

CITY AND COUNTY OF SWANSEA

MINUTES OF THE CABINET

HELD AT COUNCIL CHAMBER, GUILDHALL, SWANSEA ON
THURSDAY, 9 FEBRUARY 2017
AT 4.00 PM

PRESENT: Councillor R C Stewart (Chair) Presided

Councillor(s)

M C Child
J E C Harris
C E Lloyd

Councillor(s)

W Evans
D H Hopkins
J A Raynor

Councillor(s)

R Francis-Davies
A S Lewis

Apologies for Absence

Councillor(s): C Richards

131. **DISCLOSURES OF PERSONAL AND PREJUDICIAL INTERESTS.**

In accordance with the Code of Conduct adopted by the City and County of Swansea, no interests were declared.

132. **LEADER OF THE COUNCIL'S ANNOUNCEMENTS.**

The Leader made no announcements.

133. **PUBLIC QUESTION TIME.**

A number of questions were asked by Members of the Public relating to the budget. The relevant Cabinet Member responded accordingly. No questions required a written response.

134. **COUNCILLORS' QUESTION TIME.**

No questions were asked.

135. **PRE-DECISION SCRUTINY FEEDBACK ON THE ANNUAL BUDGET (VERBAL).**

Councillor C A Holley, Convenor of the Service Improvement and Finance Scrutiny Performance Panel presented the views of the Panel in relation to the budget proposals.

136. **REVENUE AND CAPITAL BUDGET MONITORING 3RD QUARTER 2016/17.**

The Cabinet Member for Finance and Delivery submitted a report setting out the financial position of the Council relating to the 2016-2017 Revenue and Capital Budgets, including the delivery of budget savings.

RESOLVED that:

- 1) The comments and variations detailed in the report and the actions in hand to address these be noted.

137. **MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL PLANNING 2018/19 - 2020/21.**

The Section 151 Officer submitted a report which set out the rationale and purpose of the Medium Term Financial Plan and detailed the major funding assumptions for the period and proposed a strategy to maintain a balanced budget.

RESOLVED that:

- 1) The Medium Term Financial Plan 2018/19 to 2020/21 be recommended to Council as the basis for future service financial planning.

138. **REVENUE BUDGET 2017/18.**

The Section 151 Officer submitted a report which set out the current position with regard to the Revenue Budget for 2017-2018. It detailed:

- Financial Monitoring 2016-2017;
- The Local Government Finance Settlement 2017-2018;
- Budget Forecast 2017-2018;
- Specific Saving Proposals;
- Outcome of Budget Consultation;
- Staffing Implications;
- Reserves and Contingency Fund Requirements;
- The Budget Requirement and Council Tax 2017-2018;
- Summary of funding proposals;
- Risks and uncertainties.

The Leader of the Council and the Transformation and Performance Cabinet Member proposed the following amendments.

Statutory changes - advised by the S151 officer

	£	£
Revision to final Fire Authority Levy (provisional)	<u>29,000</u>	29,000

Further changes to proposals as a result of consultation responses

Remove City Centre Sunday parking and remove increased car parking charges	100,000	
Slow the increase in school meals prices from an additional 10p to 5p	40,000	
Remove the proposed music service subsidy reduction	<u>97,000</u>	

Minutes of the Cabinet (09.02.2017)
Cont'd

237,000

New Announcements

City Events (Christmas parade / sports events / fan zones / pride / cohesion)	200,000	
Housing/City Deal pump priming	250,000	
Electric bikes feasibility study	20,000	
Place taskforces – Fly Tipping team	100,000	
Place taskforces - continue funding to maintain pothole team	150,000	
Further Local Area Co-ordination expansion	80,000	
Make all veterans events free	10,000	
Targeted free parking in urban areas	<u>20,000</u>	
		830,000

And finally, change to recommended Council Tax Level

Reduce recommended council tax increase from 3.0% to 2.75%		
Reduction in overall council tax yield (income)	262,000	
Lower local cost of the CTRS scheme at that lower council tax increase	<u>-50,000</u>	
		212,000

Total cost of proposals **1,308,000**

Funded as follows:

Reduce contingency fund back to £5.4m, in line with previous years	1,000,000	
Reduction in funding available to support future capital schemes costs (balance)	308,000	
		<u>1,308,000</u>

Further announcements at assumed nil additional cost to Council:

Confirm that commercial team is funded
Disabled spaces review
Retention of income for market sinking fund to fund upgrade & toilet restoration - level and mechanism to be confirmed
Planning application for Civic Site - request Welsh Government funding

RESOLVED that:

- 1) The outcome of the formal consultation exercise be noted and changes to the Budget Proposals in Appendix D of the report as amended above be agreed,

together with the position regarding delegated budgets as set out in section 4.10 of the report;

- 2) The current Resource Gap identified in Section 4.5 of the report be noted, in line with the potential actions identified in Sections 9 and 10 of the report agreed as course of action to achieve a balanced Revenue Budget for 2016-2017;
- 3) In addition to a review of current savings proposals Cabinet:
 - a) Reviewed and Approved the Reserve Transfers recommended in the report;
 - b) Agreed a level of Council Tax for 2017-2018 to be recommended to Council.
- 4) Subject to the changes identified and listed above, Cabinet recommends to Council for approval:
 - a) A Revenue Budget for 2017-2018;
 - b) A Budget Requirement and Council Tax levy for 2017-2018.

139. **CAPITAL BUDGET & PROGRAMME 2017/18 - 2020/21.**

The Section 151 Officer submitted a report which proposed a revised Capital Budget for 2016-2017 and a Capital Budget for 2017-2018 to 2020-2021.

The Leader of the Council proposed the following additions to the Capital Programme for 2017-2018.

Capital	£
Provision for a further 2 x 3G Pitches	500,000
Lighting of Public Buildings	100,000
Works to Mansion House to enable public accessibility	200,000
	<u>800,000</u>

RESOLVED that:

- 1) The revised Capital Budget for 2016-2017 and a Capital Budget for 2017-2018 – 2020-2021 as detailed in Appendices A, B, C, D and E of the report as amended be recommended to Council for approval.

140. **HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT (HRA) REVENUE BUDGET 2017/18.**

The Section 151 Officer and Director of Place submitted a joint report which proposed a Revenue Budget for 2017-2018 and a rent increase for properties within the Housing Revenue Account (HRA).

RESOLVED that the following budget proposals be recommended to Council for approval:

- 1) Rents be increased in line with the Welsh Government rent setting policy as detailed in Section 3 of the report;
- 2) Fees, charges and allowances be approved as outlined in Section 3 of the report;
- 3) The Revenue Budget Proposals as detailed in Section 3 of the report.

141. **HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT - CAPITAL BUDGET AND PROGRAMME 2017/18 - 2020/21.**

The Section 151 Officer and Director of Place submitted a joint report which proposed a revised Capital Budget for 2016-2017 and a Capital Budget for 2017-2018 – 2020-2021.

RESOLVED that the following budget proposals be recommended to Council for approval:

- 1) The transfers between schemes and the revised budgets for schemes in 2016-2017 be approved;
- 2) The budget proposals for 2017-2018 – 2020-2021 be approved;
- 3) Where individual schemes as shown in Appendix B of the report are programmed over the 4 year period, these are committed and approved and that their financial implications for funding over subsequent years also be approved.

The meeting ended at 5.17 pm

CHAIR

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