

SUMMARY OF DECISIONS TAKEN (PART 1 – FOR PUBLICATION)

MEETING: Council – Wednesday 24 February 2016 – 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: Y Tiako (Youth Mayor) and T Harrison (Chair of Youth Council)

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST
<p>Apologies for absence were received from Councillors D Cullen, L Harrington, S Hearn, R Henry CC, M Hurst and C Saunders.</p> <p>Councillor J Fraser was also absent.</p> <p>There were no declarations of interest.</p>
2. MINUTES – COUNCIL – 9 DECEMBER 2015
<p>It was RESOLVED that the Minutes of the Council meeting of 9 December 2015 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Mayor.</p>
3. MINUTES – COUNCIL – 26 JANUARY 2016
<p>The Leader of the Opposition, Councillor Phil Bibby made a statement of behalf of the Conservative Group, with regards to Item 2 of the Minutes on the Housing Revenue Account and Rent Setting for 2016/2017. Councillor Bibby reminded Members that at the Special Council meeting his group had voted against the amendment moved by the Leader of the Council, however his Group had not realised that the additional recommendation would be added to the substantive motion. Councillor Bibby stated that the Conservative Group had intended to vote for the recommendations in the report but had erroneously voted for the substantive Motion and requested that it be</p>

minuted on this occasion that the Conservative Group did not support resolution12 of Item no. 2.

The Chief Executive informed Council that at the time of taking the decision on rent setting only Low Start Shared Ownership Properties was understood to be exempt from the 1% reduction in accordance with the draft Welfare Reform and Work Bill. Accordingly Supported Housing properties were included within the Council decision to apply the 1% reduction. It is now understood that the final legislation may now include Supported Housing as an exemption. The Chief Executive advised that if this were the case, and Members were still minded to continue with the 1% rent reduction for current Supported Housing rents, it may be necessary for a specific decision to be taken to this end. The Chief Executive informed Council that he would keep Members informed of any developments.

It was **RESOLVED** that having noted the comments of the Leader of the Opposition and the Chief Executive the Minutes of the Special meeting of the Council 26 January 2016 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 he had attended since the last meeting.

The Mayor also informed Council of Mr Peter Bandy's retirement in March.

The Leader and Leaders of the Opposition Groups and other Members expressed their thanks to Mr Bandy for his, professionalism, commitment, advice and work undertaken over the years especially with regards to planning and development and wished him well in his retirement.

5. MAIN DEBATE – 2016/2017 COUNCIL TAX AND GENERAL FUND AND CAPITAL BUDGETS

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

The Leader then presented the 2016/2017 Budget and moved the Motion, recommendations of the Executive and

the formal Council Tax Resolution that was circulated around the Chamber.

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

**2016/2017 COUNCIL TAX AND BUDGET
(Report 5A)**

1. That the Budgets summarised at Appendix A* to the report, be the Council's General Fund Budget for 2015/16 and 2016/17.
2. That General Fund Budget Requirement for 2016/17 of £7,693,090 be approved with a contribution from balances of £ 1,437,060 and a Band D Council Tax of £193.52 (assuming a maximum £5.00 on a Band D property or 2.65% increase) based on the Government's financial funding settlement. This is reflected in the formal Council Tax Resolution 3-8 below.
3. That the following be approved:
 - a. the revised working revenue estimates for the year 2015/16 amounting to £9,850,550 and the revenue estimates for 2016/17 amounting to £9,130,150;
 - b. the contribution to balances totalling £817,002 in 2015/16;
 - c. the contribution from balances totalling £1,437,060 in 2016/17.
4. That it be noted that at its meeting on 19 January 2016 the Executive calculated the amount of 25,888.5 Band D equivalent properties as its council tax base for the year 2016/17 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.
5. That the following amounts be calculated by the Council for the year 2016/17 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. £88,700,617 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. £83,690,674 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. £5,009,943 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. £193.52 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	£ 129.01
B	£ 150.52
C	£ 172.02
D	£ 193.52
E	£ 236.52
F	£ 279.53
G	£ 322.53
H	£ 387.04

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.

6. a. That it be noted that for the year 2016/17 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

	Basic Amount Of Council Tax	2% Social Care Charge	2016/17 Council Tax
A	£ 775.87	£ 15.21	£ 791.08
B	£ 905.18	£ 17.75	£ 922.93
C	£ 1,034.49	£ 20.28	£ 1,054.77
D	£ 1,163.80	£ 22.82	£ 1,186.62
E	£ 1,422.42	£ 27.89	£ 1,450.31
F	£ 1,681.04	£ 32.97	£ 1,714.01
G	£ 1,939.67	£ 38.03	£ 1,977.70
H	£ 2,327.60	£ 45.64	£ 2,373.24

- b. That it be noted that for the year 2016/17 Hertfordshire Police Authority have stated the following amounts in precepts

issued to the Council, in accordance with Section 40 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 and amended by Section 27 of the Police and Magistrates' Court Act 1994, for each of the categories of the dwellings shown below:

Valuation Bands

A	£ 98.00
B	£114.33
C	£130.67
D	£147.00
E	£179.67
F	£212.33
G	£245.00
H	£294.00

7. 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 2016/17 for each of the categories of dwellings shown below:

Valuation Bands

A	£1,018.09
B	£1,187.78

C	£1,357.46
D	£1,527.14
E	£1,866.50
F	£2,205.87
G	£2,545.23
H	£3,054.28

8. That it be agreed that in accordance with Section 52ZB Local Government Finance Act 1992 that the Council's basic amount of Council Tax for 2016/17 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.

9. That the risk assessments of General Fund Balances of £2,796,985, as shown at Appendix I to the report be noted

10. That the advice of the Chief Financial Officer on the robustness of the draft budget and the adequacy of reserves (Appendix C) to be noted.

11. That the contingency sum of £400,000 for 2016/2017 within which the Executive can approve supplementary estimates be approved.

12. That the 2016/17 proposed Fees and Charges increase of £201,440 (Appendix F) be approved.

13. That the 2016/17 proposed Concessions Policy (Appendix G) and proposed concessions (Appendix H) be approved

14. That the 2016/17 proposed Savings of £233,090 (Appendix D) be approved.

15. That the 2016/17 proposed Growth options of £60,160 (Appendix E) be approved.

16. That it be noted that the General Fund Medium Term Financial Strategy continues to meet the financial objectives set by the Chief Finance Officer.

**2016/17 FINAL CAPITAL FORWARD PLAN & 5 YEAR CAPITAL STRATEGY
(Report 5B)**

17. That the revised General Fund and HRA 2015/16 capital programme, as detailed in Appendix A and Appendix C be approved.

18. The 2016/17 General Fund Capital Programme as detailed in Appendix A be approved.

19. The draft 2016/17 HRA Capital Programme as detailed in Appendix C be approved.

20. That the updated forecast of resources as summarised in Appendix A (General Fund) and Appendix C (HRA) be approved.

21. The growth bids identified for inclusion in the Capital Strategy (Appendix B) be approved.

22. 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 D Bainbridge, S Batson MBE DL CC, L Bell, P Bibby, L Briscoe, R Broom, J Brown, H Burrell, L Chester, E Connolly, M Downing, J Gardner, M Gardner, C Latif, G Lawrence, Mrs J Lloyd, J Lloyd CC, A McGuinness, M McKay, L Martin-Haugh, J Mead, S Mead, M Notley, R Parker CC, R Raynor, G Snell, S Speller, P Stuart, S Taylor OBE CC, J Thomas, V Wawick 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
None	
9.	LEADER OF THE COUNCIL'S UPDATE
<p>The Leader of the Opposition enquired about Council plans to monitor the implementation of the review of the BMO following the recent financial loss suffered by the organisation.</p> <p>In reply the Leader reminded Council that BMO had always been a profit making service in previous years, however due to the impact of a number of factors especially the single status implementation, the loss was accrued.</p> <p>The Leader informed Council that in light of the situation within BMO, a review has been completed by an independent company. This had resulted in a number of changes such as the restructuring of BMO management team, an improvement plan and monitoring processes had been put in place to ensure that BMO continued to provide and deliver a good service for Stevenage tenants.</p>	
10.	NOTICE OF MOTIONS

None received.

11. QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS TO COMMITTEE CHAIRS / PORTFOLIO HOLDERS

Replies were given to the three questions submitted. Supplementary questions were asked and response given.

12. REPORT REFERRED FROM EXECUTIVE AND AUDIT COMMITTEE – PRUDENTIAL CODE INDICATORS AND TREASURY MANAGEMENT STRATEGY 2016/2017

The Chief Executive informed Council that both Audit Committee and Executive agreed to increase the counterparty limits, including money market funds, from £7million to £8million.

It was moved, seconded and **RESOLVED**

1. That the 2016/17 Treasury Management Strategy as detailed in Appendix A to the Appendix A to the report be adopted.
2. That the Prudential Code Indicators as detailed in Appendix C to the report be adopted.
3. That a fundamental review of the Treasury Management Strategy in 2016/2017 be noted

13. OFFICER REPORT – INDEPENDENT RENUMERATION PANEL

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

1. That the report of the Independent Panel be noted and that findings form the basis of the formal Members' Allowances Scheme and the allowances paid the Mayor and Deputy Mayor.
2. That in the light of the report of the Independent Panel the draft formal Scheme shown at Appendix B to this report be approved for 2016/2017.

3. That allowances during 2016/17 should be increased in line with future staff pay wards covered by the terms and conditions of the National Joint Council for Local Government Services (NJC) once known and as recommended by the Panel. This indexation to apply until 2020 subject to any further Independent Panel reports.

Councillors A. McGuinness, R Parker and G Snell requested that their opposition to resolutions 1 and 2 above be recorded in the Minutes.

14. OFFICER REPORT – PAY POLICY STATEMENT

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

1. The Pay Policy Statement set out in accordance with the Localism Act 2011, and the Data Protection Code 2015 attached at Appendix 1 to the report, be approved
2. 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.

15. AUDIT COMMITTEE DRAFT MINUTES – 1 FEBRUARY 2016

It was moved, seconded and **RESOLVED** that the Draft Minutes of the Audit Committee of 1 February 2016 be noted.