

SUMMARY OF DECISIONS TAKEN (PART 1 – FOR PUBLICATION)

MEETING: Council – Wednesday 25 February 2015 – 19.00 hrs.
Council Chamber, Daneshill House, Stevenage, SG1 1HN

MEMBERS PRESENT: All Councillors with the exception of those listed at item 1 below.

ALSO PRESENT: Youth Mayor Shae Field and JoJo MacCarthy (Chair Youth Council).

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST
Apologies for absence were received from Councillors M Cherney-Craw, G Clark, D Cullen and V Warwick. There were no declarations of interest.
2. MINUTES – COUNCIL – 10 DECEMBER 2014
It was RESOLVED that the Minutes of the Council meeting of 10 December 2014 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Mayor.
3. MINUTES – COUNCIL – 28 JANUARY 2015
It was RESOLVED that the Minutes of the Special meeting of the Council 28 January 2015 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Mayor.
4. MAYOR'S COMMUNICATIONS
The Mayor provided Council with a brief update of events that she had attended since the last meeting.

5. MAIN DEBATE – 2015/2016 COUNCIL TAX AND GENERAL FUND AND CAPITAL BUDGETS

The Main Debate related to item 5A and item 5B on the agenda.

The Chief Executive informed the meeting that since these matters were considered by the Executive the Council had been notified of the precepts to be levied by the County Council and the Police and Crime Commissioner and these decisions were reflected in the proposed motion.

The Leader then presented the 2015/2016 Budget and moved the Motion that was circulated around the Chamber. At the conclusion of her speech a list of proposals for projects to be funded by the New Homes Bonus was circulated around the Chamber.

At the expiry of the time limit for the seconder's speech it was moved, seconded and **RESOLVED** that Standing Order 10c be waived to allow Councillor Mrs Lloyd to continue to second the Motion.

After a full debate which included contributions from members of the public, a recorded vote* was taken and it was **RESOLVED:**

2015/2016 COUNCIL TAX AND BUDGET (Report 5A)

1. That the Budget summarised at Appendix A to the report, be the Council's General Fund Budget for 2014/15 and 2015/16:
2. That the following be approved:
 - a. the revised working revenue estimates for the year 2014/15 amounting to £8,612,570 and the revenue estimates for 2015/16 amounting to £10,401,200;
 - b. the contribution to balances totalling £73,812 in 2014/15;

c. the contribution to balances totalling £537,994 in 2015/16.

3. That it be noted that at its meeting on 20 January 2015 the Executive calculated the amount of 25,207.4 Band D equivalent properties as its council tax base for the year 2015/16 in accordance with Regulation 3 of the Local Authorities (Calculation of Council Tax Base) Regulations 1992 made under Section 31B of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 as amended by Section 74 of the Localism Act 2011.
4. That the following amounts be calculated by the Council for the year 2015/16 in accordance with Sections 31 to 36 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 as amended by Section 74 of the Localism Act 2011:
 - a. £90,213,073 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, less the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 31A(3)(a) to (d)
 - b. £85,460,974 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.
 - c. £4,752,099 Being the amount by which the aggregate at 3a above exceeds the aggregate at 3b above, calculated by the Council in accordance with Section 31A(4) of the Act as its Council Tax requirement for the year.
 - d. £188.52 Being the amount at 3c divided by the amount at 2 above, calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 31B (1) of the Act, as the basic amount of its council tax for the year

e. Valuation Bands

A	£ 125.68
B	£ 146.63
C	£ 167.57
D	£ 188.52
E	£ 230.41
F	£ 272.31
G	£ 314.20
H	£ 377.04

Being the amounts given by multiplying the amount at 3d. above by the number which, in the proportion set out in Section 5(1) of the Act, is applicable to dwellings listed in a particular valuation band divided by the number which in that proportion is applicable to dwellings listed in valuation D, calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 36(1) of the Act, as the amounts to be taken into account for the year in respect of categories of dwellings listed in different valuation bands.

5. a. That it be noted that for the year 2015/16 Hertfordshire County Council 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 the dwellings shown below:

Valuation Bands

A	£ 760.73
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B	£ 887.51
C	£ 1014.30
D	£ 1,141.09
E	£ 1,394.67
F	£ 1,648.24
G	£ 1,901.82
H	£ 2,282.18

- b. That it be noted that for the year 2015/16 Hertfordshire Police & Crime Commissioner has stated the following amounts in precepts issued to the Council, in accordance with Section 40 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, as amended, for each of the categories of the dwellings shown below:

Valuation Bands

A	£ 98.55
B	£ 114.97
C	£ 131.40
D	£ 147.82

E	£ 180.67
F	£ 213.52
G	£ 246.37
H	£ 295.64

- c. That, having calculated the aggregate in each case of the amounts at 3e. and 4a. and b. above, the Council in accordance with Section 30(2) of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, hereby sets the following amounts as the amounts for council tax for the year 2015/16 for each of the categories of dwellings shown below:

Valuation Bands

A	£984.96
B	£1,149.11
C	£1,313.27
D	£1,477.43
E	£1,805.75
F	£2,134.07
G	£2,462.39

H £2,954.86

6. To determine in accordance with Section 52ZB Local Government Finance Act 1992 that the Council's basic amount of Council Tax for 2015/16 is not excessive in accordance with principles approved by the Secretary of State under Section 52ZC having calculated the aggregate in each case of the amounts at 3e.
7. That approval be given to a General Fund Revenue Account Contingency Sum in the Budget and Policy Framework for 2015/16 of £400,000.
8. That the advice of the Strategic Director (Resources) on the robustness of the draft budget and the adequacy of reserves (Appendix C) be noted.
9. That the Fees and Charges increases (Appendix F) be noted.
10. That the contribution from the Collection Fund (Council Tax) for 2015/16 of £142,003 be noted.
11. That the estimated pooling gains and retained business rate growth included in the 2015/16 budget of £669,177 be noted.
12. That it be noted that the General Fund Medium Term Financial Strategy remains largely unchanged from that reported to the meeting of the Executive held on 20 January 2015 and continues to meet the financial objectives set by the Chief Finance Officer.

**2015/16 FINAL CAPITAL FORWARD PLAN & 5 YEAR CAPITAL STRATEGY
(Report 5B)**

1. That the final 2015/16 General Fund Capital Programme as detailed in Appendix A to the report be approved.
2. That the final 2015/16 HRA Capital Programme as detailed in Appendix B to the report and as included in the

HRA Business Plan be approved.

3. That the updated forecast of resources as summarised in Appendix A (General Fund) and Appendix B (HRA) to the report be approved.
4. That the transfer of any unused General Fund borrowing costs to the capital reserve, (paragraph 4.3.2 of the report refers) be approved.
5. That the General Fund Capital Programme be agreed (Appendix C to the report refers).
6. That the work undertaken by LSPG on behalf of the Executive in reviewing and challenging the General Fund Capital Strategy be noted.

* Votes for the motion – Councillors S Batson MBE DL CC, D Bainbridge, L Bell, P Bibby, L Briscoe, R Broom, J Brown, H Burrell, L Chester, E Connolly, J Gardner, M Gardner, L Harrington, R Henry CC, J Hollywell, D Kissane, C Latif, Mrs J Lloyd, J Lloyd CC, A McGuinness, M McKay, L Martin-Haugh, J Mead, S Mead, M Notley, R Parker CC, R Raynor, C Saunders, G Snell, S Speller, P Stuart, S Taylor OBE CC, H Tessier, J Thomas and A Webb.

Votes against the motion – nil

Abstentions - nil

6. PETITIONS AND DEPUTATIONS

None

7. QUESTIONS FROM THE YOUTH COUNCIL

None

8 QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

Council considered the question from Mr N Wright as set out in the order of business.

In reply Mr Wright was advised that the Council acknowledged the problems caused by inconsiderate and illegal parking in the vicinity of the Lister Hospital and intended to review the restrictions later in 2015. The Parking Officer had been instructed to appoint a full time Civil Enforcement Supervisor with effect from April and to employ at least one additional Civil Enforcement Officer by the end of 2015.

In a supplementary question Mr Wright requested that Council reconsider its proposals for Blue Badge parking near the Lister and Coreys Mill Lane.

In reply to the supplementary question Mr Wright was advised that a full Equality Impact Assessment for the scheme had been undertaken and the Portfolio Holder for Environment and Regeneration invited Mr Wright to contact the Constitutional Services Team to arrange a meeting between himself, the appropriate Engineering Manager and the local County Councillor to discuss the matter further.

Council then considered the question from Mr M Pickersgill as set out in the order of business.

In reply Mr Pickersgill was advised of the Council's plans to build 500 new homes in the next ten years, the open market purchase programme and the potential to establish a wholly owned development company to increase the number of affordable homes in the town. The Council remained committed to increase the level of affordable housing in the town and addressing the needs of the 3000 people on the waiting list for such housing.

9. LEADER OF THE COUNCIL'S UPDATE

The Leader of the Opposition asked that in light of the recent allegations about the HSBC concerning its involvement with tax avoidance schemes whether the Council should reconsider its relationship with the bank.

In reply the Leader informed Council that the Council's banking services were a procured service, subject to review and retender. The next tender was due in two years time and ethical behaviour would be a consideration in that

<p>process.</p>
<p>10. NOTICE OF MOTIONS</p>
<p>None received.</p>
<p>11. QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS TO COMMITTEE CHAIRS / PORTFOLIO HOLDERS</p>
<p>None received.</p>
<p>12. REPORT REFERRED FROM EXECUTIVE AND AUDIT COMMITTEE – PRUDENTIAL CODE INDICATORS AND TREASURY MANAGEMENT STRATEGY 2015/2016</p>
<p>The Council had before it a copy of the Officer report which had been considered by the Executive on 10 February 2015 and Audit Committee on 2 February 2015 which recommended that Council adopt the 2015/2016 Treasury Management Strategy and the Prudential Code Indicators.</p> <p>It was moved, seconded and RESOLVED that the Treasury Management Strategy, as detailed in Appendix A to the report, and the Prudential Code Indicators, as detailed in Appendix A, attachment 2 to the report, be adopted.</p>
<p>13. OFFICER REPORT – COMMUNITY SAFETY STRATEGY 2015/2018</p>
<p>Council had before it the final version of the Community Safety Strategy 2015/2018 as recommended by the Executive at its meeting on 10 February 2015.</p> <p>It was moved, seconded and RESOLVED that the recommendations as set out in the report be agreed.</p>
<p>14. OFFICER REPORT – MEMBERS’ ALLOWANCES SCHEME 2015-2016</p>
<p>The Council had before an Officer report which recommended a Members’ Allowances Scheme for 2015/2016.</p>

It was moved, seconded and **RESOLVED** that a Members' Allowances Scheme for 2015/2016, as set out in Appendix A to the report, be agreed.

15. OFFICER REPORT – PAY POLICY STATEMENT

The Council had before it an Officer report which recommended that the Council approve the pay policy statement for the financial year 2015/2016.

It was moved, seconded and **RESOLVED** that:

1. The Pay Policy Statement set out in accordance with the Localism Act 2011, attached at Appendix One to the report, be approved
2. It be noted that in the event that the Assistant Director (Finance) assume the role of section 151 officer then an annual salary supplement of £2,000 will apply, as noted in the Pay Policy at Appendix One.
3. The Pay Policy be placed on the Council's website and that a notice of the policy be published in the next edition of Chronicle.

16. AUDIT COMMITTEE MINUTES – 2 FEBRUARY 2015

It was moved, seconded and **RESOLVED** that the Minutes of the Audit Committee of 2 February 2015 be noted

17. EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

It was moved, seconded and **RESOLVED**:

1. That under Section 100 (A) of the Local Government Act 1972, the press and public be excluded from the meeting for the following item of business on the grounds that it involved the likely disclosure of exempt information as described in paragraphs 1-7 of Part I of Schedule 12A of the Act, as amended by SI 2008 No.88.

2. That having considered the reasons for the following report being in Part II it was determined that maintaining the exemption from disclose of the information contained therein outweighed the public interest in disclosure.

18. PART II OFFICER REPORT – SENIOR OFFICER APPOINTMENT

Council had before it an Officer report seeking the approval for an appointment to the post of Chief Executive and Head of Paid Service based upon the recommendation of the Appointments Committee.

It was moved, seconded and **RESOLVED** that the recommendations contained within the report be approved.