

Contact Officer: Andrea Woodside

KIRKLEES COUNCIL

CABINET

Tuesday 12th January 2016

Present: Councillor David Sheard (Chair)
Councillor Jean Calvert
Councillor Steve Hall
Councillor Erin Hill
Councillor Viv Kendrick
Councillor Shabir Pandor
Councillor Cathy Scott
Councillor Graham Turner

Apologies: Councillor Peter McBride

186 Membership of the Committee

Apologies for absence were received on behalf of Councillor McBride.

187 Interests

Councillor G Turner declared an 'other' interest in Agenda Item 9, on the grounds that he is a Parish Councillor at Denby Dale Parish Council.

Councillor Calvert declared an 'other' interest in Agenda Item 12 on the grounds that she has a relative who is a KNH tenant.

188 Admission of the Public

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

189 Deputations/Petitions

No deputations or petitions were received.

190 Public Question Time

Cabinet received a question from Mr K Shaw regarding the decision taken to approve plans for a new school at the site of Whitcliffe Mount Sports Centre.

191 Member Question Time

No questions were asked.

192 Proposal to change the upper age range of Ravenshall School from 16 to 19 years

Cabinet received a report which set out the outcome of statutory processes for the statutory proposal by Kirklees Council to change the upper age range of Ravenshall School from 16 to 19 years.

The report advised that the proposal to increase the upper age range of Ravenshall School from 16 to 19 years of age had been developed in order to make permanent the existing post year 11 pilot provision which currently provides a small number of places to a specific group of young people in order to help them prepare for learning in a post 16 setting, and also to develop the skills that they individually need to progress effectively in to adulthood. The report indicated that the pilot scheme achieved successful outcomes for students who were eligible to stay at Ravenshall School beyond the age of 16.

Cabinet noted that the statutory proposal to change the upper age range of Ravenshall School had been developed in order to make the pilot provision permanent for the benefit of the students. The provision allows for a limited number of students who meet the eligibility criteria to be accommodated. It was expected that there would be a maximum of 16 places across years 12 and 13.

The considered report also set out the conclusions and recommendations of the School Organisation advisory group in regards to the proposal.

RESOLVED -

(1) That the advice of Kirklees School Organisation Advisory Group that the proposals to change the upper age range of Ravenshall School from 16 to 19 years are valid and that the required statutory processes have been carried out be noted.

(2) That it be agreed that the decision taken regarding the proposal will be within the statutory time period.

(3) That the outcomes and recommendations of the Kirklees School Organisation Advisory Group held on 23 November 2015, and associated officer recommendations, be noted.

(4) That the human resource and financial implications of approving the proposal be noted.

(5) That it be confirmed that full regard has been given to the Equalities Impact Assessment throughout the statutory process for the proposal including the decision regarding approval, meeting the obligations of the Equality Act 2010 and Public Sector Equality Duty 2011.

(6) That the proposal to change the upper age range of Ravenshall School from 16 to 19 years be approved without modification or condition.

(7) That Officers be requested to work closely with the Governing Body of Ravenshall School, staff and other stakeholders in order to implement the proposals from 1 September 2016.

193 Kirklees School Funding Formula for the financial year 2016-17

Cabinet received a report which set out details of changes required by the Department for Education (DfE) National Funding rules to the Kirklees School Funding Formula for the allocation of dedicated schools grant to the maintained and Academy schools in Kirklees for the financial year 2016-2017.

The report set out details of the Kirklees Funding Formula for 2016-2017 in terms of the relative weighting and values of the funding factors as approved in principle by Cabinet on 20 October 2015.

The report sought approval of the final details of the Kirklees School Funding for 2016/2017 for submission to the Education Funding Agency of the DfE, as required by 21 January 2016.

RESOLVED -

(1) That the further changes required by the Education Funding Agency funding rules to the Kirklees School Funding Formula for the allocation of Dedicated Schools Grant to the maintained and academy schools in Kirklees for the financial year 2016-2017.

(2) That the consultative process undertaken in collaboration with head teachers through the Kirklees Schools Forum to agree the details of the Kirklees funding formula be noted.

(3) That the details of the preferred Kirklees Funding Formula for 2016-2017 which elaborate the outline formula approved by the Cabinet in 23 October 2015 be noted.

(4) That approval be given to the final details of the Kirklees School Funding Formula for 2016-2017 for submission to the Education Funding Agency by 21 January 2016.

194 Calculation of Council Tax Base 2016/17

Cabinet received a report which set out recommendations for submission to Council regarding the approval of various Tax Bases which would apply to the Kirklees area for 2016/2017 financial year in relation to Council Tax charges, and the continuation of the current local Council Tax support scheme.

The report set out two options in terms of Council tax increase, and it recommended option 2, representing a total increase of 3.95%, be approved. It was noted that this option reflected a 1.95% annual rise in Council Tax plus 2% for spend on Adult Social Care.

RESOLVED -

That the following recommendations be submitted to the meeting of Council on 20 January 2016;

(a) That the 2016/2017 tax base for the whole of the Kirklees area, and the tax base for the five parish council areas be approved as below;

- Whole of Kirklees – 113,388.90

- Denby Dale Parish – 5,552.16
- Holme Valley Parish – 9,630.95
- Kirkburton Parish – 8,673.26
- Meltham Parish – 2,652.06
- Mirfield Parish – 6,388.57

(b) That the full Government CTR Grant be passed to Town and Parish Councils at the same level as previous years.

(c) That delegated power be given to the Director of Resources to adjust the component parts of the tax base should there be any alterations to the assumptions made at the meeting of Council on 20 January 2016.

195 Draft Local Government Finance Settlement

Cabinet received a report which provided an update on the announcement of the Local Government Finance Settlement.

The report set out the key points relating to Social Care, the Better Care Fund, the flexible use of Capital Receipt and the Education Services Grant.

Cabinet noted the figures as set out within the report which compared the forecast in the budget consultation document published in October with the Draft Settlement. The report advised that the main grant would fall by over £50m.

RESOLVED -

(1) That the Director of Resources be requested to write to the Secretary of State to indicate that Cabinet are minded to take advantage of the social care precept offer for 2016/17 and, in doing so, consider the balance of the interests of taxpayers with the pressures faced within the Adult Social Care Service.

(2) That Officers be authorised to send a response to the Government expressing concern regarding the impact on services which Local Authorities are taking responsibility for in instances where no funding is identified to support the delivery of the services.

196 Findings from the Public Budget Consultation

Cabinet received a report which provided feedback on the findings of the public budget consultation as part of the budget setting process.

The report advised that the 6 week consultation process had been carried out following the publication of the Council's medium term financial plan in October 2015. The consultation sought to gain feedback on the key priority areas of (i) supporting communities to do more for themselves and each other, (ii) keeping vulnerable people safe and helping them to stay in control of their lives and (iii) focusing on the things that only the Council can do. It also sought feedback on what the public considered to be the Council's single most important function.

A total of 1,410 responses to the consultation were received, of which 90% were from Kirklees residents. The findings from the consultation and comments received were set out in the Appendix of the report.

Cabinet noted the consultation findings which were to be submitted to the meeting of Council on 20 January 2016.

RESOLVED -

(1) That the findings of the consultation proposals as set out on the report be submitted to the meeting of Council on 20 January 2016.

(2) That consideration be given to the consultation findings and Equality Impact Assessments to support the budget planning process and decision making.

197 Housing Revenue Account (HRA) Rent and Service Charge Setting Report and Key Housing Challenges

Cabinet received a report which sought approval for a 1% reduction in dwelling rates in 2016/17, and for a proposed garage rent annual uplift of 0.8% in 2016/17.

The report provided the financial context and bases for the annual setting of rents and service charges as well as for the Housing Revenue Account budget which would be considered by Council in February 2016.

The report provided detail in relation to the Housing and Planning Bill, Universal Credit and Welfare System Reform and proposed rent and service charges.

Cabinet noted that the new average weekly housing revenue account dwelling rent for 2016/17 was £70.60 incorporating a compulsory 1% rent reduction. It was proposed that the annual increases to average garage rent and service and other charges for 2016/17, as attached at Appendix 1 of the report, continue to be uplifted in line with the retail price index figure used to inform the annual rent restructure calculation.

The report advised that, subject to approval, the changes would be implemented from April 2016, and that prior notification letters would be issued to tenants.

RESOLVED -

(1) That the proposed dwelling rent and garage rent and service, and other charges set out in the report, be approved and effective from April 2016.

(2) That the national and local financial challenges outlined in the report be noted in preparation for the HRA budget discussions in February 2016.