

Contact Officer: Andrea Woodside

KIRKLEES COUNCIL

CABINET

Tuesday 31st January 2017

Present: Councillor David Sheard (Chair)
Councillor Shabir Pandor
Councillor Peter McBride
Councillor Naheed Mather
Councillor Musarrat Khan
Councillor Erin Hill
Councillor Viv Kendrick
Councillor Masood Ahmed
Councillor Graham Turner

162 Membership of the Committee

No apologies for absence were received.

163 Interests

No interests were declared

164 Admission of the Public

It was noted that all Agenda Items would be considered in public session.

165 Deputations/Petitions

Cabinet received deputations from Ken Crowther and Charles Woodbridge in respect of the budget proposal for 'Grants to Communities Who Can' at Agenda Item 7. (Minute No. 168 refers).

166 Public Question Time

No questions were asked.

167 Member Question Time

No questions were asked.

168 Council Budget Report 2017-21 incorporating Capital, Treasury Management, General Fund Revenue & Housing Revenue Account

(Under the provision of Council Procedure Rule 36 (1) Cabinet received representations from Councillors D Hall, Greaves and Smaje)

Cabinet received a report which set out its recommendation to the meeting of Budget Council on 15 February 2017, and provided the basis upon which other political groups could consider their budget proposals for Capital, General Fund Revenue and Housing Revenue Account. The report also sought approval of the Council Treasury Management Strategy.

Cabinet noted that the report;

(i) Reviewed the multi-year Plan for Capital Investment (Cabinet is required under Financial Procedure Rules to recommend to the Council a multi-year Plan for Capital Investment).

(ii) Reviewed the Treasury Management Strategy 2017-18 (which the Council must consider before the start of the financial year to comply both with the Chartered Institute of Public Finance & Accountancy (CIPFA) Code of Practice on Treasury Management, and with Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) guidance on local authority investments issued in March 2010, requiring the Council to approve an Investment Strategy before the start of each financial year).

(iii) Review the General Fund Revenue Budget Strategies over the Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP), and budget proposals to achieve a balanced General Fund Revenue Budget in 2017-18, and Revenue Budget Plans for the following 3 years.

(iv) Incorporated the Government's announcement on the Local Government Finance Settlement for 2017-18 and indicative government funding forecasts for the following 3 years, and considered the level of General Fund Revenue Budget needed for Treasury Management and Central Contingencies.

(v) Made recommendations on the Council tax requirement for 2017-18.

(vi) Reviewed the current levels of General Fund Revenue Reserves and Balances and made recommendations on the level of reserves.

(vii) Review Housing Revenue Account (HRA) budget proposals to achieve a balanced HRA in 2017-18, and indicative Revenue Budget Plans for the following 3 years.

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(viii) Reviewed the current levels of Housing revenue Account Reserves, and made recommendations on the level of reserves.

(ix) Incorporated the Council's Pay Policy Statement for 2017-18.

(x) Incorporated a statement of assurance from the Council's statutory s151 officer in relation to the adequacy of General fund and HRA reserves and the robustness of budget estimates.

RESOLVED - That the report be submitted to the meeting of Council on 15 February 2016 with the following recommendations;

(1) Capital

(i) That the Capital Investment Plan be recommended to Council with an intention that the Plan is reviewed as an integral element of the Council's Budget Strategy to support Council priorities (on both capital and revenue budget proposals) and is contained within foreseeable resources (Appendix A, Section 1 and Appendix E refer).

(ii) That Council be advised to determine the Prudential Indicators as referred to in Appendix A (Section 1, para 1.3.19) and Appendix F.

(2) Treasury Management

(i) That the borrowing strategy as outlined in Appendix A (Section 2, para 2.3) be approved.

(iii) That the investment strategy be outlined in Appendix A (Section 2, para 2.4) and Appendix G be approved.

(iv) That the policy for provision of repayment of debt (minimum revenue provision) as outlined in Appendix A (Section 2, para 2.5) and Appendix I be approved.

(3) General Revenue Fund

(i) That the draft Revenue Budget for 2017-2020 and indicative high level funding and cost estimates for 2020-21 be approved (Appendix B refers).

(ii) That the proposed re-direct of £3.3m from rollover reserves to general balances, the proposed 2016-2017 year end transfer of £7.7m to organisational risk reserves (in-year further treasury management saving from the proposed amendment to the Council's minimum revenue provision strategy) , and the proposed re-alignment of £1.4m currently uncommitted resources earmarked for transformation projects totalling £1.4m to the New Council Transformation reserve be approved (Appendix A, Section 3, para 3.16.5 refers).

(iii) That, subject to approval of (3)(ii) above, the forecast levels of general and earmarked reserves as set out at Appendix A (Section 3, para 3.16.6) be noted.

(iv) That the strategy for the use of balances and reserves, as set out in Appendix A (section 3, paras 3.16.7 and 3.16.8 refer) be approved.

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(v) That it be acknowledged that for 2017-2018 the minimum level of General Fund balances should be £5.0m (Appendix A, Section 3, para 3.16.6 refers).

(vi) That a further reassessment of reserves requirements be undertaken at year end and reported as part of the 2016-2017 revenue rollover and outturn report.

(vii) That it be noted that the Council's continued participation on the Leeds City Region business rates pool for 2017-2018 (Appendix A, Section 3, para 3.13.6 refers).

(viii) That approval be given to the Council Tax requirement for 2017-2018 (Appendix A, Section 3, para 3.14, and Appendix C; budget motion refer)

(ix) That approval be given to the Council's Pay Policy Statement for 2017-2018 as set out in Appendix D (i-v).

(x) That the Council's Statutory s151 Officer's positive assurance statement, as referred to in para. 4 of the considered report, be noted.

(xi) That the Council's Statutory s151 Officer be given delegated authority to amend how the finally approved precepts are recorded in the Council's revenue budget in line with the final notifications received following decisions by the Office of Police and Crime Commissioner, the Fire and Rescue Authority and Parish Councils should these be received after 15 February 2017.

(4) Housing Revenue Account (HRA)

(i) That the draft HRA Budget for 2017-2020 (as detailed in Appendix B) be approved.

(ii) That the strategy for the use of HRA reserves (as detailed in Appendix A, Section 4, para 4.3.1) be approved.

169 Integrated Community Safety- Economic Resilience / Quality of Life

Cabinet gave consideration to a report which set out proposals for creating an integrated approach between the Council and its partners to enhance the quality of life for residents across the Kirklees area. The report advised that the new model essentially aimed to mould together services and functions to ensure a seamless offer which would include low level enforcement work, and clean, green and safe neighbourhoods. Cabinet noted that there would be a renewed focus upon prevention and early intervention that would be underpinned by technology and the use of shared intelligence.

The report sought approval for the development of the new model using reduced but combined resources across the partnership, and would also deliver savings and efficiencies. The considered report set out detailed information on the new approach to integrated community safety and the integrated working approach.

RESOLVED -

- 1) That approval be given to proposals to develop a new approach to integrated community safety that contributes to the economic strategy.
- 2) That the budget saving in line with the Medium Term Financial Plan be endorsed and that approval be given to £559k of Economic Resilience add back.