

CABINET**Tuesday, 20th February, 2018**

Present:-

Councillor P Gilby (Chair)

Councillors	T Gilby Blank A Diouf Huckle	Councillors	Brunt Ludlow Serjeant
Non Voting Members	Catt Dickinson		J Innes

*Matters dealt with under the Delegation Scheme

131 DECLARATIONS OF MEMBERS' AND OFFICERS' INTERESTS RELATING TO ITEMS ON THE AGENDA

No declarations of interest were received.

132 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

An apology for absence was received from Councillor Bagley.

133 MINUTES**RESOLVED –**

- 1) That the minutes be amended to note an apology for absence for Councillor Diouf.
- 2) That the minutes of the meeting of Cabinet held on 30 January, 2018 be approved as a correct record, subject to noting the above amendment, and signed by the Chair.

134 FORWARD PLAN

The Forward Plan for the four month period 1 March to 30 June 2018 was reported for information.

***RESOLVED –**

That the Forward Plan be noted.

135 DELEGATION REPORT

Decisions taken by Cabinet Members between 22 January and 12 February 2018 were reported.

***RESOLVED –**

That the Delegation Report be noted.

136 MINUTES OF THE SHEFFIELD CITY REGION COMBINED AUTHORITY

Minutes of the meeting of the Sheffield City Region Combined Authority (SCRCA) held on 11 December, 2017 were reported for information.

Assistant Cabinet Member, Councillor Dickinson, asked if the Council had been made aware of whether its capital funding bids to the SCRCA had been successful.

The Chief Executive advised that the SCRCA had received in excess of 50 separate funding bids as part of its Local Growth Fund supplementary commissioning round, and that the Council expected to hear the outcome of its 2 bid submissions late March 2018.

Members were also informed that the two separate funding bids submitted by the Council to the Sheffield City Region Housing Fund had been successful, and that Chesterfield College had been awarded SCRCA Skills Capital to support the development of a digital skills hub.

***RESOLVED –**

That the Minutes be noted.

137 APPROVAL OF CHESTERFIELD BOROUGH COUNCIL'S COUNCIL PLAN – 2018/19 UPDATE

The Assistant Director – Policy and Communications submitted a report presenting for approval the Council Plan 2015-19, updated for 2018/19.

In 2015/16 the Council had moved from the production of a one year plan to a four year strategic Council Plan following a recommendation from the Local Government Association's peer challenge in 2013.

The updated Council Plan, as attached at Appendix A to the officer's report, had been revised to show the progress made during the first three years of the plan, and to highlight the priority areas for the remaining final year of the plan.

*** RESOLVED –**

That it be recommended to full Council that:

1. The Council Plan be approved and adopted as the Council's strategic framework for monitoring performance against key aims and objectives and to prioritise resources.
2. Delegated authority be granted to the Deputy Leader to approve any minor changes to the Council Plan that may be required to improve its readability.

REASON FOR DECISIONS

To provide the Council with a clear statement of its strategic priorities for 2015-2019, and a framework within which decisions can be made regarding the allocation of resources.

138 TREASURY MANAGEMENT STRATEGY 2018/19

The Director of Finance and Resources submitted a report recommending for approval the Treasury Management Strategy Statement and the Annual Investment Strategy Statement for 2018/19, the revised Minimum Reserve Provision (MRP) Policy for 2017/18 and the MRP Policy for 2018/19.

The report noted the Council's requirement to approve its Treasury Management and Investment Strategies, and to reaffirm its adoption of the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA) 'Code

of Practice for Treasury Management in the Public Services', at the start of each financial year.

The Director of Finance and Resources also reported on the Council's estimated capital expenditure, how this would be financed and the Council's borrowing need. The level of external debt remained within the Council's authorised limit, and the Council's approach to investing cash would continue to balance the need for security and liquidity with achieving the highest rate of return.

The Treasury Management Strategy Statement 2018/19 was attached at Appendix A to the officer's report.

*** RESOLVED –**

That it be recommended to full Council that:

1. The adoption of CIPFA's Code of Practice on Treasury Management be affirmed.
2. The Treasury Management Strategy Statement and Annual Investment Strategy, including the Prudential Code Indicators, be approved.
3. The revised Minimum Revenue Provision policy for 2017/18 be approved.
4. The Minimum Revenue Provision policy for 2018/19 be approved.

REASON FOR DECISIONS

To comply with regulations and recognised best practice.

139 **CAPITAL STRATEGY AND GENERAL FUND CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2018/19**

The Director of Finance and Resources submitted a report recommending for approval the General Fund Capital Strategy and Programme for the financial year 2018/19.

The report provided details of the updated Capital Strategy and expenditure forecasts, new schemes added to the Capital Programme

during the last year, and progress made on current major schemes. Members were also made aware of the Council's capital financing arrangements, the level of capital receipts and its net financing position.

The Director of Finance and Resources reported that significant work had been undertaken to ensure the Capital Programme over the next three financial years, despite the challenging economic climate.

***RESOLVED –**

That it be recommended to full Council that:

1. The Capital Strategy be approved.
2. The updated General Fund Capital Programme expenditure and financing be approved.
3. The new Capital Programme schemes, as outlined in paragraph 8.3 of the officer's report, be approved subject to satisfactory business cases being made and subsequent Cabinet and/or Council agreement.

REASON FOR DECISIONS

To update the Council's General Fund Capital Programme and ensure that it is affordable and deliverable over the medium term.

140 2018/19 BUDGET AND MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL PLAN

The Director of Finance and Resources submitted a report on the draft General Fund budget, with recommendations made to Council on the budget allocations and Council Tax level for 2018/19.

The Director of Finance and Resources confirmed that, despite growing cost pressures, savings for 2017/18 totalling £1.206k had been achieved. The revised budget forecast therefore showed an estimated surplus of £976k.

The report outlined the assumptions that had been made in preparing the draft budgets from 2018/19 through to 2022/23, and the actions that had been implemented to finalise the portfolio budgets since they were considered by Cabinet on 19 December, 2017.

The report also noted the emphasis from central Government for local authorities to become financially self-sufficient by 2020/21, including the phasing out of the Revenue Support Grant.

The report noted that the recommended £5 increase in annual Council Tax for all Band 'D' properties was equivalent to an annual increase of 3.23 per cent, or a weekly increase of 9.6 pence.

Members were informed of the expenditure estimates for the coming financial year, as well as the medium term forecasts for 2019/20 through to 2022/23.

***RESOLVED –**

That it be recommended to full Council that:

1. The revised budget for 2017/18 be approved.
2. The Local Government Finance Settlement be noted.
3. The Collection Fund and Tax Base forecasts be noted.
4. The portfolio budgets and overall revenue budget summary for 2018/19 be approved.
5. Delegated authority be granted to the Director of Finance and Resources in consultation with the Leader, Deputy Leader and Chief Executive to review what is required to ensure that maximum opportunity is taken from the flexibility available to use capital receipts for revenue purposes where such investment will lead to budget savings.
6. The budget forecasts for 2019/20 and the medium term forecasts, as well as the strategy for addressing the projected deficits, be noted.
7. The growth request of £10k for each of the next two years to enable the implementation of the Council's Skills Action Plan, be approved.
8. Approval be given to the estimates of reserves, including:

- i. Maintaining the General Working Balance at £1.5m;
 - ii. The phasing of the recommended £200k insurance provision increase over 5 years;
 - iii. The creation of an ICT Digital Innovation reserve to fund the cost of ICT development.
9. The budget risks and sensitivity analysis be noted.
 10. The recommended £5 increase in Council Tax for a Band 'D' property in 2018/19 be approved.
 11. The 2018/19 Council Tax Requirement and financing be approved.
 12. The Director of Finance and Resources' assurances be noted.

REASON FOR DECISIONS

In order to meet the statutory requirements relating to setting a budget and the council tax.

141 SENIOR PAY POLICY

The Human Resources Manager submitted a report seeking approval for the Senior Pay Policy Statement for 2018/19, in accordance with the Localism Act 2011 and the Local Government (Transparency Requirements) (England) Regulations 2014.

The Senior Pay Policy Statement for 2018/19, as attached at Appendix 1 to the officer's report, included details of how senior pay was set within the Council. The revised policy statement had been updated to reflect the implementation of the Council's new corporate management structure.

*** RESOLVED –**

That it be recommended to full Council that the revised Senior Pay Policy Statement for 2018/19 be approved.

REASON FOR DECISION

To meet the requirements of the Localism Act 2011 by publishing the Senior Pay Policy Statement by 31 March, 2018.

142 **REVISED SAFEGUARDING POLICY AND PROCEDURES AND MODERN SLAVERY STATEMENT**

The Assistant Director – Policy and Communications submitted a report recommending for approval the Council’s updated policy and procedures for the safeguarding of children and vulnerable adults, and the Council’s Modern Slavery Statement for 2018/19.

The report noted the Council’s statutory duties in respect of safeguarding children and vulnerable adults, and that work had been carried out to deliver improvements to the Council’s safeguarding policy and procedures, following a safeguarding audit review carried out in June 2015.

A number of effective and sustainable improvements had been made, which were set out in paragraph 4.2 of the officer’s report. The full revised policy for safeguarding children and vulnerable adults was attached at Appendix A to the officer’s report.

The Modern Slavery Statement for 2018/19 was attached at Appendix B to the officer’s report.

*** RESOLVED –**

1. That the revised policy and procedures for safeguarding children and vulnerable adults be approved.
2. That delegated authority be granted to the Cabinet Member for Health and Wellbeing to approve essential amendments to the safeguarding policy and procedures between formal review periods.
3. That a review of the safeguarding policy, procedures and arrangements be carried out two years after approval.
4. That the Modern Slavery Statement for 2018/19 be approved.

REASON FOR DECISIONS

To effectively safeguard and promote the welfare of children and vulnerable adults within our borough.

143 **HOUSING CAPITAL PROGRAMME: NEW PROGRAMME FOR 2018/19 THROUGH TO 2021/22**

The Assistant Director – Housing and the Director of Finance and Resources submitted a report seeking approval for the public sector housing ‘Capital’ programme for 2018/19 and provisionally for 2019/20 through to 2022/23.

The report reaffirmed that the focus of the Housing Capital Programme was to maintain the Decent Homes Standard, modernise the non-traditional housing stock, deliver improvements to the estate environment, and accelerate the provision of new Council housing in the immediate short term.

The Assistant Director – Housing advised that the proposed 2018/19 programme continued to broadly reflect the spending priorities set out in the Housing Revenue Account (HRA) Business Plan, and addressed needs as identified in the latest Stock Condition Survey.

The report noted the important role that the HRA Steering Group – comprised of cross-party elected members, officers and tenants – had played in reviewing and prioritising the Capital Programme.

Details of the recommended share of the Capital Programme to Commercial Services were set out in Appendix 1 of the officer’s report.

***RESOLVED –**

That it be recommended to full Council that:

1. The Housing (Public Sector) Capital Programme for 2018/19 be approved and its procurement, as necessary, be authorised.
2. The Housing (Public Sector) Capital Programmes for 2019/20 to 2022/23 be provisionally approved.
3. The Commercial Services share of the 2018/19 Programme be approved.

4. Delegated authority be granted to the Assistant Director – Housing to transfer funds between programme heads and budgets in order to manage the Capital Programme.

REASONS FOR DECISIONS

1. To maintain the Council's 'Decent Homes Standard' targets in line with the Council Plan.
2. To maintain and improve the condition of the Public Sector housing stock and its environment.
3. To contribute to the aims of the Borough Housing Strategy and to deliver the Housing Revenue Account Business Plan.

144 HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT BUDGET 2018/19 TO 2022/23

The Assistant Director – Housing and Director of Finance and Resources submitted a report presenting the probable outturn on the Housing Revenue Account (HRA) for 2017/18, and the budget estimates for 2018/19 through to 2022/23.

The Council was required to produce a 30 year HRA Business Plan that was financially viable and able to maintain the Council's housing stock at the minimum Decent Homes Standard.

The probable outturn for the HRA in 2017/18 was reported in Section 5 of the officer's report.

The Assistant Director – Housing advised that the financial strategy for the HRA in 2018/19 was to continue to deliver a balanced, sustainable and self-financing budget. The initial HRA budget forecast for 2018/19 was set out at Section 7 of the officer's report.

***RESOLVED –**

That it be recommended to full Council that:

1. The probable outturn for the current financial year 2017/18 be noted.

2. That the draft budget estimates for 2018/19 and future financial years be approved.

REASONS FOR DECISIONS

1. To enable the Council to set the Housing Revenue Account budget for 2018/19.
2. To continue with the financial strategy contained in the Housing Revenue Account Business Plan and self-financing debt settlement arrangements.

145 HOUSING REPAIRS BUDGET 2018/19

The Assistant Director – Housing submitted a report recommending for approval the Housing Repairs Budget for 2018/19.

The report noted that extensive reviews had been undertaken to ensure a cost-effective approach to delivering future housing repairs and maintenance programmes, and to mitigate the implications of changes in national housing and welfare policy on the financial viability of the Housing Revenue Account (HRA) Business Plan.

In light of the increased provision within the Housing Capital Investment Programme, and tenants taking greater responsibility for their own repairs, the Assistant Director – Housing recommended that the Housing Repairs Budget be decreased by £500k in 2018/19, and by a further £500k in 2019/20.

***RESOLVED –**

1. That the Housing Repairs Budget of £8.473m for 2018/19, as set out in Appendix 1 to the officer's report, be approved.
2. That, pursuant to Cabinet Minute No.148 (2016/17), the Housing Repairs Budget for 2019/20 be further decreased by £500k, after which it will be set in accordance with an increase in the rate of inflation (CPI).
3. That delegated authority be granted to the Assistant Director - Commercial Services to transfer funds between responsive repairs

budget heads in order to effectively manage and respond to fluctuations in tenant-led, or weather dependent repairs.

REASONS FOR DECISIONS

1. To permit the required maintenance of the Housing Stock.
2. To contribute to the delivery of a balanced and sustainable Housing Revenue Account, which is self-financing in the longer term.
3. To support the Council's vision and priorities within the Council Plan.