

COUNCIL**Wednesday, 14th December, 2016**

Present:-

Councillor Brunt (The Mayor)

Councillors	Bagley	Councillors	Flood
	P Barr		P Gilby
	Bellamy		T Gilby
	Bingham		Hill
	Blank		Hitchin
	Borrell		Hollingworth
	Brady		Huckle
	Brittain		J Innes
	Burrows		P Innes
	Callan		Miles
	Catt		A Murphy
	Caulfield		T Murphy
	D Collins		Niblock
	Davenport		Rayner
	Derbyshire		Redihough
	Dickinson		Sarvent
	A Diouf		Serjeant
	V Diouf		Simmons
	Dyke		Slack
	Elliott		Wall

55 MINUTES**RESOLVED –**

That the Minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 12 October, 2016 be approved as a correct record and be signed by the Chair.

56 MAYOR'S COMMUNICATIONS.

The Mayor referred to the following Mayoral engagements:

- Hosting several visits to the Town Hall by primary school pupils as part of Local Democracy Week.
- Attending events to mark Remembrance Day including the Service of Remembrance at the Parish Church and the parade to the Chesterfield War Memorial.
- Switching on the Christmas lights in Chesterfield town centre.

The Mayor also referred to meeting a visiting delegation from Chesterfield's twin town in China, Yangquan at the Town Hall and signing an extension to the two towns' twinning agreement up to 2021.

57 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors J Barr, Bexton, Ludlow and Perkins.

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

No declarations of interest were received.

59 PUBLIC QUESTIONS TO THE COUNCIL

There were no questions.

60 PETITIONS TO COUNCIL

No petitions had been received.

61 QUESTIONS TO THE LEADER

Under Standing Order No.14 Members asked the Leader the following questions and received verbal responses to their questions.

- Councillor Tom Murphy asked about the council's plans and ability to build new council housing.
- Councillor Alexis Diouf asked how the Syrian refugees who had recently arrived in Chesterfield were settling into their new homes.

62 ANNUAL AUDIT LETTER, 2015/16

The Council's Information Assurance Manager, Tony Crawley, attended to present KPMG's Annual Audit Letter for 2015/16.

The report covered the audit of the Council's financial statements and assessment of arrangements to achieve value for money in the use of resources. The arrangements were assessed against the criteria of financial resilience and securing economy, efficiency and effectiveness. The report advised that KPMG had issued an unqualified value for money conclusion for 2015/16 on 28 September, 2016, and had also concluded that the Council had proper arrangements in place to secure financial resilience and to challenge how it secures economy, efficiency and effectiveness.

RESOLVED -

That KPMG's Annual Audit Letter for 2015/16 be received.

63 PROCUREMENT OF EXTERNAL AUDITORS

Pursuant to Standards and Audit Committee Minute No.24 the Director of Finance and Resources presented a report summarising the changes made to the arrangements for the appointment of external auditors at the end of the transitional period following the closure of the Audit Commission.

The report recommended that the council should opt into to the appointing person arrangements made by Public Sector Audit Appointments, for the procurement and appointment of external auditors as this would offer the best value solution for the council.

RESOLVED –

That the Council opts in to the appointing person arrangements made by Public Sector Audit Appointments for the procurement and appointment of external auditors.

64 TOWN HALL REFURBISHMENT

Pursuant to Cabinet Minute No.104 the Customer, Commissioning and Change Manager submitted a report detailing proposed changes to the

Town Hall refurbishment scheme and to request that the proposed changes be approved and implemented

The report noted that the Town Hall refurbishment scheme was a key component of the council's Great Place: Great Service transformation programme and as an "invest to save" project would generate significant income for the council to use in protecting and improving front line service provision.

The revised project would require a capital budget of £2,740,000, of which £850,000 had already been approved and included in the council's Capital Programme. It was proposed that the remainder of the budget should be funded through prudential borrowing and repaid from future capital receipts. The Town Hall refurbishment scheme had been projected to generate a minimum of £141,840 rental income from 2018/19, and a minimum of £240,840 rental income per year from 2020/21, the receipt of which would have a positive impact on the Council's revenue budget.

RESOLVED –

1. That the Town Hall refurbishment scheme be amended to reflect the increased scope and extended timescales required for delivery.
2. That both the asbestos and building works are completed whilst Chesterfield Borough Council staff members remain in-situ within the Town Hall.
3. That the Capital Programme be updated to reflect the revised capital budget of £2,740,000.
4. That the Treasury indicators be updated to reflect that prudential borrowing of £2,091,000 be used to fund the increased capital costs of the scheme.
5. That the Service Improvement Reserve be used to fund £135,000 of additional associated revenue costs in 2016/2017.
6. That it be noted that the council's Operational Services Division is capable of recruiting the resources required to enable delivery of the building works programme within the cost model identified.

7. That it be noted that the scheme assumes a minimum £240,840 of income will be generated annually from 2020/21, which would then be able to be reinvested in the council's work to protect and improve front line services to the public.

65 **GENERAL FUND REVENUE AND CAPITAL BUDGET MONITORING REPORT AND UPDATED MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL FORECAST - SECOND QUARTER 2015/16**

Pursuant to Cabinet Minute No.90 the Director of Finance and Resources submitted a report outlining the budget position at the end of the second quarter, covering the General Fund Revenue account, the General Fund Capital account, the Housing Revenue account as well as the Housing Capital Programme.

RESOLVED –

1. That the financial performance in the first half of the financial year and the new medium term forecast be noted.
2. That the efficiency plan submitted to the Department for Communities and Local Government be noted.
3. That the proposed use of reserves, as set out in section 6 of the officer's report be approved.
4. That the changes to the Housing Revenue Account budget, as set out in section 8 of the officer's report be noted.
5. That the budget preparation guidelines, as set out at paragraph 9.1 of the officer's report be approved.
6. That the revised approach to budget consultation, as set out at paragraph 9.3 of the officer's report be approved.

66 **LOCAL COUNCIL TAX SUPPORT SCHEME 2017/18**

Pursuant to Cabinet Minute No.119 the Director of Finance and Resources submitted a report seeking approval for the Council Tax Support Scheme for the next financial year (2017/18). The report noted that the scheme being recommended for adoption in respect of the next financial year (2017/18) was unchanged from that operated in 2016/17.

RESOLVED –

1. That Council approve the continued operation of a 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. That 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. That the current local council tax discounts, which were originally implemented in 2013/14, be continued.

67 DEPUTY LEADER AND CABINET APPOINTMENTS 2016/17

The Democratic Services Manager submitted a report requesting that Council noted the changes made by the Leader of the Council to cabinet appointments and portfolios in accordance with Article 7 of the council's constitution.

RESOLVED –

1. That Council note the appointment by the Leader of the following Members of the Cabinet:-

Deputy Leader

Councillor Terry Gilby

Cabinet Member for Business Transformation

Councillor Ken Huckle

Cabinet Member for Customers and Communities

Councillor Helen Bagley

Cabinet Member for Economic Growth

Councillor Tricia Gilby

Cabinet Member for Finance and Governance

Councillor Sharon Blank

Cabinet Member for Health and Well Being

Councillor Chris Ludlow

Cabinet Member for Town Centre and Visitor Economy

Councillor Amanda Serjeant

Minority member without portfolio

Leader of the Liberal Democrat Group

Assistant Cabinet Members for Special Projects

Councillor Ray Catt

Councillor John Dickinson

Councillor Jean Innes

2. That the council's constitution be amended to reflect the revised cabinet portfolios and the consequent delegations to cabinet members.

68 CHANGES TO MEMBERSHIP OF COMMITTEES 2016/17

The Committee and Scrutiny Coordinator submitted a report detailing the Executive Leader of the Council's proposed changes to the membership and Chairs of Member level Committees for remainder of the 2016/17 Municipal year.

1. That the following changes to Committee memberships as detailed below be approved.

Appeals and Regulatory Committee

- Councillor Miles to replace Councillor Lisa Collins
- Councillor Murphy to replace Councillor Hitchin

Customer, Community and Organisational Scrutiny Committee

- Councillor Lisa Collins to replace Councillor Miles
- Councillor Peter Innes to replace Councillor Slack

Employment and General Committee

- Councillor Wall to replace Councillor Dickinson

Enterprise and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee

- Councillor Caulfield to replace Councillor Tricia Gilby
- Councillor Hitchin to replace Councillor Catt

Overview and Performance Scrutiny Forum

- Councillor Caulfield to replace Councillor Tricia Gilby
- Councillor Lisa Collins to replace Councillor Miles
- Councillor Peter Innes to replace Councillor Slack
- Councillor Hitchin to replace Councillor Catt

Planning Committee

- Councillor Burrows to replace Councillor Dickinson

Standards and Audit Committee

- Councillor Hollingworth to replace Councillor Sarvent

2. That the following changes to Committee Chairs as detailed below be approved.

Customer, Community and Organisational Scrutiny Committee

- Councillor Peter Innes to replace Councillor Slack

Enterprise and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee

- Councillor Sarvent to replace Councillor Tricia Gilby

Overview and Performance Scrutiny Forum

- Councillors Peter Innes and Sarvent to replace Councillors Tricia Gilby and Slack as alternating Chair

69 MINUTES OF COMMITTEE MEETINGS**RESOLVED -**

That the Minutes of the following Committees be noted:-

Appeals and Regulatory Committee of 12 and 19 October and 2 and 30 November, 2016

Licensing Committee of 5 October and 16 and 30 November, 2016

Planning Committee of 10 and 31 October and 21 November, 2016

Standards and Audit Committee of 21 September, 2016

70 MINUTES OF THE CABINET**RESOLVED –**

1. That the Minutes of the meetings of Cabinet of 4 October, 1, 15 and 29 November and 6 December, 2016 be noted.
2. That the recommendation at Minute No. 95 (1) be approved.

71 MINUTES OF THE JOINT CABINET AND EMPLOYMENT AND GENERAL COMMITTEE**RESOLVED -**

That the Minutes of the meeting of the Joint Cabinet and Employment and General Committee of 1 November, 2016 be noted.

72 MINUTES OF THE OVERVIEW AND PERFORMANCE SCRUTINY FORUM**RESOLVED –**

That the Minutes of the meeting of the Overview and Performance Scrutiny Forum of 8 November, 2016 be approved.

73 MINUTES OF THE COMMUNITY, CUSTOMER AND ORGANISATIONAL SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

RESOLVED –

That the Minutes of the meeting of the Community, Customer and Organisational Scrutiny Committee of 13 September, 2016 be approved.

74 MINUTES OF THE ENTERPRISE AND WELLBEING SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

RESOLVED –

That the Minutes of the meeting of the Enterprise and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee of 4 October, 2016 be approved.

75 QUESTIONS UNDER STANDING ORDER NO. 19

There were no questions.