

BATH AND NORTH EAST SOMERSET

CABINET

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

Wednesday, 1st February, 2017

Present:

Councillor Tim Warren	Leader of the Council and Conservative Group Leader
Councillor Liz Richardson	Cabinet Member for Homes and Planning
Councillor Patrick Anketell-Jones	Cabinet Member for Economic Development, Conservative Deputy Group Leader Bath
Councillor Charles Gerrish	Cabinet Member for Finance and Efficiency, Conservative Deputy Group Leader North East Somerset
Councillor Vic Pritchard	Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care and Health
Councillor Anthony Clarke	Cabinet Member for Transport
Councillor Martin Veal	Cabinet Member for Community Services
Councillor Michael Evans	Cabinet Member for Children's Services
Councillor Paul Myers	Cabinet Member for Policy, Localism & Partnerships

67 WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.

68 EMERGENCY EVACUATION PROCEDURE

The Senior Democratic Services Officer drew attention to the evacuation procedure as set out in the Agenda.

69 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

There were no apologies for absence.

70 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillors Paul Myers and Michael Evans declared an Other interest in agenda item 'Budget and Council Tax 2017/18 and Financial Outlook 2017/18 to 2019/20' as they were members of the Midsomer Norton Town Council.

71 TO ANNOUNCE ANY URGENT BUSINESS AGREED BY THE CHAIR

There was none.

72 QUESTIONS FROM PUBLIC AND COUNCILLORS

There were 24 questions from Councillors and 1 question from members of the public.

[Copies of the questions and responses, including supplementary questions and responses if any, are available on the Council's website.]

73 STATEMENTS, DEPUTATIONS OR PETITIONS FROM PUBLIC OR COUNCILLORS

Kathleen Hovland presented a petition to the Cabinet asking the Council, and their contractors, to ensure the status of the swimming pool as a competitive, as well as a community pool by providing an ASA (Amateur Swimming Association) compliant 8 lane width pool with gallery extension. Kathleen Hovland also read out the statement in support of the petition (*available on the Minute Book at Democratic Services*).

Pat Mason read out the statement (*available on the Minute Book at Democratic Services*) where she expressed her concerns on the withdrawal of the subsidy for the 6/7 Bus Route.

Rosemary Naish (Chair of Clutton Parish Council) read out the statement (*available on the Minute Book at Democratic Services*) where she expressed her concerns about the safety of the access to the Maynard Terrace.

Councillor Karen Warrington (Clutton Ward Councillor) also expressed her concerns about the safety of the access to the Maynard Terrace and asked the Cabinet to work with developers on this matter.

David Redgewell read out the statement (*available on the Minute Book at Democratic Services*) where he expressed his concern over potential loss of bus services.

Sue Porter addressed the Cabinet on behalf of 31 residents from Lyncombe Vale Rd and Rosemount Lane in Widcombe. The residents expressed their concerns on the traffic in these roads, in particular to free parking which had created serious road safety issues. Sue Porter also said that residents had asked the Council in 2006 to register this as Residents Parking Zone (RPZ) but that no resolution had happened so far.

Nicholas Beach addressed the Cabinet with the continual problems that residents of Perrymead in Widcombe had suffered from the free parking, and asked the Cabinet to introduce RPZs in that area.

Councillor Ian Gilchrist (Widcombe Ward Councillor) addressed the Cabinet by supporting the residents who expressed their concerns on traffic and parking related issues in Widcombe Ward. Councillor Gilchrist said that residents had been waiting for 10 years for the Council to implement some measures in terms of the RPZs, and that had not happened yet. Councillor Gilchrist concluded his statement by asking the Cabinet to consider Widcombe residents requests for the RPZs when setting up the budget.

Councillors Karen Walker and Sarah Bevan (Peasedown St John Ward Councillors) read out the statement (*available on the Minute Book at Democratic Services*) with the Peasedown St John residents' 'wish list' for the forthcoming Council budget.

Councillor Dine Romero read out a statement on behalf of Councillor Alison Millar. Councillor Alison Millar said that she had received many representations from the residents living East of Bath since the Cabinet made their decision on the Park and Ride East of Bath. Most of the people were amazed that the Cabinet went ahead with the decision which would 'blight' Meadows. Councillor Alison Millar also said in her statement that 13 opposition Councillors had signed the Call In on Cabinet's decision from 25th January. Councillor Dine Romero concluded the statement from Councillor Alison Millar by saying that some had said that there was poor evidence from the Council on the need for Park and Ride East of Bath.

Councillor Dine Romero asked an ad hoc question - what was the total cost of the Park and Ride project.

74 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS CABINET MEETING

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 14th November 2016 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

75 CONSIDERATION OF SINGLE MEMBER ITEMS REQUISITIONED TO CABINET

There were none.

76 MATTERS REFERRED BY POLICY DEVELOPMENT AND SCRUTINY BODIES

The Chair invited Councillor Sarah Bevan, as Resources PDS Chair, to address the Cabinet.

The Chair informed the meeting that the Cabinet had received a copy of draft minutes of the last Resources PDS meeting along with the summary of findings from other PDS Panels.

Councillor Sarah Bevan read out the following statement to the Cabinet:

'At Resources PDS panel on Monday 30th January we discussed the proposed budget after receiving an overview from Tim Richens and Andrew Pate.

No decisions or resolutions were passed, but members did raise some queries and views, as Cllr Gerrish will recall.

As you will all be aware, in the case of critical views raised by members, the PDS panel, whilst listening to and addressing those views with officers, awaits any party political points from the relevant political groups to be raised by their own groups, with Cabinet and at Full Council.

So I'm presenting the following comments as the view of the panel as a whole:

The panel were interested in how the new business rates retention scheme might work. They noted the benefits from being in the pilot for the next two years but wondered if those benefits would continue beyond that. The panel understood that as the method of funding local government - with full business rates retention - has not yet been agreed meaning it's difficult to say. So this adds to the risks towards the end of the three year plan.

Business rates appeals is another risk that was noted. This is now a local risk not a government risk.

The fact that this Council does not get recompensed for the costs of the city hosting an increasing number of students has been highlighted by the panel before - and is an issue for future funding systems. It was noted that this has recently been fed back to government for consideration by the leader of the Council as well as in response to routine consultations.

Although the panel had a number of questions no changes were proposed. As in previous years there were requests for more information including about libraries. It was noted that each PDS panel may want to use the budget as a reference when developing their own workplans.

On libraries it was noted that consultation is taking place starting with Bath for which materials have been posted on the web site, or will be, later today I'm told.

The panel also looked at the notes from the Community Area Forums and the other PDS panels. It supported the idea of the Forums receiving the notes which summarise the answers to the questions they raised and receiving further feedback. Better attendance at their future meetings with wider public engagement was also encouraged.

An equalities analysis was noted and the importance of this understood. The analysis highlighted a number of areas for concern but the work to minimise impacts was well received. On social care it was also noted that there wasn't a cut in funding but that the 2% proposed precept would not come close to covering the demand pressures arising from the changes in the local population.

The minutes of the panel have been published if you would like further information.

Finally I'd like to thank the Cabinet member Charles Gerrish for regularly attending the panel and answering our questions and also the officers for the work they have done.'

77 SINGLE MEMBER CABINET DECISIONS TAKEN SINCE PREVIOUS CABINET MEETING

The Cabinet agreed to note the report.

78 REVENUE & CAPITAL BUDGET MONITORING, CASH LIMITS AND VIREMENTS – APRIL TO DECEMBER 2016

Councillor Charles Gerrish introduced the report by saying that this report had presented the financial monitoring information for the Authority as a whole for the financial year 2016/17 to the end of December 2016. The report outlined the Council's current financial position for the 2016/17 financial year to the end of December 2016 by Cabinet Portfolio. It also shown that the current forecast outturn position was an overspend of £1,039,000 or 0.37% of the gross expenditure budget (excluding Schools). Strategic Directors would need to work towards managing within budget in the current year for their respective service areas, using action plans to achieve this, including not committing any unnecessary expenditure and stringent budgetary control.

The forecast outturn position included the requirement for the delivery of £12.644m savings as part of the approved budget for 2016/17, a significant element of which had been confirmed as delivered.

Councillor Charles Gerrish moved the recommendations.

Councillor Michael Evans seconded the motion by highlighting pressures within his Cabinet portfolio (Children Services) with forecast of £1,488,000 overspend, which was due to a number of pressures.

RESOLVED (unanimously) that the Cabinet agreed:

1. Strategic Directors need to work towards managing within budget in the current year for their respective service areas, using action plans to achieve this, including not committing any unnecessary expenditure and stringent budgetary control.
2. This year's revenue budget position as shown in Appendix 2 is noted.
3. 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 are noted.
4. The revenue virements listed for approval in Appendix 4(i) are agreed, and those listed for information are noted.
5. The changes in the capital programme listed in Appendix 5(i) are noted.

79 BUDGET AND COUNCIL TAX 2017/18 AND FINANCIAL OUTLOOK 2017/18 TO 2019/20

Vishaka Robinson gave a statement (*available on the Minute Book at Democratic Services*) speaking against central library move proposals.

Daniel Carey gave a statement (*available on the Minute Book at Democratic Services*) expressing his concern on the consultation for the central library move proposals.

Mary English gave a statement (*available on the Minute Book at Democratic Services*) speaking against central library move proposals.

Dionne Pemberton gave a statement (*available on the Minute Book at Democratic Services*) speaking against central library move proposals.

Paul Stansall addressed the Cabinet by saying that Lewis House, as proposed new venue for the library, was not the right use class in planning terms for that purpose.

Paul Stansall also expressed his concerns in terms of the health and safety of the Lewis House, in particular that escape stairs contravene building regulations.

Luke John Emmett addressed the Cabinet by saying that cultural organisations (i.e. Bath University) would be affected with any arts cuts, which would be detrimental to the area. The cuts in arts would also create negative impact on the economy. Luke John Emmett also said that £1 invested in arts returns between £2 - £7 of income.

Jacob Bishop-Ponte addressed the Cabinet by expressing his concerns on cuts in youth services. Jacob Bishop-Ponte believed that youth services would disappear in near future because of those cuts and that responsibility put on Town Councils was not reasonable. Jacob Bishop-Ponte concluded his statement by saying that the budget had let down young people.

Councillor Andrew Furse asked how £5.9m of spent on libraries would create £800k of savings. Councillor Andrew Furse also said that the budget cuts would have an impact on young and vulnerable people, that cuts to arts would be significant and that there would be a shift in frontline services.

Councillor Eleanor Jackson gave a statement (*available on the Minute Book at Democratic Services*) speaking against the budget cuts.

Councillor Joe Rayment said that to him it looked like that the Cabinet had not had meaningful consultation with the public about the budget, and that the budget had been set at the last minute.

Councillor Dine Romero expressed her concerns that the budget would create long term adverse impact on youth service, and that it would affect young and most vulnerable residents. Councillor Dine Romero also said that would have to pay more for services from the Council and that there would be expensive consequences to these cuts.

Councillor Paul May said that the administration care about services for residents. The whole budget process had been quite stressful due to the level of cuts in funding from the central government. Councillor Paul May thanked everyone involved in the process.

Councillor Charles Gerrish said that answers to comments from Councillor Furse were included in the Q&A sheet for this meeting. Councillor Charles Gerrish also said, in response to comments from Councillor Dine Romero, the Council would continue to provide other than digital access to Council services, although the Council would need to recognise that there was a pressure from the central government for digitalisation.

Councillor Charles Gerrish thanked Councillor Paul May and all officers involved for their support in setting up the budget. Councillor Charles Gerrish also thanked everyone who made their comments on the budget.

Councillor Charles Gerrish introduced the report by saying that this was one of the most challenging budgets ever. Councillor Charles Gerrish welcomed these detailed plans to invest in the area, as part of a balanced budget that would continue to protect essential frontline services and focus on the priorities that matter the most to local people. The Cabinet had taken due regard for equality in its decisions by

carrying out equality analysis, as per Equality Impact Assessment. An Equality Analysis on budget proposals had been included in Appendix 6.

The Cabinet set out the following:

- Its medium term financial planning assumptions which set the basis for the draft budget proposal for 2017/18.
- Its draft budget proposal for 2017/18.

The report provided the detail of the second year of the Directorate Plans and recommended revenue and capital budgets for 2017/18, together with capital commitments for future years, and a level of Council Tax for 2017/18.

The budget proposal had been built on the prudent financial management of the Council and had been designed to maintain front line services as far as possible whilst recognising the significant financial challenge facing the public sector. The budget also focussed on delivering important manifesto commitments, growing income and further increasing the efficiency of Council services.

The budget proposals included:

- A net £2.0m or 1.7% decrease in the non-schools budget to £112.796m
- An increase in the DSG estimated at £5.3m with total funding of £128.8m (including academies). The majority of the additional funding relates to the additional resources provided to accommodate increased pupil numbers in our schools, and the changes announced in relation to additional resources for early years to enhance the provision for 2, 3 and 4 year olds. Taking account of this, the overall total represents a cash freeze per pupil compared to the previous year.
- An increase in the Council's level of Council Tax, comprising a 2% Adult Social care precept and a 1.50% general increase in order to help protect frontline services. This excludes Police, Fire and Parish precepts.

Whilst significant savings and additional income generation proposals totalling £14.7m were included in our proposed budget, it was also recommended that Council Tax is increased by 1.5% in 2017/2018 in order to avoid cuts to frontline services. The proposed band D Council Tax for Bath & North East Somerset Council next year is £1,284.33 (£1,240.90 in 2016/2017), an increase of £3.62 per month for a Band D property.

The proposed net revenue budget for Bath & North East Somerset Council next year, 2017/2018, was therefore £112.796m, a net cash decrease of £1.983m on the previous year. This included the impact of significant reductions in government funding amounting to 15.8% (£5.7m) for 2017/2018.

Councillor Charles Gerrish moved the recommendations as printed in the report with the following addition:

- To reduce by £30k the saving from the review of the Dog Warden Service (page 137) in 2017/18.
- To reduce by £50k the savings from the Parks service (page 136), in 2017/18.
- To provide £50k of additional funding to the Catering Service Budget to meet the increasing inflationary costs of food faced by Catering Service.

Councillor Tim Warren seconded the motion. Councillor Tim Warren also thanked everyone who were involved in the budget and everyone who spoke at the meeting today. Despite to unprecedented cuts in funding from the central government, the Cabinet had identified specific investment priorities, as part of the commitment to delivering three core aims, to ensure the Council:

- Is efficient and well run;
- Invests in the future of the area; and
- Puts the interests of residents first

Councillor Tim Warren also said that this budget would help in continuing delivery of key priorities including improving transport, creating homes and jobs, supporting young and older people alike, and investing in cleaner, greener and healthier communities.

The rest of the Cabinet unanimously welcomed the budget by highlighting key aims and priorities within their portfolio, as per report.

RESOLVED (unanimously) that the Cabinet agreed to recommend:

1. That the Council approve:
 - a) The General Fund net revenue budget for 2017/18 of £112.796m and the associated Council Tax increase of 1.50% plus a further 2% precept for Adult Social Care, as set out in Appendix 2.
 - b) That no Special Expenses be charged other than Town and Parish Council precepts for 2017/18.
 - c) The adequacy of reserves at Appendix 2 Table 10 with a risk-assessed level of £13.5m.
 - d) The individual service cash limits for 2017/18 summarised at Appendix 2 Table 6 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 Finance & Efficiency and the Chief Executive.
2. 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.
3. 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 2, Annex 2) and approves the conditions upon which the recommendations are made as set out throughout Appendix 2.
4. That in relation to the capital budget the Council:
 - a) approves a capital programme of £56.083m for 2017/18 and notes items for provisional approval in 2017/18 and the programme for 2018/19 to

2021/22 (including invest to earn) as shown at Appendix 2, 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 CIL allocations as set out in Appendix 2 and the proposed arrangements for agreeing the use of CIL for the unparished area of Bath.
 - d) approves all other delegations as set out in the budget report.
 - e) approves the revised Minimum Revenue Provision Policy as shown at Appendix 2, Annex 4 with the changes to become effective immediately.
 - f) approves the Capital Prudential Indicators as set out in Appendix 2 Table 8.
5. That the Council agree the Council's proposed pay policy statement as set out in Appendix 5.
 6. Authorise the Council's Section 151 Officer, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Finance & Efficiency, to make any necessary changes and presentational improvements to the draft budget proposal for submission to Council.
 7. To reduce by £30k the saving from the review of the Dog Warden Service (page 137) in 2017/18.
 8. To reduce by £50k the savings from the Parks service (page 136), in 2017/18.
 9. To provide £50k of additional funding to the Catering Service Budget to meet the increasing inflationary costs of food faced by Catering Service.

80 TREASURY MANAGEMENT MONITORING REPORT TO 31ST DECEMBER 2016

Councillor Charles Gerrish introduced the report by saying that this report had given details of performance against the Council's Treasury Management Strategy and Annual Investment Plan 2016/17 for the first nine months of 2016/17.

Councillor Charles Gerrish moved the recommendations.

Councillor Tim Warren seconded the motion.

RESOLVED (unanimously) that the Cabinet agreed:

1. The Treasury Management Report to 31st December 2016, prepared in accordance with the CIPFA Treasury Code of Practice, is noted
2. The Treasury Management Indicators to 31st December 2016 are noted.

81 TREASURY MANAGEMENT & INVESTMENT STRATEGY 2017/18

Councillor Andrew Furse commented that this was an improvement from previous years.

Councillor Charles introduced the report by saying that this report fulfils the Council's legal obligation under the Local Government Act 2003 to have regard to both the CIPFA Code and the CLG Guidance. The suggested strategy for 2017/18 was based on the Treasury Officers' views on interest rates, supplemented with leading market forecasts provided by the Council's treasury advisor.

Councillor Charles Gerrish moved the recommendations.

Councillor Tim Warren seconded the motion.

RESOLVED (unanimously) that the Cabinet agreed to:

1. Recommend the actions proposed within the Treasury Management Strategy Statement (Appendix 1).
2. Recommend the Investment Strategy as detailed in Appendix 2.
3. Recommend to February Council for approval that decisions to borrow from the Local Government Association (LGA) Bond Agency, as detailed in Appendix 1, are delegated to the Chief Finance Officer in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Finance & Efficiency.
4. Note the Treasury Management Indicators detailed in Appendix 1 and delegate authority for updating the indicators prior to approval at Full Council on 14th February 2017 to the Chief Finance Officer and Cabinet Member for Finance & Efficiency, in light of any changes to the recommended budget as set out in the Budget Report elsewhere on the agenda for this meeting.

The meeting ended at 6.40 pm

Chair _____

Date Confirmed and Signed _____

Prepared by Democratic Services