

SUMMARY OF DECISIONS TAKEN (PART 1 – FOR PUBLICATION)

MEETING: Council – Tuesday 28 February 2017 – 7:00 pm
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.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST
<p>Apologies for absence were received from Councillors D Cullen, L Harrington, M Hurst and A McGuiness.</p> <p>At this Juncture and in accordance with Section 4-111 of the Local Government Act 1972, Councillor Sharon Hearn declared that she would take no part in item 5 the Main Debate as she was in arrears with her Council Tax.</p>
2. MINUTES – COUNCIL – 7 DECEMBER 2016
<p>It was RESOLVED that the Minutes of the Council meeting of 7 December 2016 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Mayor.</p>
3. MINUTES – COUNCIL – 31 JANUARY 2017
<p>It was RESOLVED that the Minutes of the Council meeting of 31 January 2017 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Mayor.</p>
4. MAYOR’S COMMUNICATIONS

The Mayor provided Council with a brief update of events that he had attended since the last meeting and was then presented with a certificate as the Council had achieved a bronze award from the Armed Forces Covenant Employer Recognition Scheme.

5. MAIN DEBATE – 2017/18 COUNCIL TAX AND GENERAL FUND AND CAPITAL BUDGETS

The Main Debate related to item 5A and item 5B on the agenda. A revised page 32 was circulated at the meeting.

The Leader then presented the 2017/2018 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, a recorded vote* was taken and it was **RESOLVED:**

1. That the 2016/17 revised net expenditure on the General Fund of £10,139,310 is approved.
2. That General Fund Budget Requirement for 2017/18 of £8,950,125 be approved with a contribution from balances of £432,095 and a Band D Council Tax of £198.52 (assuming a maximum £5.00 or 2.58% increase on a Band D property) based on the Government's financial funding settlement. This is reflected in the formal Council Tax Resolution 3-8 below.
3. That the following are approved:
 - a. the revised working revenue estimates for the year 2016/17 amounting to £10,139,310 and the revenue estimates for 2017/18 amounting to £9,382,220;
 - b. the contribution from balances totalling £2,612,512 in 2016/17;
 - c. the contribution from balances totalling £432,095 in 2017/18.

4. That it is noted that at its meeting on 24 January 2017 the Executive calculated the amount of 26,695.1 Band D equivalent properties as its council tax base for the year 2017/18 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 are calculated by the Council for the year 2017/18 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. £86,854,693 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. £81,555,107 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. £5,299,586 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. £198.52 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	£ 132.35
B	£ 154.40
C	£ 176.46
D	£ 198.52
E	£ 242.64
F	£ 286.75
G	£ 330.87
H	£ 397.04

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 is noted that for the year 2017/18 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	3% Social Care Charge	2017/18 Council Tax
A	£ 791.61	£ 38.94	£ 830.55
B	£ 923.54	£ 45.44	£ 968.98
C	£ 1,055.48	£ 51.92	£ 1,107.40
D	£ 1,187.41	£ 58.42	£ 1,245.83
E	£ 1,451.28	£ 71.40	£ 1,522.68
F	£ 1,715.14	£ 84.39	£ 1,799.53
G	£ 1,979.02	£ 97.36	£ 2,076.38
H	£ 2,374.82	£ 116.84	£ 2,491.66

- b. That it is noted that for the year 2017/18 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	£ 101.33
B	£ 118.22
C	£ 135.11
D	£ 152.00
E	£ 185.78
F	£ 219.56
G	£ 253.33
H	£ 304.00

7. That, having calculated the aggregate in each case of the amounts at 5e. and 6a. 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 2017/18 for each of the categories of dwellings shown below:

Valuation Bands

A	£1,064.23
B	£1,241.60
C	£1,418.97
D	£1,596.35
E	£1,951.10
F	£2,305.84
G	£2,660.58
H	£3,192.70

8. That in accordance with Section 52ZB Local Government Finance Act 1992 it is agreed that the Council's basic amount of Council Tax for 2017/18 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 5e.
9. That the risk assessments of General Fund Balances of £2,656,938, as shown at Appendix H to the report are noted.
10. That the advice of the Chief Financial Officer on the robustness of the draft budget and the adequacy of reserves (Appendix C) is noted.
11. That the contingency sum of £400,000 for 2017/18 within which the Executive can approve supplementary estimates is

approved.

12. That the 2017/18 proposed Fees and Charges increase of £190,030 (Appendix F) is approved.
13. That the 2017/18 proposed Concessions Policy (Appendix G) is approved.
14. That the 2017/18 proposed Financial Security budget options of £226,190 (Appendix D) are approved.
15. That the 2017/18 proposed Growth options of £143,700 (Appendix E) are approved.
16. That it is noted that the General Fund Medium Term Financial Strategy continues to meet the financial objectives set by the Chief Financial Officer.

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

17. That the revised General Fund and HRA 2016/17 capital programme, as detailed in Appendix A and Appendix C to this report is approved.
18. That the 2017/18 General Fund Capital Programme as detailed in Appendix A to this report is approved subject to the removal of the Golf Course drainage work project.
19. The 2017/18 HRA Capital Programme as detailed in Appendix C to this report is approved.
20. That the updated forecast of resources as summarised in Appendix A (General Fund) and Appendix C (HRA) to this report is approved.
21. That the transfer of any unused General Fund borrowing costs to the Capital Reserve, (paragraph 4.4.3 refers) is approved.

22. That the growth bids identified for inclusion in the Capital Strategy (Appendix B and D) are approved subject to the removal of the Golf Course drainage work project.
23. That the work undertaken by LFSG on behalf of the Executive in reviewing and challenging the General Fund Capital Strategy is noted.
24. That a review of site disposals is carried out during 2017/18 to see if the timing of the sites in the programme can be brought forward for disposal and if any additional/alternative sites can be identified.

New Homes Bonus Proposals

25. That the following New Homes Bonus schemes and initiatives proposed by the Leader, as detailed below, be referred to a Special Meeting of the Overview & Scrutiny Committee on 2 March for comment and then reported to the Executive on 14 March in order that the approved schemes and initiatives may be implemented with effect from 1 April 2017.
 - Enhancing Life Chances (Child poverty support, for vulnerable families in Stevenage) - £40,000;
 - Stevenage Festival of Cycling (CycleFest – First and Best) - £90,000;
 - Acknowledging the end of World War 1 - £3,000;
 - No More Service - £80,000;
 - Homelessness Initiative ‘Next Steps’ Neighbourhood - £46,491;
 - Woodland Burials - £20,000;
 - Neighbourhood wardens (extension of current provision) - £36,200;
 - apprenticeship programme for 2017/18 - £100,000;
 - Funding to facilitate new Residents Groups - £4,500;
 - Co-operative Neighbourhood Management (revenue) - £120,000;
 - Memorial for Councillor Sherma Batson - £5,000

*Details of the recorded vote will be published in the Minutes of the meeting

6. PETITIONS AND DEPUTATIONS
None received.
7. QUESTIONS FROM THE YOUTH COUNCIL
None received.
8. QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC
None received.
9. LEADER OF THE COUNCIL'S UPDATE
<p>The Leader of the Opposition enquired about the actions the Council was taking in order to mitigate the rise in fly tipping incidents around the Town.</p> <p>The Leader of the Council asked Councillor John Gardner, Executive Member for Environment and Regeneration to respond on her behalf.</p> <p>Councillor Gardner advised that all reports of fly tipping received by the Council were responded to and dealt with in a timely and efficient way. However, the part time closure of the Household Waste Sites by the County Council had exacerbated the problem of fly tipping. It was also noted that the Government had recently introduced a new system of penalties for those caught in the act of fly tipping.</p> <p>Councillor Gardner agreed to send a written reply to Cllr Fraser in response to his concerns regarding the balance between the Council increasing the charges for waste collection compared to the cost of responding to the resultant increase in fly tipping.</p>

10. NOTICE OF MOTIONS

None received.

11. QUESTIONS TO COMMITTEE CHAIRS/EXECUTIVE MEMBERS

None received.

12. TREASURY MANAGEMENT REVIEW INCLUDING PRUDENTIAL CODE INDICATORS 2017/18

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

1. That the 2016/17 revised net expenditure on the General Fund of £10,139,310 be approved.
2. That General Fund Budget Requirement for 2017/18 of £8,950,125, with a contribution from balances of £432,095 and a Band D Council Tax of £198.52 (assuming a £5.00 on a band D or a 2.58% increase) be approved.
3. That the advice of the Assistant Director (Finance and Estates) on the robustness of the draft budget and the adequacy of reserves (Appendix C) be noted.
4. That a minimum level of General Fund reserves of £2,656,938, in line with the 2017/18 risk assessment of balances, as shown at Appendix H to this report, be approved.
5. That the contingency sum of £400,000 within which the Executive can approve supplementary estimates, be approved for 2017/18, (unchanged from 2016/17).
6. That the 2017/18 proposed Fees and Charges increase of £190,030 (Appendix F) be approved.
7. That the 2017/18 proposed concessions (Appendix G) be approved.

8. That the 2017/18 proposed Financial Security budget options of £226,190 (Appendix D) be approved.
9. That the 2017/18 proposed Growth options of £143,700 (Appendix E) be approved.
10. That it be noted that the General Fund Medium Term Financial Strategy continues to meet the financial objectives set by the Chief Finance Officer.
11. That the above provisions be implemented from 1 March 2017.

13 MEMBERS' ALLOWANCES SCHEME 2017/18

It was moved, seconded and **RESOLVED** that the Members' Allowances Scheme for 2017/18 as set out in Appendix A to the report be approved.

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 Transparency 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 2017

It was moved, seconded and **RESOLVED** that the Draft Minutes of the Audit Committee of 1 February 2017 be noted.

