

Contact Officer: Andrea Woodside

KIRKLEES COUNCIL

CABINET

Tuesday 26th January 2021

Present: Councillor Shabir Pandor (Chair)
Councillor Viv Kendrick
Councillor Musarrat Khan
Councillor Naheed Mather
Councillor Peter McBride
Councillor Carole Pattison
Councillor Cathy Scott
Councillor Graham Turner
Councillor Paul Davies

Observers: Councillor Bolt

347 Membership of Cabinet

All Cabinet Members were present.

348 Declarations of Interest

No interests were declared.

349 Admission of the Public

It was noted that there were no exempt agenda items for consideration.

350 Deputations/Petitions

There were no deputations or petitions.

351 Questions by Members of the Public

No questions were asked.

352 Questions by Elected Members (Oral Questions)

Cabinet received the following questions;

Question from Councillor Scott

“What is the policy for the provision of laptops, tablets and IT equipment to Infant, Primary and Secondary Schools?”

A response was provided by the Cabinet Member for Aspiration, Learning and Communities.

Question from Councillor Bolt

“Could you outline the benefits for Kirklees from the connectivity infrastructure plan and a mass transit vision 2040 which you other Leaders have agreed and in particular does this mean the loss of the popular Spen Valley Greenway?”

A response was provided by the Leader of the Council.

353 Kirklees School Funding Arrangements - Financial Year 2021-2022

Cabinet gave consideration to a report which set out details of Kirklees schools funding arrangements for 2021-2022 in terms of (i) specific funding factors to be used and the relative weightings and values of the funding factors (ii) exceptions applications to the Education and Skills Funding Agency and approvals given (iii) central budget provision within the Dedicated Schools Grant Schools block of funding, the Central School Services Block and the Early Years Block and (iv) de-delegation arrangements for the mainstream maintained schools. The report also requested that Cabinet give approval to the outline details of the Kirklees School Funding Formula for 2021-2022, which had been submitted to the Education and Skills Funding Agency in accordance with the deadline of 21 January 2021.

The Cabinet Member advised of updates to figures as set out within the report since its publication in respect of (i) para. 2.3.7 to reflect that £0.08m would be assigned to the required correction adjustment (ii) para. 2.4.4 to reflect that the Exceptions Application in respect of Ashbrow School had now been approved and (iii) para 2.9.4 to reflect that the minimum funding guarantee mechanism was now expected to provide at least an increase in pupil funding of around 1.39%.

Cabinet noted that the Local Authority was expected to inform maintained schools of their 2021-2022 budget shares by 28 February 2021 and that the ESFA would inform academies of their budget allocations by 31 March 2021.

RESOLVED –

- 1) That the consultative process undertaken in collaboration with head teachers, through the Schools Forum, to determine the ongoing local approach to the distribution of the Dedicated Schools Grant Schools Block funding for 2021-2022, the fourth year of a ‘soft’ National Funding Formula approach and the adjustment that needs to be made to correct the identified double-funding issue be noted.
- 2) That the exceptions application that was made to the Education and Skills Funding Agency, and subsequently approved, be noted.
- 3) That the submission of the Schools Funding Formula to the Education and Skills Funding Agency for 2021-2022 be approved.

354 Calculation of Council Tax Base 2021-2022

(Cabinet were reminded of and noted the requirements of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, Section 106, in relation to voting upon this matter).

Cabinet gave consideration to a report seeking approval from Council for the various tax bases, which would apply to the Kirklees area for the financial year 2021/22 in

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connection with the council tax. The report provided an explanation of the council tax calculation and the need to calculate a tax base for both the whole of Kirklees, and each town and parish council area. Para. 2.3 of the report set out the factors which were applied to the valuation banding and the council tax calculation.

Cabinet noted that there would be an overall reduction on the level of the taxbase, mainly due to the forecast impact of Covid-19 upon the economy and the consequential impact upon housing growth, income collection rates and the increase in the number of eligible council tax reduction claimants.

RESOLVED – That the 2021/22 Council Tax base for the whole of the Kirklees area, and the Council Tax bases for the five Parish and Town Council areas, be referred to the meeting of Council on 10 January 2021 with a recommendation of approval;

Whole of Kirklees £119,177.54
Denby Dale £5,784.34
Holme Valley £10,092.94
Kirkburton £8,936.65
Meltham £2,834.30
Mirfield £6,611.24

355 Council Annual Budget Report 2021-2022 and following years; incorporating Capital Treasury Management, General Fund, Revenue and Housing Revenue Account

(Cabinet were reminded of and noted the requirements of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, Section 106, in relation to voting upon this matter).

Cabinet gave consideration to the Council Budget Report 2021-2022, prior to its submission to Council on 10 February 2021. The report (i) reviewed the general fund revenue budget strategies over the medium term financial plan and budget proposals to achieve a balanced general revenue fund revenue budget in 2021-2022, and indicative revenue budget forecasts for the following four years (ii) incorporated the Government's announcement on the Local Government Finance Settlement for 2021-2022, and considered the level of general fund revenue budget required for Treasury Management and Central Contingencies (iii) reviewed the current levels of general fund reserves and balances and made recommendations on the level of reserves (iv) incorporated Housing Revenue Account proposals to achieve a balanced HRA in 2021-2022, and indicative revenue budget plan for the following four years, informed by the HRA 30 year business plan (v) reviewed the current levels of HRA reserves, and made recommendations on the level of reserves (vi) reviewed the multi-year plan for capital investment (vii) reviewed the 2021-2022 Treasury Management Strategy, Investment Strategy and Capital Strategy (viii) made recommendations on the Council tax requirement for 2021-2022 and (ix) incorporated a statement of assurance from the Council's statutory s151 officer in relation to the robustness of budget estimates and adequacy of General Fund and HRA reserves.

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Having considered the content of the report and the accompanying appendices, it was agreed that the proposed budget be submitted to the meeting of Budget Council for determination.

RESOLVED - That the Motion be submitted to the Meeting of Council on 10 February 2021 with a recommendation that;

(i) General Revenue Fund

- the draft Revenue Budget 2021/2022 be approved, as attached at Appendix A
- the forecast spending and funding plans for the 2022-2026 period, as set out at Appendix A, be noted
- the forecast levels of statutory and other Council reserves, as set out at Appendix Bii, be noted.
- the strategy for the use of balances and reserves be approved (paragraph 2.13 refers)
- the Council's participation in the Leeds City Region Business Rates Pool for 2021/22 be noted and that a further report be submitted to Cabinet in March 2021 to formally agree the new arrangements
- the 2020/21 Council tax base for the whole of the Kirklees area, and the Council tax bases for the five Parish and Town Councils for 2021/22, (Appendix G refers) be approved (as determined at Agenda Item 8)
- the Council Tax requirement for 2021/2022 (Appendix G refers) be approved
- the Council's Statutory s151 Officer's positive assurance statement (paragraphs 3.3.1 - 3.3.19) be noted
- 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 10 February 2021 (paragraph 3.1.3 refers)

(ii) Treasury Management

- the borrowing strategy be approved (paragraphs 2.15 – 2.23 refer)
- the investment strategy be approved (paragraphs 2.24 – 2.33 refer)
- the policy for provision of debt (minimum revenue provision) be approved (paragraphs 2.34 – 2.38 and Appendix C refers)
- that paragraph 2.38 of the treasury management report, to which recommendation 6.12 refers, be amended as follows 'the Officer recommendation is to maximise the remaining balance of MRP unwind of £49.5m, over the 2020-2024 period to support the Council's medium term budget strategy'.
- the treasury management indicators be approved (Appendix D refers)
- the Investment Strategy (Non Treasury Investments) be approved (Appendix E refers)

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(iii) Capital

- the updated Capital Plan for 2020-2026 be approved (Appendix A refers)
- the capital strategy (including Prudential Indicators) be approved (Appendix E refers)

(iv) Housing Revenue Account

- the draft HRA budget for 2021/2022 be approved (Appendix A refers)
- the strategy for the use of HRA reserves be approved (Paragraph 2.15.5 refers)