

# BATH AND NORTH EAST SOMERSET

## CABINET

These minutes are draft until confirmed as a correct record at the next meeting.

Wednesday, 12th February, 2014

### Present:

Councillor Paul Crossley	Leader of the Council
Councillor David Dixon	Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Neighbourhoods
Councillor Simon Allen	Cabinet Member for Wellbeing
Councillor Tim Ball	Cabinet Member for Homes and Planning
Councillor David Bellotti	Cabinet Member for Community Resources
Councillor Katie Hall	Cabinet Member for Community Integration
Councillor Caroline Roberts	Cabinet Member for Transport
Councillor Dine Romero	Cabinet Member for Early Years, Children and Youth
Councillor Ben Stevens	Cabinet Member for Sustainable Development

### 101 WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

The Chair was taken by Councillor Paul Crossley, Leader of the Council.

He said that at the end of the meeting he would answer some questions received from members of the public via Twitter.

He made a statement about agenda item 12:

*We apologise both to First Steps and to readers of the agenda papers that within the appendices to the report for item 12 [minute 112] we have inadvertently published detailed information in excess of what was necessary or relevant to the matters being considered tonight. Specifically, this relates to the publication of the full staffing structure of First Steps, which is not directly comparable to the staffing published for the Council Children's Centres and therefore could be seen as disproportionate and misleading. We will withdraw this information from the published version following the meeting. In essence this will mean deleting the table in Appendix 5 which relates to the staffing of the two Children's Centres delivered by First Steps and retaining the key data in the paragraph which follows it – i.e. referring to 11.8 FTE in these two centres. We will continue to work with First Steps to ensure information contained in subsequent consultation and commissioning documents is appropriate. Cabinet members are asked to disregard this additional information when considering their decision this evening.*

He made a statement about the current floods:

*The last few weeks have seen extraordinary weather conditions and nightly on TV we are witnessing the terrible plight of residents on the Somerset Levels and in other areas. Our hearts and thoughts are with those residents. Our praise goes out to all sectors of the public service and local government, who are working so hard for long hours to control the situation and help residents. As a Council we have offered to help Somerset and their emergency response and have provided one of our gully cleansing machines and crew to support*

*their efforts. In Bath and North East Somerset we are not complacent and these floods bring back memories of floods in recent years in Chew Valley, Chelwood and a few properties this year in Bathampton and elsewhere. Each individual flooding of property and business is a personal disaster. As a Council we are working closely with the Environment Agency, both our local water companies and all the emergency services. We are prepared, should the need arise, to be ready and able to help residents. This winter we have seen that flood mitigation measures that have been taken to enable the Bath Western Riverside development have been successful. Last summer we cleaned out the gulleys and verges across the Chew Valley, and this helped to reduce the flood risk. Last summer we improved the drainage in Chelwood village, and this has worked. The Council has already commissioned a survey of properties at highest risk of flooding in Chew Magna and has budgeted £200,000 to improve flood protection in the Chew Valley. This is likely to enhance the protection of approximately 7 properties. In this coming year we are planning to commence a major flood alleviation programme in central Bath, working in partnership with the Environment Agency. It should be noted that the most significant impact of this prolonged wet weather in our area is the land slip on private land in Midford Road, which requires the closure of the road for four weeks. This is not a decision which the Council takes lightly, but public safety is paramount and without the measures in place to stabilise the land, it would be irresponsible to open the road. We are talking about people's lives being in danger if the land slips any further with cars or bicycles in its path, which is why we have no other option but closing the road. Council engineers are working really hard with the representatives of the landowner to identify the underlying causes of the land slip, and work is already under way to develop a solution, which must take into account many complex environmental factors. This is not an overnight job, and specialist equipment, materials and operators are needed to carry out this complex process. We are not as a Council complacent, and we recognise the severity of the current weather conditions and we will be undertaking drainage works across the whole district in 2014/15 as we prepare for more challenging weather conditions in future years.*

## **102 EMERGENCY EVACUATION PROCEDURE**

The Chair drew attention to the evacuation procedure as set out in the Agenda.

## **103 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

There were no apologies for absence.

## **104 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were none.

## **105 TO ANNOUNCE ANY URGENT BUSINESS AGREED BY THE CHAIR**

There was none.

## **106 QUESTIONS FROM PUBLIC AND COUNCILLORS**

There were 19 questions from the following Councillors: Dave Laming (2), Nathan Hartley, June Player, Brian Webber (4), Anthony Clarke (5), Charles Gerrish, Vic Pritchard, Liz Richardson(3), and Michael Evans.

There was 1 question from the following member of the public: Graham Harrison. *[Copies of the questions and response, including supplementary questions and responses if any, have been placed on the Minute book as Appendix 1 and are available on the Council's website.]*

## **107 STATEMENTS, DEPUTATIONS OR PETITIONS FROM PUBLIC OR COUNCILLORS**

Nigel Sherwen made a statement *[a copy of which is attached to these Minutes as Appendix 2 and on the Council's website]* about the impact of the Gateway project on the safety of cyclists. Councillor Crossley responded that the scheme was still in the consultation phase, and that Mr Sherwen's comments would be fed into that consultation.

David Redgewell made a statement on the Greater Bristol Bus Network. He emphasised that the Network includes most of Bath and North East Somerset and comprises the longer-distance services jointly supported by neighbouring unitary authorities. He urged the maintenance and ringfencing of funding for rural transport links in the Council's budget. He was worried about the future of buses to Radstock and Frome. He pointed out that residents of Radstock and Midsomer Norton need access to the Mendips for health care, among other things. He urged co-operation with Mendip District Council and Somerset County Council. He also said that there should be greater investment in bus vehicles, as many of those in Bath were below standard. He also made a statement on local rail issues. He referred to the disruptions to the rail service caused by the recent flooding, which highlighted the need to improve the resilience of the rail network. He said this was an issue that should be taken up by South West Councils. He feared that that all the funding for local rail would be used up in repairing weather damage. He was concerned that MetroWest was not listed as a recipient of capital funding in the Council's budget, as the Minister had clearly stated that it was a local authority scheme, not a Department for Transport scheme. Provision for Phase 1 of the scheme was included in North Somerset's budget. Councillor Crossley assured Mr Redgewell that the issues he had raised would be taken into account when the proposals on the City Deal project were considered.

Jay Risbridger (Director, Oliver Currency c.i.c.) made a statement *[a copy of which is attached to these Minutes as Appendix 3 and on the Council's website]* on the Bath Pound, submitting that its wider use would result in more of the money spent in Bath being retained in Bath, and urging the Council to support the Bath Pound in the same way that Bristol City Council had supported the Bristol Pound. Councillor Crossley said that he would ask Councillor Stevens to speak to the Council's Economic Development Service and arrange a meeting with Mr Risbridger about this issue.

Dawn Milsom (Chairman, Clandown Residents Association) made a statement on the Scrap Metal Dealers Act Policy (agenda item 19). She said that the Act gave the Council an opportunity to regulate a sector of business that had hitherto been difficult to control. She was concerned that though the Act had come into force in October 2013, Bath and North East Somerset was agreeing its policy only now. She hoped

that robust vetting procedure would be established in accordance with section 3(2) of the Act and that information about applicants would be sought from Planning Enforcement, Highways, the Environment Agency and the Police. There should also be consultation with the public. Site operators should be strictly monitored and be aware that if they did not comply with the law and regulations, they would be shut down. Councillor Crossley said that her statement would be considered when the relevant agenda item was reached.

## **108 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS CABINET MEETING**

On a motion from Councillor Paul Crossley, seconded by Councillor David Dixon, it was

**RESOLVED** that the minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> December 2013 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

## **109 CONSIDERATION OF SINGLE MEMBER ITEMS REQUISITIONED TO CABINET**

There were none.

## **110 MATTERS REFERRED BY POLICY DEVELOPMENT AND SCRUTINY BODIES**

The draft minutes of the Policy and Resources Policy Development Scrutiny Panel of 10<sup>th</sup> February 2014 had been circulated to Cabinet members. Councillor John Bull in an *ad hoc* statement drew attention to the resolution of the Panel:

*To note the conclusions and resolutions from the other PDS Panels and refer them on to the Cabinet in 12<sup>th</sup> February 2014 for consideration; and*

*To recommend that the Cabinet earmark for the 2015/16 budget £300k to go into Children's Services ring fenced for Children's Centres to allow them to stay open from 9am-5pm. The Panel suggest that this be financed by the ongoing resource allocations for the financial planning reserve; and*

*To recommend that the Cabinet set aside £200k of the one-off headroom allocation money from the financial planning reserve to enable the smooth transition to the new model for Children's Centres; and finally*

*To ask that the Cabinet give active consideration in its budget setting to additional provision for bus services in new estates/developments.*

Councillor Crossley thanked Councillor Bull and said that the Cabinet would have these proposals analysed to see if anything could be done in the budget to be put to Council on 18<sup>th</sup> February 2014. He added, for the avoidance of doubt, that any amendment to the budget because of the recommendation of the Resources PDS Panel would not count as a substantial change, because it had been publicly notified, and because the Cabinet would be able to give the matter due consideration.

## **111 SINGLE MEMBER CABINET DECISIONS TAKEN SINCE PREVIOUS CABINET**

## MEETING

The Cabinet agreed to note the report.

### 112 RE-STRUCTURING OF THE EARLY YEARS, CHILDREN'S CENTRE AND EARLY HELP (0 - 11 YEARS) SERVICES 2014 - 2016

Councillor Hardman in an *ad hoc* statement added more detail to the recommendations of the Resources PDS Panel. She welcomed the £500k that the administration had agreed to put back into Children's Services. She said that the successful campaign by parents and the public for the restoration of funding to Children's Centres had shown how valued they were. However, she understood that only £300k of the £500k would be going to Children's Centres, with the rest being earmarked for other areas of Early Years services. This would mean that Children's Centres would still suffer a significant cut in funding. She understood that to keep all Children's Centres open on a daily basis would require an additional £294,000. She therefore requested the Cabinet to agree to put back a further £300,000 into the Early Years budget on an ongoing basis with the specific purpose of keeping all Children's Centres open each day.

Councillor Evans in an *ad hoc* statement said that he thought that there had been no cuts to the Children's Services budget this year; he hoped that this would be clarified. He welcomed the permanent reinstatement of the £500k. He also welcomed the detail given in the report, which gave a clear picture of precisely what services were being affected. He welcomed the fact that all Children's Centres would stay open. He said it seemed to be assumed that the voluntary sector would take care of all the universal services; the problem with this was that the universal services were a good route for identifying those who needed the targeted service. He therefore urged the administration to ensure that there were other means of identifying clients needing the targeted services.

Councillor Romero in proposing the item, stressed this was a report on a work in progress, and not on the end product. She said that the recommendations from the Resources PDS and the points made by Councillor Hardman would be considered before the Council's budget meeting next Tuesday. In her view there was merit in exploring the proposed new model further, as the report suggested that it would bring significant savings without impacting on the front delivery of targeted services. Partly this was because the situation had changed since the Children's Centres were first set up. Funding was now coming into Early Years from a variety of sources, and health visitors were acting as a referral point for further services. The Cabinet would consider the issue again in the summer of 2014.

Councillor Crossley seconded the item. He too emphasised that it was a work in progress. He thought it was important to note that there were no proposals to close Children's Centres as other councils had done.

On a motion from Councillor Romero, seconded by Councillor Crossley it was **RESOLVED** unanimously:

- (1) to include within its budget proposals to Council, the proposed adjustment which permanently deletes the £500,000 savings originally required from the

Early Years and Children's Centres base budget in 2014/15 and subsequent years;

- (2) to note and accept the emerging models and proposals for each of the five service areas;
- (3) to instruct officers to formally consult on the proposals for these services; and
- (4) to instruct officers to bring back to Cabinet fully developed models and proposals for the future delivery of each service.

### **113 REVENUE AND CAPITAL BUDGET MONITORING, CASH LIMITS AND VIREMENTS - APRIL 2013 TO DECEMBER 2013**

Councillor Bellotti in proposing the item said that this was a report on the Council's performance in the current financial year. He said that performance had been outstanding, highlighting three aspects:

- (i) the number of visitors attracted to the area;
- (ii) skilful cash flow management;
- (iii) an increase in recycling and a reduction in landfill charges.

In addition, a large number of capital projects were being delivered, including the £34m project at Keynsham, which was on time and on budget.

Councillor Stevens seconded the proposal, commenting that Heritage Services had made a huge contribution to the Council's budget; the £5m profit they had earned was equivalent to an additional 6.5% on Council Tax.

Councillor Roberts said that she had recently visited areas of B&NES subject to severe flooding last and where deaths had occurred. The work that officers had done in these areas had prevented any recurrence this year. She expressed her thanks to everyone who had been on flood watch over Christmas and in recent weeks.

Councillor Crossley said that it was very fortunate that Bath and North East Somerset was able to generate income in ways that other local authorities did not. The Council need to look for further sources of income so that it could maintain services to residents.

On a motion from Councillor Bellotti, seconded by Councillor Stevens, it was **RESOLVED** (unanimously)

- (1) to agree that Strategic Directors should continue to work towards managing within budget in the current year for their respective service areas, and to manage below budget where possible by not committing unnecessary expenditure, through tight budgetary control;
- (2) to note this year's revenue budget position as shown in Appendix 2 to the report;
- (3) to note the capital expenditure position for the Council in the financial year to the end of September and the year-end projections detailed in Appendix 3 of the report;

(4) to agree the revenue virements listed for approval in Appendix 4(i) of the report; and

(5) to note the changes in the capital programme listed in Appendix 5(i) of the report.

#### **114 TREASURY MANAGEMENT MONITORING REPORT TO 31ST DECEMBER 2013**

Councillor Bellotti in proposing the item said that this report was about how much the Council borrowed and where it invested its money. The Council still had a borrowing requirement of just over £200m for capital projects, but because it was funding some of this from cash flow, it should not be necessary to reach the borrowing requirement. Bath and North East Somerset had never invested in risky propositions. Unlike other councils it had not invested in Iceland, for example. It did not even lend to countries in the Eurozone.

Councillor Crossley seconded the proposal. He said that the report showed that the Council was practising sound finance based on sound principles, and for that the Council's outstanding finance team had to be congratulated.

On a motion from Councillor Bellotti, seconded by Councillor Crossley it was **RESOLVED** unanimously

(1) to note the Treasury Management report to 31<sup>st</sup> December 2013, prepared in accordance with the CIPFA Treasury Code of Practice; and

(2) to note the Treasury Management Indicators to 31<sup>st</sup> December 2013.

#### **115 TREASURY MANAGEMENT STRATEGY STATEMENT & ANNUAL INVESTMENT STRATEGY 2014/15**

Councillor Laming in an *ad hoc* statement said that as a member of the Corporate Audit Committee he was astonished at the skill and expertise possessed by Council finance staff, and would like to congratulate them for their excellent work.

Councillor Gerrish noted that although Councillor Bellotti had stated that the Council did not invest in the Eurozone, banks in Germany and the Netherlands appeared in the list of counterparties in Appendix 3 of the report. Councillor Bellotti explained that the Council did not invest in all the institutions listed in Appendix 3; it was a list of those who met the Council's prudential criteria.

Councillor Bellotti in proposing the item explained that Treasury Management was about responsible borrowing and investing and about positioning the Council in relation to a number of factors, such as interest rates, the rate of growth and inflation.

Councillor Crossley seconded the proposal and said that the Council needed to keep its borrowing continually under review.

On a motion from Councillor Bellotti, seconded by Councillor Crossley, it was **RESOLVED** (unanimously)

- (1) To recommend the actions proposed within the Treasury Management Strategy Statement (Appendix 1 of the report) to February Council for approval;
- (2) To recommend the Investment Strategy as detailed in Appendix 2 of the report to February Council for approval;
- (3) To recommend the changes to the authorised lending lists detailed in Appendix 2 of the report and highlighted in Appendix 3 of the report to February Council for approval;

And further;

- (4) To note the Treasury Management Indicators detailed in Appendix 1 of the report and delegate authority for updating the indicators prior to approval at Full Council on 18th February 2014 to the Divisional Director – Business Support and Cabinet Member for Community Resources, in light of any changes to the recommended budget as set out in the Budget Report elsewhere on the agenda for this meeting.

## **116 BUDGET & COUNCIL TAX 2014/15 AND FINANCIAL PLAN 2014/15 - 2015/16**

Elizabeth Derl-Davis (Radstock Town Council) made a statement [*a summary of which is attached to these Minutes as Appendix 4 and on the Council's website*] about the Bronze Band support scheme. She said that about 320 pensioners, including herself, would be affected if the Council stopped paying the support charge for those living in sheltered housing. Those living in sheltered housing were there because they were over 60, disabled or had a long-term illness. They were the poorest, most vulnerable group in the country. The Bronze Band only gave access to an alarm system, which was part of the fabric of the building and could not be removed. The cost for this was £3.60 a week or £187.20 over a year. Those who could not afford to pay this amount would be expected to move. The majority of pensioners where she lived were over 80. The Silver, Gold, Platinum and Diamond Bands were, of course, more expensive. The cost of 320 x £187.20 was not a great sum in the overall budget for B&NES. If the Council withdrew this support, it would create a precedent. She urged the Cabinet to reverse this cut, as Bristol City Council had done.

Councillor Bull in an *ad-hoc* statement highlighted the continual reductions in central government grants to councils. The Institute of Fiscal Studies had warned that 50% of austerity cuts were yet to take effect. The Local Government Association had warned that eventually councils might only be able to afford adult social care and refuse collection. The budget was unsatisfactory and failed to meet the expectations of residents. There were many other relatively small cuts like the one the previous speaker had raised, but above all there had been a £1.8m cut for Children's Services.

Councillor Laming in an *ad hoc* statement welcomed the recommendation for provisional approval of a River Corridor Fund. He had been urging this for the past three years. He recalled that on 28 April 2012 the river had been so low that boats had been sitting on the river bed, and there had been warnings of drought. Since then rain had been unremitting. The Transport Secretary had confirmed on the radio that morning that climate change was occurring. In his experience of 27 years on the river everything had changed, and in particular during the last 2 years. The River Corridor Working Group was desperately needed and should be properly funded, because people's lives and livelihoods were at risk. 23 businesses in Keynsham, including his own, had been ruined in the past two weeks because of the floods. He



urged that the allocated £340,000 should not be wasted, but used as “feed money” to attract additional investment from private enterprise, government and the EU.

Councillor Gerrish in an *ad hoc* statement welcomed many aspects of the budget, but also raised some concerns. He was concerned that the costs of travellers’ sites were increasing. His group proposed that the proposed capital spend on travellers’ sites be reduced by £670,000, with the savings redirected to Highway Services and additional safer routes to schools. In order that this proposal could be considered properly on Tuesday, he requested the Cabinet to provide information about the sum of money actually required to deliver the Lower Bristol Road scheme, and how it would be affected if the budget were reduced as suggested. He also proposed a one-off sum of £200k from budget headroom to create a pump-priming fund to support voluntary and other external organisations in taking a greater role in the provision of Children’s Services. He also raised two Keynsham issues: making the pedestrian crossing outside St Keyna School in Charlton Road safer, and the repair of the closed footbridge in Keynsham Park.

Councillor Bevan in an *ad hoc* statement welcomed the budget as enabling a safer, cleaner, greener Bath and North East Somerset. She thanked Councillor Dixon for committing the afternoon of 24th February to meet her in Peasedown for a tour to ascertain what was needed and where. She urged that the public lavatories in Peasedown should be converted into additional much-needed parking spaces, if that was the will of residents.

Councillor Symonds in an *ad hoc* statement urged that the streets be made safer for cyclists. Safety on London Road was very poor. He suggested the optimal solution would be a bus lane.

Danny Kite (Alexandra Bowling Club) in an *ad hoc* statement thanked the Cabinet for including the Alexandra Bowling Club in the list of organisations to be considered for the Community Asset Transfer Programme during 2014/15, and spoke about the role of the Club in the community.

Councillor Jackson in an *ad hoc* statement welcomed proposals to improve parking in Radstock. She suggested that there should be a master plan for parking in Radstock. She supported Councillor Hardman’s statement on Children’s Services. She also supported the statement of Elizabeth Derrill-Davis on the Bronze Band support scheme. She thought, however, that the number of pensioners affected was 450, not 320. The total sum involved was £60k, but the benefit and peace of mind for these pensioners and their relative was beyond price. She hoped that there would be an amendment to the final budget to be put to Council.

Bryn Jones (Chair, Transition Larkhall) made a statement on the impact of the Gateway project on the safety of cyclists. His group believed that the worst of the options being considered was an on-road cycle lane. He urged the retention of the existing cycle path. His group believed that there was scope for extending this to Larkhall.

Councillor Bellotti in proposing the item said that local residents have been consulted more than ever before. Four Budget Fairs had been held and comments from those Fairs had been circulated to all members of the Cabinet. Comments from all the PDS Panels had been considered. The resolution from the Resources PDS Panel

previously referred to would be given serious consideration. He highlighted three main objectives of the budget:

- i) to freeze Council Tax for another year;
- ii) to protect front-line services;
- iii) to facilitate more homes and more jobs.

He said that there was scope to reconsider the cut in funding of the Bronze Band scheme.

In seconding the item Councillor Crossley said that it was difficult to balance the budget in the current public funding situation. He responded to comments made by the public speakers.

Councillor Dixon said that times were tough for local authorities. B&NES was fortunate in having a large commercial property portfolio. He was pleased that the Council was able to invest in many projects in the community.

Councillor Romero said that the resolution from Resources PDS and the comments of Councillor Gerrish about Children's Services would be carefully considered. Responding to the statement of Councillor John Bull, she said that not 2 but 4 Children's Centres would be open full time, and, when nursery provision was taken into account, 8 out of 11 buildings would be open full time.

Councillor Allen said that he believed the budget protected the most vulnerable. He explained that the funding for the Bronze Band scheme related only to the old-style fixed alarms, which had been replaced by newer personalised alarms, which were safer.

Councillor Ball said that the Housing Service was doing well on a tiny budget, delivering housing and earning revenue for the Council. Responding to the statement of Councillor Gerrish, he said that the Council had for many years neglected provision for travellers. A budget of £1.8m had now been allocated, because of the difficulties of the designated site. He believed the money for site was safe for this year, if the Secretary of State called in the application for the site, the project would slip and the money would be lost, and the travellers could go to other parts of the area, causing inconvenience to local residents.

Councillor Stevens said that in his portfolio there was a capital programme which would generate growth. The Arts Development budget had been frozen, ensuring that the arts community could continue to deliver for the benefit of residents. There was funding for capital projects by Heritage Services, which should demonstrate to UNESCO that Bath took its World Heritage Site status seriously.

Councillor Roberts said that additional funding was being put into cycling and walking schemes. Extra money had been provided for grit bins and snow wardens. Money had been provided for the Parade road scheme and for the east Bath Park and Ride and for various safety schemes.

Councillor Hall said that the Council had listened to and worked with communities to develop this budget. She believed that the budget had protected the most vulnerable in difficult times. Skate parks were an investment in the future of young people.

On a motion from Councillor Bellotti, seconded by Councillor Crossley it was **RESOLVED** (unanimously) to recommend:

1.2 That the Council approve:

- a) The General Fund net revenue budget for 2014/15 of £119.926m with no increase in Council Tax.
- b) That no Special Expenses be charged other than Town and Parish Council precepts for 2014/15.
- c) The adequacy of reserves at Appendix 1 Table 8 with a risk-assessed level of £10.5m.
- d) The individual service cash limits for 2014/15 summarised at Appendix 1 Table 4 and detailed in Annex 1.
- e) That the specific arrangements for the governance and release of reserves, including invest to save proposals, be delegated to the Council's Section 151 Officer in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Community Resources and the Chief Executive.

1.3 That the Council delegates the sign-off of the Better Care Plan on behalf of the Council to the Health & Wellbeing Board in consultation with the Chief Executive, the Leader and the Cabinet Member for Community Resources.

1.4 That the Council delegates the updating of the council's discretionary rate relief policy, to reflect the measures announced in the Autumn Budget Statement, to the Council's Section 151 Officer, in consultation with the Chief Executive and the Cabinet Member for Community Resources.

1.5 That the Council include in its Council Tax setting, the precepts set and approved by other bodies including the local precepts of Town Councils, Parish Councils and the Charter Trustees of the City of Bath, and those of the Fire and Police Authorities.

1.6 That the Council notes the Section 151 officer's report on the robustness of the proposed budget and the adequacy of the Council's reserves (Appendix 1, Annex 2) and approves the conditions upon which the recommendations are made as set out throughout Appendix 1.

1.7 That in relation to the capital budget the Council:

- a) approves a capital programme of £65.865m for 2014/15 and notes items for provisional approval in 2014/15 and the programme for 2015/16 to 2018/19 as shown at Appendix 1, Annex 3 including the planned sources of funding .
- b) delegates implementation, subject to consultation where appropriate, of the capital programmes set out in Annex 3i to Annex 3iii to the relevant

Strategic Director in Consultation with the appropriate Cabinet Member.

c) approves the Minimum Revenue Provision Policy as shown at Appendix 1, Annex 4

d) approves the Capital Prudential Indicators as set out in Appendix 1 Table 6.

1.8 That the Council agree the Council's proposed pay policy statement, including the arrangements for senior severance practice, as set out at Appendix 4.

1.9 That the Council notes the approach to Community Assets as set out in Appendix 5.

And the Cabinet further agrees

1.10 To authorise the Council's Section 151 Officer, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Community Resources, to make any necessary changes and presentational improvements to the draft budget proposal for submission to Council.

## **117 ADVICE & INFORMATION STRATEGY 2014-17**

Councillor Allen in proposing the item, said that this was an interim report followed a six-week consultation. The results of the consultation, the review of the Adult Social Care pathway and duties imposed by the Care Act needed to be considered before a further report was brought to Cabinet.

Councillor Hall seconded the proposal and said that she thought it was a very good report. She thought the Council ought to consider example of best practice in other parts of the country.

On a motion from Councillor Allen, seconded by Councillor Hall, it was

**RESOLVED** (unanimously)

(1) to note the outcome of the consultation on the draft Advice & Information Strategy 2014-17, attached as Appendix 1 to the report; and

(2) to receive a further draft of the Advice & Information Strategy at its July 2014 meeting, which takes account of

- a. feedback from the consultation;
- b. the redesign of the adult social care pathway;
- c. the detailed implications and requirements of the Care Bill 2013-14; and
- d. the February 2014 Council decision on the 2014-15 budget, which will determine the resources available to respond to the priorities set out in the revised draft Advice & Information Strategy.

## **118 VOLUNTARY SECTOR FUNDING APPLICATIONS FOR COMMUNITY TRANSPORT 2014/5**

Councillor Roberts in proposing the item said that Bath Dial-a-Ride was operated by the Council's in-house transport team, but the others were provided by independent groups. The funding proposed would allow services to be maintained for the first part of 2014, after which new service level agreements would be negotiated with a view to maintaining the same services with roughly the same costs. There had been a 7% growth in the use of these services and cost per passenger had fallen.

Councillor Romero seconded the proposal and said that these were not statutory services, but the funding provided demonstrated the Council's commitment to helping people live independently.

Councillor Allen said that these services were important to counter loneliness, which was an objective of the Council's Health and Wellbeing Strategy. These services helped people get out of their own homes, which promoted wellbeing. He said there was a need for additional drivers in Bath.

Councillor Crossley said that the Council had provided long-term support for these schemes. There had been a growth in ridership, which demonstrated that it was worth promoting these schemes. Keynsham Dial-a-Ride had recently celebrated its 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary and recruited its 1000<sup>th</sup> member.

On a motion from Councillor Roberts, seconded by Councillor Romero, it was **RESOLVED** (unanimously)

- (1) that funding proposals in Appendix 2 of the report be approved, subject to decision of the Council on the budget for 2014/15; and
- (2) that the Divisional Director for Environmental Services be given delegated powers to reallocate funds, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Transport, from approved projects that become unviable owing to the level of funding allocated or to a change in circumstances of the applicant group, should such situations arise during the year.

## **119 POLICY AND DELEGATIONS FOR THE SCRAP METAL DEALERS ACT 2013**

Councillor Laming in *ad hoc* statement said that because of the flooding he now owned a sunken barge and almost 70 feet of steel from a pontoon. He wondered whether he needed to apply for a licence as a scrap metal dealer under this legislation. Councillor Crossley responded that the definition of a scrap metal dealer could be found on agenda page 226.

Councillor Jackson in an *ad hoc* statement welcomed this legislation. She said that metal theft had been increasing nationally and referred to thefts of metal from churches, which were particularly vulnerable. She was disappointed that the Council had not been in a position to implement the legislation as soon as it came into force last October. She was very pleased with the proposed licensing system, which would be able to deal with people in the scrap business who had criminal records.

Councillor Dixon in proposing the item, acknowledged that the legislation was being implemented a couple of months late. The new regime would replace the previous simple registration system. All work relating to the policy would be delegated to one Divisional Director. All dealers within the B&NES area would have to hold a licence.

Councillor Allen seconded the proposal. He said the legislation brought new responsibilities for council officers, who would be ready to act when they needed to.

Councillor Crossley said that this was an excellent piece of legislation. Thefts from churches were inconveniences, but thefts from railways and other places put people's lives at risk. Most people in the scrap metal business were trading lawfully; this legislation was aimed at those who were not.

On a motion from Councillor David Dixon, seconded by Councillor Allen, it was **RESOLVED** (unanimously)

- (1) to accept the Scrap Metal Dealers Policy provided in Appendix A to the report;
- (2) to note and agree the fees associated with the function provided in paragraph 5.6 of the report;
- (3) to recommend to delegate to the Divisional Director Environmental Services;
  - a. the administration and enforcement of the function;
  - b. the power to request further information of applicants;
  - c. to review and amend the fees on an annual basis;
  - d. to determine applications (including refusal), revoke licences, or impose conditions under Section 3(8);
  - e. the power to issue or cancel a closure notice for unlicensed sites, and where appropriate, to apply for closure orders (Schedule 2) and take such other action in this respect as may be required; and
  - f. to note that Council will be asked to delegate the function to the Licensing Committee when the power to do so is available.

The meeting ended at 9.14 pm

Chair \_\_\_\_\_

Date Confirmed and Signed \_\_\_\_\_

Prepared by Democratic Services