

COUNCIL

THURSDAY, 25 FEBRUARY 2016

DECISIONS

Set out below is a summary of the decisions taken at the meeting of the Council held on Thursday, 25 February 2016. The wording used does not necessarily reflect the actual wording that will appear in the minutes.

If you have any queries about any matters referred to in this decision sheet please contact Graham Watts.

MEMBERS' ALLOWANCES 2016/17

Council **AGREED**:

- (1) Pending the next review of South Cambridgeshire District Council's Members' Allowance Scheme, that any changes to current Special Responsibility Allowance payments deemed necessary to reflect changes in Member roles and responsibilities should be made by a re-allocation of current Special Responsibility Allowance payments without increasing the Council's overall Special Responsibility Allowance cost envelope.
- (2) That the Members' Basic Allowance be increased by the equivalent percentage amount that the Council agrees to apply to the pay rates of Council staff, effective from 1 April 2016, and that thereafter the Basic Allowance is increased annually on the same indexed basis pending the next review of the Members' Allowance Scheme.
- (3) That where a Councillor in receipt of the allowance fails to attend 50% of the meetings for which that allowance is paid in any six-month period, that Councillor be invited to repay an appropriate sum of the allowance received during that period.
- (4) That there should be no increase to the Independent Person's or their Deputy's annual allowance payment, given that the additional commitment involved is intrinsically ad hoc and may never be performed during their period of office.

CORPORATE PLAN PRIORITIES 2015-2020

Council **APPROVED** the Corporate Plan setting out the Council's vision, objectives and actions for 2016–2021, as set out in Appendix 1 to the report.

MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL STRATEGY (GENERAL FUND BUDGET 2016/17 INCLUDING COUNCIL TAX SETTING), HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT (INCLUDING HOUSING RENTS), CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2016/17-2020/21 AND TREASURY MANAGEMENT STRATEGY (REVISED 2015/16 AND 2016/17)

Council:

- (a) **APPROVED** the General Fund Capital Programme and the associated funding up to the year ending 31 March 2021, as set out in Appendix A1 of the report as submitted.
- (b) **APPROVED** the revenue estimates for 2016-17 as submitted in the General Fund summary, as set out in Appendix B1 of the report.
- (c) **APPROVED** the precautionary items for the General Fund, as set out in Appendix B2 of the report.
- (d) **APPROVED** the Medium Term Financial Strategy for the General Fund, as set out in Appendix B3 of the report, based on the assumptions set out in the report.
- (e) **APPROVED** the fees and charges proposed for 2016-17, as set out in Appendix B4 of the report.
- (f) **RESOLVED** that the Executive Management Team be instructed to identify additional income/ savings of £300,000 in 2016-17, rising to £930,000 from 2017-18.
- (g) **RESOLVED** that the Council Tax requirement for 2016-17 is £7,852,090.
- (h) **RESOLVED** that the Council sets the amount of Council Tax for each of the relevant categories of dwelling in accordance with Section 30(2) of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 on the basis of a District Council Tax for general expenses on a Band D property of £130.31 plus the relevant amounts required by the precepts of Parish Councils, Cambridgeshire County Council, the Cambridgeshire Police and Crime Commissioner and the Cambridgeshire Fire Authority, details of those precepts and their effect as set out in the statutory resolution below.
- (i) **APPROVED** the Housing Revenue Account revenue budget, summarised in the Housing Revenue Account Summary Forecast 2015-16 to 2020-21, as set out in Appendix G(1) of the Housing Revenue Account budget setting report, in the context of the updated 30 Year Housing Revenue Account Business Plan.
- (j) **AGREED**, subject to resolution (x) below, council dwellings rents for existing tenants be reduced by 1%, in line with legislative requirements, anticipated to be introduced as part of the Welfare Reform and Work Bill 2015, with effect from 4th April 2016.
- (k) **APPROVED** the inclusion of an ongoing savings target for Housing Revenue Account services for the period from 2017-18 to 2020-21, at the initial rate of £250,000 per annum, recognising the financial constraints placed upon the Housing Revenue Account by changes in national housing policy.
- (l) **APPROVED** inflationary increases of 1.4% in garage rents for 2016-17, in line with the base rate of inflation for the year assumed in the Housing Revenue Account Budget Setting Report.

- (m) **APPROVED** proposed service charges for Housing Revenue Account services and facilities provided to both tenants and leaseholders, as set out in Appendix B of the Housing Revenue Account budget setting report.
- (n) **APPROVED** the charge for the cost of the provision of the alarm service in sheltered housing being set at £3 a week.
- (o) **APPROVED** the latest budget, spend profile and funding mix for each of the schemes in the new build programme, as set out in Section 5 and Appendix E of the Housing Revenue Account budget setting report.
- (p) **APPROVED** to earmark the required level of additional funding for new build investment between 2016-17 and 2020-21 to ensure that commitments can be met in respect of the investment of all right to buy receipts retained by the authority, up to the end of December 2015.
- (q) **APPROVED** the revised Housing Capital Investment Plan, as set out in Appendix H of the Housing Revenue Account budget setting report, in the context of the updated 30 Year Housing Revenue Account Business Plan.
- (r) **RESOLVED** to grant delegation to the Executive Director (Corporate Services) in consultation with the Leader, to allow the Self-Build Vanguard scheme to proceed during 2016-17, should the business case presented be financially viable for both the General Fund and the Housing Revenue Account.
- (s) **APPROVED** the borrowing and investment strategy for the year to 31 March 2017, as set out in Appendix D1 of the report.
- (t) **APPROVED** the prudential indicators required by the Prudential Code for Capital Finance in Local Authorities for the year to 31 March 2017, as set out in Appendix D2 of the report.
- (u) **APPROVED** the Capital Strategy 2016-17 to 2020-21 and Corporate Asset Management Plan 2016-17 to 2020-21, as set out in Appendices D4 and D5.
- (v) **RESOLVED** that any unspent New Homes Bonus money allocated to the City Deal be approved to roll forward to 2017-18.
- (w) **RESOLVED** that the Executive Director (Corporate Services) be given delegated authority to issue the final version of the Estimates Book, incorporating the amendments required from Council's decisions.
- (x) **NOTED** The Government's exemption of supported housing from the 1% rent cut.

In addition to resolution (g) above, Council **AGREED** the following statutory resolution in respect of the Council Tax for 2016-17:

That the following amounts be now calculated by the Council for the year 2016-17 in accordance with Sections 31 to 36 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992:

- (a) **£91,936,833** being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 31A (2) (a) to (f) of the Act (gross expenditure including parish precepts, the Housing Revenue Account and additions to reserves)

- (b) **£79,309,268** being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 31A (3) (a) to (d) of the Act (gross income including the Housing Revenue Account and use of reserves)
- (c) **£12,627,565** being the amount by which the aggregate at (a) above exceeds the aggregate at (b) above, calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 31A (4) of the Act, as its council tax requirement for the year (net expenditure to be met from council tax) being the district amount of £7,852,090 and the parish precepts of £4,775,475
- (d) **£209.56** being the amount calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 31B of the Act, as the basic amount of its council tax for the year (average council tax for a band D property for the District including parishes)
- (e) **£4,775,475** being the aggregate amount of all special items referred to in Section 34(1) of the Act (parish precepts)
- (f) **£130.31** being the amount calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 34(2) of the Act, as the basic amount of its council tax for the year for dwellings in those parts of its area to which no special item relates (average council tax for a Band D property for the District excluding parishes), the amounts being for each of the categories of dwellings shown below in Table 1
- (h) In accordance with Section 34(3) of the Act, the basic amounts of council tax for the year for dwellings in those parts of its area to which a special item relates are shown by adding the amounts for band D for the District Council in Table 1 below and Appendix A of the revised supplement
- (i) In accordance with Section 36(1) of the Act, the amounts to be taken into account for the year in respect of categories of dwellings listed in different valuation bands are shown by adding the amounts for each band in Table 1 below and Appendix A of the revised supplement.

That it be noted that for the year 2016-17 Cambridgeshire County Council, the Cambridgeshire Police and Crime Commissioner and Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Fire Authority have stated the following amounts in precepts issued to the Council, in accordance with Section 40 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, for each of the categories of dwellings as shown in Table 1:

Table 1	Band A £	Band B £	Band C £	Band D £	Band E £	Band F £	Band G £	Band H £
County Council	778.08	907.76	1037.44	1,167.12	1,426.48	1,685.84	1,945.20	2,334.24
Police & Crime Commissioner	122.10	142.45	162.80	183.15	223.85	264.55	305.25	366.30
District Council	86.87	101.35	115.83	130.31	159.27	188.23	217.18	260.62
Fire Authority	43.68	50.96	58.24	65.52	80.08	94.64	109.20	131.04

and

- j) that the Council, in accordance with Section 30(2) of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, hereby sets the amounts set out in Appendix B of the revised supplement as the amounts of council tax for the year 2016-17 for each of the categories of dwellings shown in Appendix B.

SUPPORTING INFORMATION IN RESPECT OF SETTING THE COUNCIL TAX

Including the precepts from the County Council, the Police and Crime Commissioner, Fire Authority and all of the parishes, the formal Council Resolution would produce a council tax for a band D property of:

		£ p	%
District Council	General Expenses	130.31	+3.99%
	Special Expenses for Parish Precepts (average)	79.25	+3.87%
County Council		1,144.26	+0.00%
	Adult Social Care	22.86	
Police Authority		183.15	+0.99%
Fire Authority		65.52	+1.96%
Total		1,625.35	+2.13%

On these figures the council tax would range from £1,030.73 for Band A to £3,351.52 for Band H before any discounts or benefits.

Appendix C of the revised supplement shows the General Fund summary including Parish precepts and the final Formula Grant figure.

SWAVESEY BYWAYS RATE

Council **RESOLVED**:

- (a) That it maintains the current level of byway maintenance for the period 2016-17.
- (b) That it levies a rate at £1.10 to fund the required maintenance for the period 2016-17.

MEMBERSHIP CHANGES

Council **APPOINTED** Councillor Graham Cone onto the Scrutiny and Overview Committee.

ADVICE NOTE ON ELECTED MEMBER INVOLVEMENT IN THE GREATER CAMBRIDGE CITY DEAL

Council **ENDORSED** the advice note on elected Member involvement in the Greater Cambridge City Deal.