

Council

A meeting of Council was held on Wednesday, 27th February, 2013.

Present: The Worshipful the Mayor (Cllr Lynne Apedaile); Cllr Jim Beall, Cllr Derrick Brown, Cllr Mark Chatburn, Cllr Julia Cherrett, Cllr Carol Clark, Cllr Michael Clark, Cllr David Coleman, Cllr Robert Cook, Cllr Nigel Cooke, Cllr Gillian Corr, Cllr Evaline Cunningham, Cllr Phillip Dennis, Cllr Ken Dixon, Cllr Kevin Faulks, Cllr John Gardner, Cllr Robert Gibson, Cllr David Harrington, Cllr Barbara Inman, Cllr Mohammed Javed, Cllr Eileen Johnson, Cllr Elliot Kennedy, Cllr Jean Kirby, Cllr Paul Kirton, Cllr Terry Laing, Cllr Miss Tina Large, Cllr Ken Lupton, Cllr Ray McCall, Cllr Mrs Ann McCoy, Cllr M Moore, Cllr Mrs Kathryn Nelson, Cllr Steve Nelson, Cllr Mrs Jean O'Donnell, Cllr Ross Patterson, Cllr Maurice Perry, Cllr Mrs Maureen Rigg, Cllr David Rose, Cllr Andrew Sherris, Cllr Michael Smith, Cllr Andrew Stephenson, Cllr Norma Stephenson O.B.E, Cllr Steve Walmsley, Cllr Mrs Sylvia Walmsley, Cllr David Wilburn, Cllr Norma Wilburn, Cllr Barry Woodhouse

Officers: N Schneider (CE); P Dobson (DNS); J Danks, G Cummings, B Brown, L King (R); D E Bond, P K Bell (LD).

Also in attendance: 2 Members of the public.

Apologies: Cllr Paul Baker, Cllr Ian Dalgarno, Cllr Ben Houchen, Cllr Colin Leckonby, Cllr Alan Lewis, Cllr Michael Stoker, Cllr Tracey Stott, Cllr Mrs Mary Womphrey, Cllr Michael Womphrey and Cllr Bill Woodhead.

C Evacuation Plan

114/12

The evacuation plan was noted.

C Declarations of Interest

115/12

All Members present who were Council Tax payers had been granted a dispensation regarding any disclosable pecuniary interests which they may have had in relation to the consideration and setting of the budget / Council Tax.

All Members had a personal interest in relation to Members Allowances but in accordance with the Members Code of Conduct could participate and vote on the matter.

Councillor Kennedy declared a personal non prejudicial interest in respect of agenda item 3 - Medium Term Financial Plan Update and Strategy as he was on the board of Elm Tree Community Centre.

C Medium Term Financial Plan Update and Strategy

116/12

Members considered a report on the Council's 2013/14 budget and Council Tax and which outlined the Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP) position to 2017. There had been a considerable number of changes in the Council's Medium Term Financial Plan since the report to Council in February 2012, mainly through changes in Government Funding. The report outlined a balanced budget position for 2013/14, there were significant financial pressures in future years and the report also outlined the approach to addressing these issues.

The report had been considered by Cabinet, at its special meeting held on 21st February 2013 and a copy of the Cabinet report and an extract of the relevant Cabinet minute were provided for Members.

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 the Council's financial resources.

Moved by Councillor Cook, seconded by Councillor Beall 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
- c) that the controlled reserves and provisions are adequate for their purpose.

General Fund Budget

2. The anticipated reduction in Government funding between 2010/11 and 2016/17 of £51m (approximately 42% in cash terms, 58% in real terms) be noted.

3. A 2013/14 Council Tax requirement for Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council of £63,981,273 be approved.

4. A 2013/14 Council Tax requirement for Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council inclusive of Parish Precepts (£557,508) of £ 64,538,781 be approved.

5. The 2013/14 budget and indicative 2013/17 MTFP, as outlined in paragraph 50 of the budget report and the use of balances and reserves as outlined in paragraph 58 to 60 be approved.

Taxation

SBC

6. The Council Tax for Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council prior to Parish, Fire and Police Precepts be increased by 1.9% i.e. to £1288.18 at Band D (£858.79 at Band A).

7. The changes to Council Tax charges for empty dwellings to take effect from 1 April 2013 as outlined in paragraphs 34-36 of the budget report be approved.

Fire, Police & Parish

8. The Police precept of £9,848,227 which equates to a Council Tax of £198.28 at Band D (£132.19 at Band A) be noted.

9. The Fire precept of £3,365,501, which equates to a Council Tax of £67.76 at Band D (£45.17 at Band A) be noted.

10. The Parish precepts as set out in paragraph 68 of the budget report be noted.

Capital

11. The Capital Programme attached at Appendix C of the budget report be

approved.

Pay Policy

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

Members Allowances

13. That the Members allowances be frozen for 2013/14.

Council Tax - Statutory Requirements

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

Treasury Management/Prudential Code

15. The Treasury Management Strategy, Minimum Revenue Provision Statement, Investment Strategy and Prudential Indicators for 2013/14 – 2015/16 as set out in Appendix F to the report be approved.

Moved by Councillor Lupton, seconded by Councillor Laing that the motion be amended as follows:-

3. A 2013/14 Council Tax requirement for Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council of £62,788,248 be approved.

4. A 2013/14 Council Tax requirement for Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council inclusive of Parish Precepts (£557,508) of £63,345,756 be approved.

6. The Council Tax for Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council prior to Parish, Fire and Police Precepts be frozen to £1264.16 at Band D (£842.77 at Band A).

Details of the consequential changes to the body of the Cabinet report and of the impact of the alternative recommendations were also provided to Members.

A vote took place and the amendment was declared lost.

Moved by Councillor Cherrett, seconded by Councillor Kennedy that the motion be amended as follows:-

An allocation of £20,000 from the "Invest to Save" budget to maintain mobile skateboarding and BMX facilities for a period of 6 months to give Elm Tree Project X time to secure alternative funding be agreed.

A vote took place and the amendment was declared lost.

RESOLVED that:-

1. in accordance with the Local Government Act 2003, Members note that the

Section 151 Officer confirms that the following recommendations:-

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- b) provide adequate working balances at 3% of general fund, and
- c) that the controlled reserves and provisions are adequate for their purpose.

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2. The anticipated reduction in Government funding between 2010/11 and 2016/17 of £51m (approximately 42% in cash terms, 58% in real terms) be noted.
3. A 2013/14 Council Tax requirement for Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council of £63,981,273 be approved.
4. A 2013/14 Council Tax requirement for Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council inclusive of Parish Precepts (£557,508) of £ 64,538,781 be approved.
5. The 2013/14 budget and indicative 2013/17 MTFP, as outlined in paragraph 50 of the budget report and the use of balances and reserves as outlined in paragraph 58 to 60 be approved.

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