

## **PART II MINUTES**

**Part II Section of the Minutes of the meeting of the EXECUTIVE held on Tuesday 28 November 2017.**

**Present:** Councillors S Taylor OBE CC (Chair), J Gardner (Vice-Chair), R Henry, Mrs J Lloyd, R Raynor, S Speller and J Thomas.

### **9. BUSINESS UNIT REVIEWS GROWTH FUNDING**

The Executive considered a Part II report, which sought its approval for funding required to support the implementation of the Business Unit Reviews that would create the corporate capacity to meet the current and future anticipated customer need and to deliver the Council's ambitious Future Town, Future Council Programme.

It was **RESOLVED:**

1. That, subject to consultation with the trade unions, the implementation of the Business Unit Reviews be endorsed, with immediate effect;
2. That, the upfront investment of £246,443 (General Fund) (GF) and £154,751 (Housing Revenue Account) (HRA) for inclusion in the 2017/18 Budget, identified through the Business Unit Reviews to provide the corporate capacity, professional skills and expertise that would be necessary to realise the ambitious objectives set out in the approved Future Town Future Council Cooperative Corporate Plan, be approved; and
3. That the following revenue growth for both the GF and HRA from 2018/19 onwards, for inclusion in the 2018/19 budget-setting process, be approved.

Fund	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22
GF	195,345	116,142	115,642	137,523
HRA	63,053	28,266	28,266	40,048

### **10. FINANCIAL SECURITY OPTIONS AND OVERARCHING CAPITAL STRATEGY**

The Executive considered a Part II report, which updated Members on the financial security work stream; the GF and HRA balances as a result of proposed fee income and on the approach to capital funding for 2018/19. The report also proposed a range of GF and HRA revenue budget options to be incorporated into the 2018/19 to 2019/20 budget process and General Fund Medium-Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) and HRA Business Plan and fees and charges increases to the 2018/19 GF and HRA 2018/19.

It was **RESOLVED**:

1. That the General Fund Financial Security Options, as detailed in Appendix A to the report, totalling £342,399 for 2018/19, be approved and incorporated into the Council's 2018/19 General Fund budget-setting and consultation processes;
2. That the previously agreed community centre grant General Fund Financial Security Option, as detailed in Appendix A to the report and totalling £18,706 for 2018/19, be noted;
3. That the HRA Revenue Financial Security Options, as detailed in Appendix A to the report and totalling £225,959 for 2018/19, be approved and incorporated into the Council's 2018/19 HRA budget-setting and tenant and leaseholder consultation processes;
4. That the General Fund Growth bids and service pressures, as detailed in Appendix B to the report and totalling £534,871, with implementation costs of £246,443, (subject to the approval of the Business Reviews report and the ICT Improvement Plan to this meeting, be approved and incorporated into the Council's 2018/19 General Fund budget-setting and consultation processes;
5. That the £100,000 Transformation Fund to pump prime improvements (paragraph 4.5.3 referred), be approved and the bid to the Fund, as detailed in Appendix B to the report and totalling £35,000 (G14), be incorporated into the Council's 2018/19 General Fund budget-setting processes;
6. That the HRA Growth bids of £365,092, as detailed in Appendix B to the report, with implementation costs of £154,751, (subject to the approval of the Business Reviews report and the ICT Improvement Plan to this meeting) be approved and incorporated into the Council's 2018/19 HRA budget-setting processes;
7. That the Chief Executive be authorised to make public a summary of the savings recommended for approval, when staff and partners had been informed;
8. That the cemetery fee increases of 25% over two financial years (paragraph 4.2.10 referred), be approved;
9. That the proposed Fees and Charges, subject to recommendation 2.8 above, as shown in Appendices C and F to the report, be approved;
10. That the work of the Leader's Financial Security Group (LFSG), as outlined in Sections 4.1 and 4.2 of the report, be noted in support of these recommendations;
11. That the increases to the General Fund working budget of £110,040, as detailed in Appendix K to the report, be approved;
12. That the increase in surplus to the Housing Revenue Account working budget of £581,810 and request for carry forward of £351,820, as detailed in Appendix K to the report, be approved;
13. That the revised GF and HRA MTFs financial summary, as shown at

Appendices G and H to this report, be approved;

14. The concessions, as shown in Appendix E to this report, be approved;
15. That the Council's recognised unions be consulted regarding the proposed savings options;
16. That key partners and other stakeholders be consulted and their views considered as part of the 2018/19 budget setting process;
17. That future years General Fund growth options (£321,000) are considered in principle and are represented as part of the 2019/20 budget-setting process (Appendix B referred);
18. That the approach to capital schemes, as outline in Section 4.9 to the report, be approved; and
19. Business rates gains, as identified in Section 4.10 to the report, are ring-fenced to meet the Council's regeneration ambitions.

*Reason for Decision: As contained in the report*

*Other Options Considered: As contained in the report.*

## **11. TECHNOLOGY SHARED SERVICE IMPROVEMENT PLAN**

The Executive considered a Part II report, which set out proposals for the broad direction of the Technology Shared Service (TSS), and a three-phased approach to improving the service over the next 18 months. Members were advised that the first phase would focus on improving IT resilience and security and the recruitment of a permanent service manager to bring stability and contribute to the longer-term direction. The report also set out the longer-term areas of focus to improve the service and how it would support the Council's digital and efficiency agendas.

Members were reminded that as the Council had a shared service, this was also being considered by East Herts Council and would be jointly funded, subject to both parties agreeing to the Plan.

The Chair, Councillors S Taylor OBE CC, moved as an amendment to Recommendation 2.2 that, if approved, officers utilise support available to ensure that the appropriate strategic and technical expertise required was in place when the recruitment process was undertaken to appoint a permanent service manager.

The amendment was subsequently agreed.

It was **RESOLVED**:

1. That the proposed approach set out in the Technology Shared Service Improvement Plan, as shown in Appendix A to this report, be approved;

2. That the revenue funding requirements of the first phase of the Improvement Plan, requiring a total increase in the 2018/19 General Fund and HRA revenue budgets of £95,000 for additional security protection and £37,500 for a permanent service manager, as set out in Section 5.1 to the report, be approved and that officers utilise support available to ensure that the appropriate strategic and technical expertise required was in place when the recruitment process was undertaken to appoint to that position.
3. That the one-off capital implementation costs of £128,750 for improved security and resilience being funded using the existing digital capital budget, as set out in Section 5.1 to the report, be noted; and
4. That this investment form part of the 2018/19 budget-setting process and be included in the Financial Security report and that this recommendation was being brought forward early to enable proposals to be taken forward in a timely manner and, where appropriate, changes implemented for April 2018.

*Reason for Decision: As contained in the report*

*Other Options Considered: As contained in the report.*

## **12. URGENT PART II BUSINESS**

None

**Chair**