

CABINET**Tuesday, 13th December, 2016**

Present:-

Councillor Burrows (Chair)

Councillors T Gilby
T Murphy
BlankCouncillors Huckle
Serjeant
A DioufNon Voting Members Bagley
J InnesHollingworth
Wall

*Matters dealt with under the Delegation Scheme

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

No declarations of interest were received.

106 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Brown and Ludlow.

107 MINUTES**RESOLVED –**

That the minutes of the meeting of Cabinet held on 29 November, 2016 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

108 FORWARD PLAN

The Forward Plan for the four month period 1 January, 2017 to 30 April, 2017 was reported for information.

***RESOLVED –**

That the Forward Plan be noted.

109 **DELEGATION REPORT**

Decisions taken by Cabinet Members during October, 2016 were reported.

***RESOLVED –**

That the Delegation Report be noted.

110 **CHESTERFIELD BOROUGH LOCAL PLAN**

The Strategic Planning and Key Sites Manager submitted a report seeking approval for the draft Local Plan to be published so that a six week public consultation on it could commence on 5 January, 2017.

The report noted that the current planning policies which guide development in the borough were set out in the Local Plan Core Strategy, which had been adopted by the council in 2013, as well as some policies saved from the Replacement Chesterfield Borough Local Plan 2006. The Strategic Planning and Key Sites Manager advised that the Core Strategy provided the overall spatial strategy for the borough up to 2031, including housing and employment growth targets, as well as setting out policies for Development Control purposes. Since the Core Strategy was adopted by the Council in 2013, the government had made numerous changes to the planning system including new permitted development rights and the removal of the Code for Sustainable Homes. This had created the opportunity to review and refresh the Core Strategy and other associated policies.

The report included information about how the review had been conducted, as well as its scope. The draft Local Plan was attached as an appendix to the officer's report. The Strategic Planning and Key Sites Manager advised that draft Local Plan would be the subject of a minimum of six weeks public consultation in accordance with the council's adopted Statement of Community Involvement. It was proposed that the consultation period should start on 5 January, 2017.

***RESOLVED –**

1. That the draft Local Plan, and associated material be put forward for public consultation.

2. That the Strategic Planning and Key Sites Manager be delegated authority, in consultation with and with the agreement of the Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Planning, to make minor amendments and corrections to the Draft Local Plan and associated material in order to make it ready for public consultation.

REASON FOR DECISIONS

To allow consultation to be undertaken on a draft Local Plan in accordance with the council's published Statement of Community Involvement.

111 GENERAL FUND REVENUE BUDGET SUMMARY

The Director of Finance and Resources provided Cabinet with an update on the development of the General Fund Revenue Budget for 2017/18 and for future years. The report noted that due to uncertainties with regard to variable factors including the level of New Homes Bonus, the Business Rates revaluation and the Provisional Grant Settlement yet to be received, that the forecasts included in the report could change significantly in advance of the final budget that would be presented to Council for consideration in February, 2017.

The latest revised budget for 2016/17 showed a projected deficit of £186,000. The report noted that efforts were being made to eliminate the projected deficit, and that in January 2017 budget holders would be asked again to review their income and spend projections in order to identify further potential savings. The report noted that the use of reserves had increased significantly in 2016/17 in order to finance the upfront costs associated with the agile working required to enable the Town Hall restack scheme to begin, as well as to finance other costs needed to implement more efficient service delivery models across the council that would help to provide savings in future years. The Director of Finance and Resources noted the importance of replenishing the council reserves in order to not only balance the General Fund should this be required, but to also enable future investment in invest to save projects and service improvements.

The report noted that the current budget forecast for 2017/18 was showing a deficit of £62,000. The major challenges for budget setting in 2017/18 would, as in previous years, be delivering savings targets on time and at the required level. The report also included details of the current

medium term financial forecasts which showed deficits in all years, increasing as reductions in government funding continued to impact on the council's finances.

The Director of Finance and Resources noted that in advance of the final budget for 2017/18 being agreed by full Council on 23 February, 2017 Cabinet Members and the Corporate Management Team would continue to look for further savings proposals for inclusion in the final budget.

The report did note that some of the council's income streams had increased and that subsidies to some services had as a consequence reduced. The Cabinet Member for Town Centre and Visitor Economy noted that the council's business-like approach to investing in high quality services and facilities was now showing positive financial outcomes.

***RESOLVED –**

1. That the updated budget projections for 2016/17, and future years, be noted.
2. That work continues to refine the draft estimates and to develop budget saving proposals.

REASON FOR DECISIONS

To keep Members informed on the development of the budget proposals for 2017/18 and to provide an update on the medium term financial forecasts.

112 LEADER AND CABINET MEMBER FOR REGENERATION REVENUE BUDGET 2016/17 - 2021/22

The Director of Finance and Resources reported on the draft Revenue Budget outturn for 2016/17 and explained significant variances from the original budget.

Details of the draft budget for 2017/18 were also provided.

***RESOLVED –**

1. That the probable outturn for the current financial year be noted.

2. That the draft estimates for 2017/18 and future years be noted.

REASON FOR DECISIONS

To enable the Council to set a balanced budget for 2017/18.

113 DEPUTY LEADER AND CABINET MEMBER FOR PLANNING REVENUE BUDGET 2016/17 - 2021/22

The Director of Finance and Resources reported on the draft Revenue Budget outturn for 2016/17 and explained significant variances from the original budget.

Details of the draft budget for 2017/18 were also provided.

***RESOLVED –**

1. That the probable outturn for the current financial year be noted.
2. That the draft estimates for 2017/18 and future years be noted.

REASON FOR DECISIONS

To enable the Council to set a balanced budget for 2017/18.

114 CABINET MEMBER FOR BUSINESS TRANSFORMATION REVENUE BUDGET 2016/17 - 2021/22

The Director of Finance and Resources reported on the draft Revenue Budget outturn for 2016/17 and explained significant variances from the original budget.

Details of the draft budget for 2017/18 were also provided.

***RESOLVED –**

1. That the probable outturn for the current financial year be noted.
2. That the draft estimates for 2017/18 and future years be noted.

REASON FOR DECISIONS

To enable the Council to set a balanced budget for 2017/18.

115 CABINET MEMBER FOR GOVERNANCE REVENUE BUDGET 2016/17 - 2021/22

The Director of Finance and Resources reported on the draft Revenue Budget outturn for 2016/17 and explained significant variances from the original budget.

Details of the draft budget for 2017/18 were also provided.

***RESOLVED –**

1. That the probable outturn for the current financial year be noted.
2. That the draft estimates for 2017/18 and future years be noted.

REASON FOR DECISIONS

To enable the Council to set a balanced budget for 2017/18.

116 CABINET MEMBER FOR HEALTH AND WELLBEING REVENUE BUDGET 2016/17 - 2021/22

The Director of Finance and Resources reported on the draft Revenue Budget outturn for 2016/17 and explained significant variances from the original budget.

Details of the draft budget for 2017/18 were also provided.

***RESOLVED –**

1. That the probable outturn for the current financial year be noted.
2. That the draft estimates for 2017/18 and future years be noted.

REASON FOR DECISIONS

To enable the Council to set a balanced budget for 2017/18.

117 **CABINET MEMBER FOR HOUSING HOUSING GENERAL FUND
REVENUE BUDGET 2016/17 - 2021/22**

The Director of Finance and Resources reported on the draft Revenue Budget outturn for 2016/17 and explained significant variances from the original budget.

Details of the draft budget for 2017/18 were also provided.

***RESOLVED –**

1. That the probable outturn for the current financial year be noted.
2. That the draft estimates for 2017/18 and future years be noted.

REASON FOR DECISIONS

To enable the Council to set a balanced budget for 2017/18.

118 **CABINET MEMBER FOR TOWN CENTRE AND VISITOR ECONOMY
REVENUE BUDGET 2016/17 - 2021/22**

The Director of Finance and Resources reported on the draft Revenue Budget outturn for 2016/17 and explained significant variances from the original budget.

Details of the draft budget for 2017/18 were also provided.

***RESOLVED –**

1. That the probable outturn for the current financial year be noted.
2. That the draft estimates for 2017/18 and future years be noted.

REASON FOR DECISIONS

To enable the Council to set a balanced budget for 2017/18.

119 LOCAL COUNCIL TAX SUPPORT SCHEME 2017/18

The Director of Finance and Resources submitted a report seeking approval for the Local Council Tax Support (CTS) Scheme for the next financial year (2017/18).

The Director of Finance and Resources advised that the scheme being recommended for adoption in respect of the next financial year (2017/18) was unchanged from that in 2016/17.

***RESOLVED –**

That it be recommended to Full Council that:

1. approval is given to continue with the current Local Council Tax Support Scheme for 2017/18. The scheme is based on The Council Tax Reduction Scheme England Regulations 2012 amended to reflect the following local decisions concerning the key principles of the scheme:
 - For those of working age the maximum amount of Council Tax that will be eligible for reduction is 91.5% of their full Council Tax Liability.
 - The Council continues its policy of disregarding war pensions for the purposes of calculating income in respect of the Council Tax Support Scheme.
 - The ‘taper’, i.e. the rate at which support is withdrawn as income increases be maintained at 20%.
2. the Director of Finance and Resources be granted delegated powers to update the 2017/18 scheme to reflect such up-ratings of premiums, allowances and non-dependent deductions as may be determined by the Department of Work and Pensions, and for other minor technical which may be required.
3. the current local council tax discounts, which were originally implemented in 2013/14, be continued.

REASON FOR DECISIONS

To ensure that the Council is able to continue to operate a localised scheme providing council tax support from April 2017.

120 **HOME & COMMUNITIES AGENCY (HCA) ANNUAL REPORT TO TENANTS**

The Housing Services Manager submitted a report on the draft Annual Report 2015/2016 to Tenants, as required by the Homes and Communities Agency (HCA). A copy of the text of the Annual Report was attached as an appendix to the officer's report

The Annual Report included details of the Housing Services' performance in 2015/16 against the HCA's standards and also made comparisons with previous years' performance. The report also set out the performance targets and details of service improvements (Local Offers) planned for the following year, 2016/17.

***RESOLVED –**

1. That the Annual Report to tenants be approved and published on the council's website
2. That an article is published in the December edition of the 'Our Homes' newsletter directing tenants to view the report on the council's website but also giving them the option of requesting a hard copy.

REASON FOR DECISIONS

To comply with regulatory requirements.