

Friday, 11th February, 2022

Present:

Councillor Kevin Guy (Ch)
Councillor Alison Born
Councillor Tom Davies
Councillor Manda Rigby
Councillor Richard Samuel

Leader of the Council, Liberal Democrat Group Leader
Cabinet Member for Adults and Council House Building
Cabinet Member for Adults and Council House Building
Cabinet Member for Transport
Deputy Council Leader (statutory) and Cabinet Member
for Economic Development and Resources

1 WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS AND EMERGENCY EVACUATION PROCEDURE

The Chair, Cllr Kevin Guy, welcomed everyone to the meeting and made the following statement:

“This meeting is being held as part of the contingency arrangements put in place, recognising the need to remain cautious. For this reason, there is only a quorum of Cabinet Members present at this meeting. A virtual ‘informal’ meeting of the full Cabinet took place last night to inform voting at this meeting. That meeting is available to view on the Council’s YouTube channel.”

2 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

There were no apologies for absence.

3 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

The Monitoring Officer explained that he had granted a general dispensation for item 11 (Budget and Council Tax 2022/23) for all those Cabinet members who pay Council Tax. He had also granted a special dispensation for those members in receipt of Council services.

Councillor Kevin Guy declared that he had received a Covid relief grant from the Council in respect of his family business.

4 TO ANNOUNCE ANY URGENT BUSINESS AGREED BY THE CHAIR

There was no urgent business.

5 STATEMENTS, DEPUTATIONS OR PETITIONS FROM PUBLIC OR COUNCILLORS

The Chair explained that members of the public and Councillors who wished to make a statement did so at the virtual meeting of the Cabinet held on 10 February 2022. Their statements, where provided, are attached to the minutes of this meeting.

6 QUESTIONS FROM PUBLIC AND COUNCILLORS

The Chair stated that the question-and-answer sheet (with any supplementary questions) will be published with the minutes of the meeting.

7 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS CABINET MEETINGS

RESOLVED that the minutes of the following meetings be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chair:

15 December 2021 (virtual informal meeting)

16 December 2021

26 January 2022 (virtual informal special meeting)

27 January 2022 (Special meeting)

8 CONSIDERATION OF SINGLE MEMBER ITEMS REQUISITIONED TO CABINET

There were none.

9 MATTERS REFERRED BY POLICY DEVELOPMENT AND SCRUTINY BODIES

The Chair explained that Cllr Karen Warrington, Chair of the Corporate Policy Development and Scrutiny Panel, attended the virtual meeting held yesterday to present a summary of the comments of the PDS Panels on the proposed budget for 2022/23.

10 SINGLE MEMBER CABINET DECISIONS TAKEN SINCE PREVIOUS CABINET MEETING

The Cabinet agreed to note the report.

11 BUDGET AND COUNCIL TAX 2022/23 AND FINANCIAL OUTLOOK

Cllr Richard Samuel moved the officer recommendation with the following revision:

That the budget proposal to Council on 15th / 16th February reflects the following change to Annex 2(i) – “2022/23 to 2024/25 Budget Savings and Income proposals”,

Removal of the following item:

Savings Title	How to be achieved	Portfolio Holder / Director	22/23 Saving £000	23/24 Saving £000	24/25 Saving £000
Income - Parking Charges Review	Introduce hourly based charging in Midsomer Norton and Radstock	Cllr Manda Rigby / Chris Major	20	55	

And incorporation of the saving requirement into the following item for achievement through a wider review of parking charges income.

Savings Title	How to be achieved	Portfolio Holder / Director	22/23 Saving £000	23/24 Saving £000	24/25 Saving £000
Original Proposal					
Income - Parking Charges Review	Increased Parking Charges	Cllr Manda Rigby / Chris Major	606		
Revised Proposal					
Income - Parking Charges Review	Increased Parking Charges	Cllr Manda Rigby / Chris Major	626	55	

A revised Annex 2(i) reflecting this change is attached as an appendix to the minutes.

This was seconded by Cllr Kevin Guy.

RESOLVED (unanimously) to recommend that Council approves:

- The General Fund net revenue budget for 2022/23 of **£126.74m** and the individual service cash limits for 2022/23 as outlined in Annex 1 of the report.
- The amended savings and income plans as set out in revised Annex 2(i) (attached as an *appendix* to the minutes), funding requirements 2(ii) in conjunction with the Equalities Impact Assessment Report in Annex 3 of the report.
- An increase in Council Tax of 1.99% in 2022/23 (an increase of £30.44 per Band D property or 59p per week).
- An increase of 1% to Council Tax for the Adult Social Care Precept is approved in recognition of the current demands and financial pressures on this service. This is equivalent to an increase of £15.29 on a Band D property (29p per week).

- e) The movement in reserves outlined in section 5.6 and the adequacy of Un-earmarked Reserves at £12.58m within a risk assessed range requirement of £11.9m - £13.2m.
- f) The Efficiency Strategy attached at Annex 4 of the report.
- g) The Capital Programme for 2022/23 of £96.064m including new and emerging capital bids outlined in Annex 5(i), planned sources of funding in 5.8.2, and notes the programme for 2022/23 to 2026/27 and that any wholly funded projects coming forward during the year will be added to the Capital Programme in line with the Budget Management Scheme.
- h) The delegation of implementation, subject to consultation where appropriate, of the capital programmes set out in Annex 5(i) to Annex 5(iv) of the report to the relevant Director in Consultation with the appropriate Portfolio Holder.
- i) The Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) allocations and amendments outlined in Annex 5(v) of the report.
- j) The Capital & Investment Strategy attached at Annex 6 of the report.
- k) The MRP Policy attached at Annex 7 of the report.
- l) The Establishment and funding of a Business Change Hub outlined in paragraph 5.2.6 of the report.
- m) The Capital Prudential Indicators outlined in paragraph 5.8.7 of the report.
- n) The Annual Pay Policy Statement at Annex 8 of the report.
- o) The Community Contribution Fund pilot 12-month extension outlined section 5.5 of the report.

12 REVENUE & CAPITAL BUDGET MONITORING, CASH LIMITS AND VIREMENTS – APRIL TO DECEMBER 2021

On a motion by Cllr Richard Samuel, seconded by Cllr Guy it was,

RESOLVED (unanimously):

- (1) To note the 2021/22 revenue budget position (as at the end of December 2021).
- (2) To note the revenue virements listed for information only in Appendix 3(i) of the report.
- (3) To note the capital year-end forecast detailed in paragraph 3.25 of the report.
- (4) To note the changes in the capital programme including capital schemes that have been agreed for full approval under delegation listed in Appendix 4(i) of the report.

13 TREASURY MANAGEMENT STRATEGY STATEMENT 2022/23

On a motion from Cllr Richard Samuel, seconded by Cllr Tom Davies it was,

RESOLVED (unanimously):

- (1) To recommend the actions proposed within the Treasury Management Strategy Statement (Appendix 1 of the report) to February Council.
- (2) To note the Treasury Management Indicators detailed in Appendix 1 of the report and to delegate authority for updating the indicators prior to approval at Full Council on 16 February 2022 to the Chief Finance Officer and Cabinet Member for Economic Development & Resources, in light of any changes to the recommended budget as set out in the Budget Report elsewhere on the agenda for this meeting.
- (3) To note that any comments made by the Corporate Audit Committee at its meeting on 3 February 2022 will be reported to Full Council on 15 and 16 February 2022.

14 TREASURY MANAGEMENT PERFORMANCE REPORT TO 31 DECEMBER 2021

On a motion from Cllr Richard Samuel seconded by Cllr Alison Born it was,

RESOLVED (unanimously):

- (1) To note the Treasury Management Report to 31 December 2021, prepared in accordance with the CIPFA Treasury Code of Practice.
- (2) To note the Treasury Management Indicators to 31 December 2021.

15 QUARTER 3 STRATEGIC PERFORMANCE REPORT 2021-22

On a motion from Cllr Richard Samuel, seconded by Cllr Kevin Guy it was,

RESOLVED (unanimously):

- (1) To note progress on the delivery of key aspects of the Council's service delivery, details of which are highlighted in section 3.6 and Annex 1 of the report.
- (2) To agree to receive update reports on a quarterly basis.

The meeting ended at 12.10 pm

Chair

Date Confirmed and Signed

Prepared by Democratic Services