

Council

A meeting of Council was held on Wednesday, 2nd March, 2011.

Present: The Worshipful the Mayor (Cllr Colin Leckonby), Cllr Hilary Aggio, Cllr Mrs Lynne Apedaile, Cllr Paul Baker, 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 Mrs Eileen Craggs, Cllr Ken Dixon, Cllr Mick Eddy, Cllr Kevin Faulks, Cllr John Fletcher, Cllr Mrs Suzanne Fletcher, Cllr John Gardner, Cllr Robert Gibson, Cllr Miss Barbara Inman, Cllr Mohammed Javed, Cllr Jean Kirby, Cllr Paul Kirton, Cllr Terry Laing, Cllr Miss Tina Large, Cllr Alan Lewis, Cllr Ken Lupton, Cllr Mrs Ann McCoy, Cllr Mrs Kath Nelson, Cllr Steve Nelson, Cllr Bill Noble, Cllr Mrs Jean O'Donnell, Cllr Maurice Perry, Cllr Mrs Maureen Rigg, Cllr Roy Rix, Cllr Michael Smith, 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, G Cummings, A Kelly, L King (R).

Also in attendance: Members of the Public.

Apologies: Cllr Ian Dalgarno, Cllr Jackie Earl, Cllr Maurice Frankland, Cllr David Harrington, Cllr Liz Nesbitt, Cllr Ross Patterson, Cllr Fred Salt, Cllr Andrew Sherris and Cllr Mick Stoker.

C Declarations of Interest **267/10**

All Members present who were Council 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 2011/12.

All Members present 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 2011/12 and the second proposed amendment by Councillor Mrs Rigg regarding a review of Members Allowances.

Councillor Mrs Beaumont declared a personal prejudicial interest in respect of agenda item 3 - Medium Term Financial Plan Update and Budget for 2011/12 as she was a member the management committee of Kirklevington Village Hall. Councillor Mrs Beaumont withdrew from the meeting and left the room during consideration of the first amendment proposed by Councillor Mrs Rigg.

Councillor Mrs Fletcher declared a personal non prejudicial interest in respect of agenda item 3 - Medium Term Financial Plan Update and Budget for 2011/12 as she was a trustee of Elm Tree Youth and Community Centre.

C Medium Term Financial Plan Update and Budget for 2011/12 **268/10**

Members considered a report on the Council's 2011/12 budget and Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP) for 2012/13 onwards. The report also incorporated Council Tax proposals and the approach to the financial issues faced by the Council. The report had been considered by Cabinet, at its special meeting held on 24th February 2011. Members also considered the minutes of that meeting which contained Cabinet's recommendations to Council (CAB 162/10).

Members expressed their thanks to 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.

Stockton's current tax level for 2010/11 at Band A was £814.35 (£15.66 per week) and no increase was proposed for 2011/12.

Moved by Councillor Lupton, seconded by Councillor Gibson that the minutes of Cabinet held on 24th February 2011 (Minute CAB 162/10 be confirmed or received as appropriate and 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 at 3% of general fund, and
- c) that the controlled reserves and provisions are adequate for their purpose.

General Fund Budget

2. A 2011/12 budget requirement for Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council of £149,938,256 be approved.

3. A 2011/12 budget requirement for Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council inclusive of Parish Precepts (£592,970) of £150,531,226 be approved.

4. The 2011/12 budget and indicative 2012/15 MTFP as outlined in paragraph 32 and the use of balances and reserves as outlined in paragraph 58 be approved.

5. The continued support for the Voluntary and Community Sector, through the retention of the Voluntary Sector Support Package, earmarking a reserve to develop and commission new models of delivery for Children and Adult Social Care, protection of advice services and the development of an Asset Transfer Policy be noted.

6. The Efficiency, Improvement & Transformation (EIT) review of the services funded by Early Intervention Grant (EIG) be noted and the ceasing of services which are neither statutory or a priority, as outlined in paragraph 46 be approved.

Taxation

SBC

7. The retention of the Council Tax for Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council, prior to Parish, Fire and Police Precepts, be retained at 2010/11 levels i.e. £1,221.53 at Band D (£814.35 at Band A) be approved.

Fire, Police & Parish

8. The anticipated Police Precept of £11,074,777 which equates to a Council Tax of £187.84 at Band D (£125.23 at Band A) be noted.

9. The Fire Precept of £3,771,617, which equates to a Council Tax of £63.97 at

Band D (£42.65 at Band A) be noted.

10. The Parish precepts as set out in paragraph 62 be noted.

Capital

11. The revised Capital Programme attached at Appendix D be approved.

Council Tax - Statutory Requirements

12. The statutory requirements for Council Tax as shown in Appendix F be approved.

Treasury Management/Prudential Code

13. The Treasury Management Strategy, Minimum Revenue Provision Statement, Investment Strategy and Prudential Indicators for 2011/12 – 2013/14 as set out in Appendix G to the report be approved.

Attendance at Court

14. The authorisation of the postholders named in paragraph 66 to prosecute, defend or appear in proceedings before the Magistrates Court in relation to Council Tax, Business Rates (NNDR) and Business Improvement Districts (BID charges) be approved.

Moved by Councillor Mrs Rigg, seconded by Councillor Fletcher that the motion be amended as follows:-

1. The balance as at 31st March 2011 on the Schools-in-Difficulty Earmarked Reserve estimated to be £460k, be treated as 'one-off' funding (of the type described in Paragraphs 55 to 58) and used primarily for the provision of a transition fund to enable those responsible for premises which have youth clubs earmarked for closure to explore alternative ways of funding and delivering the service using the facilities and equipment there.

A vote took place and the amendment was declared lost.

A further motion was Moved by Councillor Mrs Rigg, seconded by Councillor Fletcher that the motion be amended as follows:-

In view of the anticipated financial position of this Authority for 2012-13 onwards proposed at Recommendation 4, Officers be instructed to bring proposals forward at an early stage in the next municipal year for a review of councillors' allowances, with particular attention to the number and amount of Special Responsibility Allowances and whether the cost of them to the Council could be reduced, by a truly independent panel in time for a considered decision by full Council before 1st April 2012.

A vote took place and the amendment was declared lost.

RESOLVED that the minutes of Cabinet held on 24th February 2011 (Minute CAB 162/10) be confirmed or received as appropriate and that:-

In accordance with the Local Government Act 2003, Members note that the Section 151 Officer confirms that the following recommendations:-

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