



CABINET

WEDNESDAY, 22 FEBRUARY 2012

DECISIONS

PRESENT:	Councillor Mackintosh (Chair); Councillor Caswell (Deputy Chair); Councillors Eldred, Hadland, Bottwood and Markham.
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Set out below is a summary of the decisions taken at the meeting of the Cabinet held on Wednesday, 22 February 2012. The wording used does not necessarily reflect the actual wording that will appear in the minutes.

These decisions will come into force and then may be implemented on the expiry of three working days after the publication of this list.

If you have any queries about any matters referred to in this decision sheet please contact Emma Garratt on 01604 837089.

THIS LIST OF DECISIONS PUBLISHED:	<u>22nd February 2012</u>
DATE OF EXPIRY OF CALL IN:	<u>28th February 2012 AT 17:00 HOURS</u>

Agenda Item No	Declaration/Conflict of Interests:
	None

6. EQUALITIES REPORT

1. Cabinet approved and adopted the attached document "Our Approach to Equalities" as the new equality strategy document for 2012 to 2015.
2. Cabinet approved the corporate priority equality objectives to be incorporated in the Corporate Plan 2012-15, taking account of feedback through the current Budget Consultation and needs identified through the development of the Corporate and Service Plans.
3. Cabinet delegated the setting of targets and measures to deliver the proposed Corporate Equality Objectives as set out in the report to the Chief Executive in consultation with the Leader and Portfolio Holder.
4. Cabinet noted the progress on equalities within the Council.

Agenda Item No	Declaration/Conflict of Interests:
	None

7. CORPORATE PLAN 2012-2015

Cabinet recommended the adoption of the Corporate Plan to Full Council at Appendix 1 of the report

Cabinet delegated to the Chief Executive, in consultation with the Leader, the authority to amend if necessary and finalise the:

1. Corporate Plan for presenting to Full Council 29 February in line with the budget decisions, service plans and any other consequent changes
2. Associated set of corporate measures to underpin the Plan by 31 March to be developed alongside the service planning process

Agenda Item No	Declaration/Conflict of Interests:
	None

8. TREASURY MANAGEMENT STRATEGY 2012-2015

2.1 Cabinet recommended to Council that they approved:

- a) The Treasury Management Policy Statement at Appendix C of the report
- b) The Treasury Management Practices (TMPs) Main Principles at Appendix D of the report
- c) The TMP Schedules for 2012-13 at Appendix E of the report
- d) The Treasury Management Strategy for 2012-13 at Appendix F of the report, incorporating:
 - (i) The Capital Financing and Borrowing Strategy for 2012-13 including:
 - The Council's policy on the making of Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP) for the repayment of debt, as required by the Local Authorities (Capital Finance & Accounting) (Amendments) (England) Regulations 2008.
 - The Affordable Borrowing Limit for 2012-13 as required by the Local Government Act 2003.
 - (ii) The Investment Strategy for 2012-13 as required by the CLG revised Guidance on Local Government Investments issued in 2010.

- e) That authority be delegated to the Council's Chief Finance Officer, the Director of Finance and Support, in liaison with the Portfolio Holder for Finance, to make any temporary changes needed to the Council's borrowing and investment strategy to enable the authority to meet its obligations.

2.2 Cabinet recommended to Council that they note

- a) Adherence to the Council's policy on reserves and balances (paragraph 3.2.13).
- b) Compliance with the requirement under the Local Government Finance Act 1992 to produce a balanced budget (paragraph 3.2.14 & 3.2.15).

Agenda Item No	Declaration/Conflict of Interests:
	None

9. GENERAL FUND REVENUE BUDGET SETTING 2012-2015

1. Cabinet agreed that the feedback from consultation with the public, organisations and the Overview and Scrutiny Committee be considered and welcomed (detailed at Appendices 1a, 1b, 1c and 1d of the report).
2. Cabinet agreed that the Council's representations on the provisional formula grant settlement be noted (Appendix 2 of the report)
3. Cabinet agreed that the changes to the proposed budget (detailed at Appendix 3 of the report), in light of the consultation responses, equalities issues and the final formula grant settlement.
4. Cabinet agreed that a General Fund budget for 2012/13 of £27.38m (excluding parishes) be recommended to the Council (detailed in Appendices 4 and 5 of the report) for its own purposes.
5. Cabinet noted the key medium term financial issues as set out at Appendix 6 of the report.
6. Cabinet noted the Chief Finance Officer's legal duties detailed in the letter from the Chairman of CIPFA (Appendix 7 of the report).
7. Cabinet acknowledged the issues and risks detailed in the Section 151 Officer's statement on the robustness of estimates and the adequacy of the reserves (Appendix 8 of the report).
8. Cabinet noted the draft Fees and Charges set out in Appendix 9 of the report
9. Cabinet agreed that authority be delegated to the Director of Finance to make any technical changes necessary to the papers for the Council meeting of 29 February 2012.
10. Cabinet agreed that Council be recommended to delegate authority to

the Chief Executive and Director of Finance and Support to implement all budget options and restructures.

11. Cabinet agreed that authority be delegated to the Director of Finance and Support in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Finance, and where appropriate the relevant Director and Portfolio Holder to:
 - transfer monies to/from earmarked reserves should that become necessary during the financial year.
 - update the budget tables and appendices, prior to Council should any further changes be necessary.
 - update prudential indicators in both the Prudential Indicators report and Treasury Strategy report, for Council for any budget changes that impact on these.
12. Cabinet agreed that the Council be recommended to confirm the reserves strategy of protecting balances wherever possible to allow the option of supporting future years' budgets, aiming for a minimum level of unallocated general fund balances of £3m at the end of 2012/13 having regard to the outcome of the financial risk assessment and remaining at this level over the medium term.
13. That the Council be recommended not to increase the Council Tax for its own purposes, that is, excluding county, police, and parish precepts for 2012/13.

Agenda Item No	Declaration/Conflict of Interests:
	None

10. HRA BUDGET AND RENT SETTING

- 2.1 Cabinet recommended to Council to approve:
 - a) An average rent increase of 6.79% per dwelling, in line with the Government's rent restructuring regime, convergence in 2015/16, to take effect from 2 April 2012.
 - b) The de-pooled service charges listed in Appendix 6 of the report.
 - c) The increase in existing service charges listed in Appendix 6 of the report, which includes Sheltered Accommodation Warden charges (including Eleonore House), Heating service charges, garage charges and Brookside Meadows service charges.
- 2.2 That the feedback from the Overview and Scrutiny Committee be considered and welcomed (detailed at Appendix 1 of the report).
- 2.3 That the Council's representations on the draft HRA Self-financing determination be noted (Appendix 2 of the report).
- 2.4 That the changes to the proposed budget (detailed at Appendix 3 of

the report), in light of the consultation responses, equalities issues and the Governments Draft then Final HRA Self-financing Determinations be agreed.

- 2.5 That the HRA budget for 2012/13 of £50.2m expenditure (including options) be recommended to the Council (detailed in Appendix 4 of the report) for its own purposes.
- 2.6 That the Cabinet acknowledges the issues and risks detailed in the Section 151 Officer's statement on the robustness of estimates and the adequacy of the reserves (Appendix 7 of the report).
- 2.7 That Council be recommended to delegate authority to the Chief Executive and Director of Finance and Support to implement all budget options and restructures.
- 2.8 That authority be delegated to the Director of Finance and Support in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Finance, and where appropriate the relevant Director and Portfolio Holder to:
 - transfer monies from earmarked reserves should that become necessary during the financial year.
 - update the budget tables and Appendices, prior to Council should any further changes be necessary
 - update prudential indicators in both the Prudential Indicators report and Treasury Strategy report, prior to Council for any budget changes that impact on these.
- 2.9 That the Council be recommended to confirm the reserves strategy of protecting balances wherever possible to allow the option of supporting future years budgets, aiming for a minimum level of unallocated HRA reserves of £5.0m at the end of 2012/13 having regard to the outcome of the financial risk assessment and remaining at this level over the medium term and in line with the 30 year Business Plan.

Agenda Item No	Declaration/Conflict of Interests:
	None

11. CAPITAL PROGRAMME AND CAPITAL STRATEGY 2012-2015

Cabinet recommended to Council that they approve

- a) The Capital Strategy for 2012-13 to 2014-15, as set out in Appendix A of the report.
- b) The capital programme for 2012-13, including future year commitments, as set out in Appendix B of the report.
- c) The capital financing principles to be applied in 2012-13, as set out

in the Capital Strategy (Appendix A of the report) pages 10-11.

- d) The proposed financing of the capital programme for 2012-13 and future years, as set out at paragraphs 3.2.16 and Appendix C of the report.
- e) That authority be delegated to the Director of Finance and Support in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Finance, and where appropriate the relevant Director and Portfolio Holder to update prudential indicators in both the Prudential Indicators report and Treasury Strategy report, prior to Council for any capital programme changes that impact on these.
- f) That Cabinet be authorised, once the programme has been set, to approve new capital schemes and variations to existing schemes during 2012-13, subject to the funding being available and the schemes being in accordance with the objectives and priorities of the Council.

Agenda	Declaration/Conflict of Interests:
Item No	None

12. PRUDENTIAL INDICATORS FOR CAPITAL FINANCE 2012-2015

Cabinet recommended to Council that they approve:

The prudential indicators required under the CIPFA Prudential Code for Capital Finance in Local Authorities (2011 edition) as set out at paragraph 3.2.3 of the Cabinet report.

That authority be delegated to the Section 151 Officer to make adjustments between the “borrowing” and “other long term liabilities” categories within the overall total of the indicators for the operational boundary and the authorised limit for external debt set out at paragraphs 3.2.3 (g) and (h) of the Cabinet report.