

**MINUTES OF THE CABINET MEETING
HELD AT 10:00AM, ON
FRIDAY, 9 FEBRUARY 2018
BOURGES/VIERSEN ROOM, TOWN HALL, PETERBOROUGH**

Cabinet Members Present: Councillor Holdich (Chair), Councillor Ayres Councillor Elsey, Councillor Fitzgerald, Councillor Hiller, Councillor Lamb, Councillor Seaton, Councillor Smith, and Councillor Walsh

Cabinet Advisors Present: Councillor Allen and Councillor Stokes

60. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

No apologies for absence were received.

61. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest were received.

62. MINUTES OF THE CABINET MEETINGS HELD ON 15 JANUARY 2018

The minutes of the meeting held on 15 January 2018 were agreed as a true and accurate record.

63. PETITIONS PRESENTED TO CABINET

There were no petitions presented to Cabinet.

STRATEGIC DECISIONS

64. MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL STRATEGY 2018/2019 TO 2020/2021

The Cabinet received a report that formed part of the Council's formal Budget and Policy Framework. This required Cabinet to initiate and put forward budget proposals to set a balanced and sustainable budget for the financial years 2018/19 to 2020/21. There was a legal requirement to set a balanced budget for 2018/19.

The purpose of this report was to recommend that Cabinet approve the second phase of budget proposals for consultation, outline the financial challenges facing the Council, outline the approach the Council are taking to close the budget gap and outline the required statement of the robustness of the budget estimates and the adequacy of the financial reserves.

The Cabinet Member for Resources introduced the report and explained that the report provided detail on how the Council proposed to set a sustainable budget. Additional pressures had been identified in relation to office accommodation costs and a full report on these would be provided to the next meeting of Cabinet. Proposals included a 1% increase in council tax and items such as shared services, a reduction in homelessness costs due to prevention and reduction in spend on ICT. The overall deficit had been reduced to £4 million. The Council was still continuing to expand its commercial income and external funding opportunities. A robustness statement had

been provided from the Chief Finance Officer that determined that the estimates made within the budget were robust and adequate.

Cabinet debated the report and in summary, key points raised and responses to questions included:

- There was work currently being undertaken to improve sustain the current financial budget.
- The strategy covered a three year period and would remove £40 million of reductions. £12 million was left for next year and £6 million for the year after that.
- While funding had been outlined for two years, the Council had made provision for one year's worth only to ensure that the figures provided were sustainable.
- The level of funding to be received from central government for 2018/19 was £496,000.
- The two upcoming years presented the biggest risk to the Council in terms of providing a sustainable budget. The second risk was ensuring they are implemented with care the savings identified were realised.
- There was a drop in capital programme levels from previous years. This was based on the actual amounts delivered from previous capital programmes.
- There was no current impact on the budget from the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority. However, once the local transport authority responsibility was transferred it was like that the Council would receive some form of levy. The Council had also received support from the Combined Authority in relation to housing support.
- Queries were raised as to the sale of Bayard Plan. It was advised that the figure provided correction previous assumptions around loss of income.
- In relation to the provision of four additional Homelessness Prevention Officers it was anticipated that each officer would prevent one homelessness presentation each week, which would reduce Council overspend. This also aligned with the spirit of new homelessness prevention legislation.
- Proposals in relation to Bretton Water Park were discussed and it was noted that the park was used by many more people than just those in Bretton. Suggestion was made that Cabinet investigate how funding for the park could be continued, involving Bretton Parish Council in such discussions.
- It was advised that all responses to the consultation would be considered.

Cabinet considered the report and **RESOLVED** (unanimous) to:

1. Note the statutory advice of the Chief Finance Officer outlined in section 6, The Robustness Statement. This was required to highlight the robustness of budget estimates and the adequacy of the reserves.
2. Note all the grant figures which are provisional, pending the Final Settlement in late February 2018.
3. Approve the Phase Two budget proposals, outlined in Appendix H, as the basis for public consultation. This included a 5.99 per cent council tax increase, assumed in the 2017/18 Medium Term Financial Strategy and a change in service delivery for the 0-25 Provider service.
4. Approve the Medium Term Financial Strategy 2018/19-2020/21 as the basis for consultation, as set out in the body of the report and the following appendices:
 - Appendix A – Budget Context highlighted in Phase One, MTFs for 2018/19-2020/21

- Appendix B – 2018/19 MTFS detailed position
- Appendix C – 2018/19 MTFS by department
- Appendix D – 2018/19 MTFS by Service
- Appendix E – Capital Schemes
- Appendix F – Council Grants
- Appendix G – Fees and Charges
- Appendix H – Budget Proposals (consultation document)
- Appendix I – Equality Impact Assessments

REASONS FOR THE DECISION

The Council must set a lawful and balanced budget. The approach outlined in the report worked towards this requirement.

ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED

No alternative option was considered as the Cabinet was responsible under the constitution for initiating budget proposals and the Council was statutorily obliged to set a lawful and balanced budget by 11 March annually.

65. ERNST AND YOUNG LLP ANNUAL AUDIT LETTER FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2017

The Cabinet received a report in relation to the Annual Audit letter of Ernst Young LLP.

The purpose of the report was to consider the Auditor's letter in accordance with the National Audit Office's 2015 Code of Audit Practice.

The Service Director Financial Services introduced the report and explained that the Annual Audit letter had already been considered by the Audit Committee, where the Council's external auditors were questioned. An unqualified opinion had been provided on the financial statements and the Council had put in place arrangements to secure value for money. There were no matters to report in the public interest. The Council had recognised that pressures on them and fundamental change required to address the future, as covered in the Medium Term Financial Strategy proposals.

Cabinet considered the report and **RESOLVED** (unanimous) note the Annual Audit Letter.

REASONS FOR THE DECISION

The Cabinet must consider the Auditor's letter in accordance with the Audit Code of Practice and take action on any key findings. The Cabinet could also raise any issues they wish to discuss with the Auditors.

ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED

There were no alternative options considered.

66. SAFER PETERBOROUGH PARTNERSHIP PLAN 2017 - 2020

The Cabinet received a report in relation to the production of a Community Safety Plan. This was a statutory requirement for upper tier councils, and as such Peterborough City Council was required to produce a plan for approval by Full Council.

The purpose of the report was to obtain the Cabinet's views on a proposed additional priority to the Safer Peterborough Plan 2017 - 2020.

The Cabinet Member for Communities introduced the report and explained that the Safer Peterborough Partnership Plan had been considered by Cabinet last year and recommended to Council for approval. Prior to Council approval, however, the process was paused to take into account changes occurring with the police. The pressure on the police was high and therefore they were prioritising high harm issues that would have an impact on communities. The Safer Peterborough Partnership felt that anti-social behaviour and environmental crime were still of importance and therefore had been included in the plan as a new priority for the Partnership.

Cabinet debated the report and in summary, key points raised and responses to questions included:

- The reorganisation of the police has led to a more evidence based allocation of resources. As such, the greater demand in Peterborough should be addressed.
- Residents were passionate about changes which were occurring to the police and had queried whether Prevention and Enforcement Services (PES) officers or Public Space Protection Orders (PSPOs) could be expanded across the city.
- It was noted that the visibility of police and PES officers was important and that PES officers were being trained in multidisciplinary areas, to provide greater capacity.
- PSPO's had been introduced in two areas of Peterborough. Proposals were due to come forward to expand these PSPOs to other areas of the city to provide additional powers to non-police staff and to work more closely with communities.
- An integration strategy was soon to be introduced in Peterborough as a pilot scheme with the Ministry of Housing and Local Communities.
- Although the perception may be the crime is increasing, total crime in Peterborough had reduced.
- The distinction between high harm and low harm could be misleading.
- A bespoke rural community's action team was currently in place, led by police. This did, however, need to do more and it was anticipated that the introduction of online resource 'Instant Atlas' on the Council website would help to establish peaks and troughs in rural issues.

Cabinet considered the report and **RESOLVED** (unanimous) to recommend the new priority added to the Safer Peterborough Partnership Plan 2017 – 2020 to Full Council for approval.

REASONS FOR THE DECISION

The Community Safety Plan ensured that the Partnership continued to meet its statutory obligations under the Crime and Disorder Act 1998.

ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED

No alternative options were considered as the completion of a community safety plan was required by every Community Safety Partnership by statute.

67. BUDGET CONTROL REPORT DECEMBER 2017

The Cabinet received a budget control report as part of the Council's agreed process within the Budget and Policy framework that required Cabinet to initiate and consider financial strategy and budget proposals in order to set a balanced budget for the forthcoming financial year.

The purpose of the report was to provide Cabinet with an update of the December 2017 budgetary control position.

Cabinet considered the report and **RESOLVED** (unanimous) to note the financial pressures in the current financial year and the continuing work by CMT to deliver a balanced budget.

REASONS FOR THE DECISION

The report updated Cabinet on the December 2017 budgetary control position.

ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED

There were no alternative options considered.

Chairman
10:00am – 10:48am
9 February 2018

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