Womphrey, Cllr Bill Woodhead and Cllr Barry Woodhouse.

Officers: N Schneider (CE); D E Bond, P K Bell (LD); P Dobson (DNS); J Danks, P Saunders, B Brown (R); S Willson (CESC).

Also in attendance: Two Members of the Public.

Apologies: Cllr Paul Baker, Cllr Mrs Eileen Craggs, Cllr Mick Eddy, Cllr Andrew Larkin, Cllr Mrs O'Donnell and Cllr Trainer.

C Declarations of Interest

287/09

All Members present who were tax payers were deemed to have declared a personal non prejudicial interest in respect of agenda item 3 - Review of the Medium Term Financial Plan and Budget for 2010/11.

Councillor Gibson declared personal non prejudicial interest in respect of agenda item 3 - Review of the Medium Term Financial Plan and Budget for 2010/11 as he was a Member of Tristar Homes Board.

Councillor Woodhead declared personal non prejudicial interest in respect of agenda item 3 - Review of the Medium Term Financial Plan and Budget for 2010/11 as he was a Member of Tristar Homes Board.

Councillor Nesbitt declared personal non prejudicial interest in respect of agenda item 3 - Review of the Medium Term Financial Plan and Budget for 2010/11 as she was a Member of Tristar Homes Board.

Councillor Miss Large declared personal non prejudicial interest in respect of agenda item 3 - Review of the Medium Term Financial Plan and Budget for 2010/11 as she was a Member of Tristar Homes Board.

Councillor Miss Large declared personal prejudicial interest in respect of agenda item 3 - Review of the Medium Term Financial Plan and Budget for 2010/11 as she had a friend that lived in one of the named properties at appendix e of the report.

C Review of MTFP and Budget 2010/11

288/09

Members considered a report, relating to the Council's Budget and Council Tax setting for 2010/11 that had been considered by Cabinet, at its special meeting held on 18th February 2008. Members also considered the minutes of that meeting which contained Cabinet's recommendations to Council (CAB 179/09).

Members thanked all of the Officers that had been involved in the budget process. Members considered that the budget proposals being put forward were a testament to the excellent management of financial resources that were recently reflected in the Audit Commission's Use of Resources assessment placing Stockton on Tees Borough Council as one of only 3 councils in the country to gain the maximum score in every category.

The strong financial management allowed Stockton on Tees Borough Council to set a budget whereby Council Tax increases were below the capping limit and were progressively reducing each year to 2.0% in 2010/11, whilst at the same time enabling the Council to continue to invest in services.

Moved by Councillor Lupton, seconded by Councillor Gibson and RESOLVED that the minutes of Cabinet held on 18th February 2010 (Minute CAB 179/09 – CAB 180/09 be confirmed or received as appropriate and that:-

1. 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 at 3% of general fund and net operating expenditure of HRA, and
- c) that the controlled reserves and provisions are adequate for their purpose.

General Fund Budget

2. a 2010/11 budget for Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council of £150,996,155 be approved

3. a 2010/11 budget for Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council inclusive of Parish Precepts (£582,560) of £151,578,715 be approved.

Taxation

SBC

4. the Council Tax for Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council, prior to Parish, Fire and Police Precepts, be increased by 2.0% to a level of £1221.53 at Band D (£814.35 Band A).

Fire, Police & Parish

5. Council note the Fire Precept of £3,742,736, which equates to a Council Tax of £63.97 at Band D (£42.65 at Band A).

6. Council note the anticipated Police Precept of £10,989,972, which equates to a Council Tax of £187.84 at Band D (£125.23 at Band A).

7. Council note the Parish precepts as set out in paragraph 20, page 15 of the budget report.

Council Tax - Statutory Requirements

8. the statutory requirements for Council Tax , as shown in Appendix C, be approved

Treasury Management/Prudential Code

9. the Treasury Management Strategy, Minimum Revenue Provision Statement, Investment Strategy and Prudential Indicators for 2010/11 – 2012/13 as set out in Appendix D to the report be approved

Capital

10. the proposed Stock Rationalisation Programme at Appendix E be approved

11. the revised capital programme for 2009/10 (paragraph 28) and for 2010/11 at Appendix F be approved.

Housing Revenue Account

12. the Housing Revenue Account as set out in Appendix G be approved.

13. the proposed Council Rents increase at Appendix H be approved.

Partnering Proposals

14. the proposed service areas for feasibility in Appendix I be approved.