

## SUMMARY OF DECISIONS TAKEN (PART 1 – FOR PUBLICATION)

**MEETING:** Council – Wednesday 23 February 2011 – 19.00 hrs.  
Council Chamber, Daneshill House, Stevenage, SG1 1HN

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

<b>1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST</b>
Apologies for absence were received from Councillors G Clark, M Cherney-Craw, L Martin-Haugh, J Pickersgill and S Speller. There were no declarations of interest.
<b>2. MINUTES – 6 OCTOBER 2010</b>
It was <b>RESOLVED</b> that the minutes of the Council meeting held on 6 October 2010 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Mayor.
<b>3. MINUTES – 8 DECEMBER 2010</b>
It was <b>RESOLVED</b> that the minutes of the Extraordinary Council meeting held on 8 December 2010 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Mayor.
<b>4. MINUTES – 26 JANUARY 2011</b>
It was <b>RESOLVED</b> that the minutes of the Extraordinary Council meeting held on 26 January 2011 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Mayor.
<b>5. MAYOR'S COMMUNICATIONS</b>
Council was advised that 30 acts had auditioned for the Mayor's Charity Concert and that the standard of the acts was very high. Members were encouraged to attend the event, which would take place on Monday 28 <sup>th</sup> March 2011. The Mayor presented an award to the Portfolio Holder, Housing, who received the award on behalf of the Housing Advice Service which had recently been fully accredited with the Community Legal Services Quality mark.
<b>6. MAIN DEBATE – 2011/2012 COUNCIL TAX AND BUDGET</b>
It was moved, seconded and <b>RESOLVED:</b> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. That the Budget summarised at Appendix A to the report be the Council's General Fund Budget for 2010/11 and 2011/12. A further update on the 2010/11 budgets would be given at the March Executive as part of the quarterly monitoring process.</li><li>2. That approval be given to a General Fund Budget Requirement for 2011/12 of £10,744,400, a return to balances of £105,693 and a Band D Council Tax of £188.52 (assuming a 0.0% increase), as reflected in the formal Council Tax Resolution at Appendix B to the report.</li></ol>

3. That approval be given to a General Fund Revenue Account Contingency Sum in the Budget and Policy Framework for 2011/12 of £400,000.
4. That the advice of the Strategic Director (Resources) on the robustness of the draft budget and the adequacy of reserves (as detailed at Appendix C to the report) be noted.
5. That the Fees and Charges increases (as detailed at Appendix F to the report) be noted.
6. That the consultation feedback and mitigation strategies summarised in Appendix H be noted, and that the Council should have due regard to the Equalities Impact Assessment issues set out in Appendix g.
7. That it be noted that the Council may, at its discretion, agree to vary the budget, in the course of its considerations.
8. That it be noted that all groups have indicated that their Members will voluntarily forego at least 5% of their individual basic and Special Responsibility Allowances for 2011/2012 and that mileage allowance will not be claimed for Council business within the Borough boundary.
9. 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 19 January 2011 and continues to meet the financial objectives set by the Chief Financial Officer.

See also items 8 and 14 below.

#### **7. PETITIONS AND DEPUTATIONS**

None

#### **8. QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC**

This item was taken with item 6 above.

The Leader responded to Mrs Saint-Leitner's question. There was no supplemental question.

#### **9. LEADER OF THE COUNCIL'S UPDATE**

The Leader of the Opposition asked a number of questions relating to the feedback from the Third Sector Conference that had taken place on 22 January 2011. Council was advised that output from the meeting had been promised within two weeks but had yet to be delivered. On enquiry it was discovered that feedback would be provided by a third party consultant rather than Council Staff.

In reply Council was advised that due to the large number of attendees at the event, and a larger number of responses than expected to the consultation, a decision had been made to use a consultant to reconcile the feedback as it would cost less than using officer time to do so. A more detailed reply would be made in writing after the meeting.

In reply to a question from a member of the public about the potential privatisation of the National Health Service, Council was advised that the future of the NHS might be a subject for a Council debate at a later date, and that the questioner would be invited to attend.

The Leader of the Council declined the opportunity to raise any matters on this occasion.

<b>10. NOTICE OF MOTIONS</b>
None
<b>11. QUESTIONS TO COMMITTEE CHAIRS / PORTFOLIO HOLDERS</b>
None
<b>12. MATTER REFERRED FROM EXECUTIVE – TREASURY MANAGEMENT STRATEGY STATEMENT AND ANNUAL INVESTMENT STRATEGY – MID YEAR REVIEW REPORT 2010/11</b>
<p>It was moved, seconded and <b>RESOLVED:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. That Council approve the 2010/11 mid-year Treasury Management Strategy and Annual Investment Strategy Review.</li> <li>2. That Council approve the increased borrowing requirement for 2010/11, in respect of the general fund capital programme. An additional borrowing requirement of £800,000 has been identified.</li> <li>3. That Council approve the updated Treasury and Capital Prudential Indicators as shown in Section 8 and in Appendix A of the report. The charges are in respect of borrowing (increase £800,000), counterparty limits (amended down to £5m from £7.5m) and the limit for variable rate investments to be revised to £25m (from £20m).</li> </ol>
<b>13. MATTER REFERRED FROM EXECUTIVE – PRUDENTIAL CODE INDICATORS AND TREASURY MANAGEMENT</b>
<p>It was moved, seconded and <b>RESOLVED:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. That Council adopt the 2011/12 Treasury Management Strategy as detailed in Appendix A of the report.</li> <li>2. That Council adopt the Prudential Code Indicators as detailed in Appendix A, attachment six of the report.</li> </ol>
<b>14. MATTER REFERRED FROM EXECUTIVE – 2011/12 CAPITAL FORWARD PLAN AND 5 YEAR CAPITAL STRATEGY</b>
<p>Dealt with under Item 6.</p> <p>It was moved, seconded and <b>RESOLVED:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. That Council approve the revised 2010/11 and the 2011/12 General Fund capital programme as detailed in Appendix A to the report.</li> <li>2. That Council approve the revised 2010/11 and the 2011/12 Housing Revenue Account Capital Programme as detailed in Appendix A to the report.</li> <li>3. That Council approve the updated forecasts of resources as summarised in Appendix A to the report.</li> <li>4. That the ongoing work of the Corporate Capital Review Group and Members to bring the 5 year Capital Strategy into balance be noted.</li> <li>5. That Council approve a Contingency Sum in the Budget and Policy Framework for 2011/2012 of £250,000 (relating to schemes funded from capital receipts or borrowing) for the Capital Programme.</li> <li>6. That Council approve a deminimus level of £5,000 for expenditure qualifying as capital.</li> </ol>

**15. MATTER REFERRED FROM THE GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE – LOCAL GOVERNMENT (MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS) ACT 1982 ADOPTION OF AMENDED SCHEDULE 3 PROVISIONS (BY WAY OF THE POLICING AND CRIME ACT 2009)**

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

1. That Council adopt the amendments to schedule 3 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1982 made by section 27 of the Policing and Crime Act 2009, in addition to the existing adopted provisions of Schedule 3, as was originally approved by Committee on the 12<sup>th</sup> October 1982, and then by Council on the 26<sup>th</sup> October 1982.
2. That Council delegate the determination of sexual entertainment venue licences and sex establishment licences under schedule 3 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1982; where there are relevant objections to the General Purposes Committee; where no relevant representations are received to the designated Head of Service.
3. That Council approve the following fees for sexual entertainment licence applications:
  - (1) application for the grant of licence: £4,530
  - (2) renewal of licence: £2,405
  - (3) transfer and/or major variation of a licence: £645
  - (4) minor variation of a licence: £89
4. That the licensing department consult with existing sex establishments within Stevenage, the nominated responsible authorities as stated under the Licensing Act 2003, and holders of Licensing Act 2003 premises licences/club premises certificates that permit the consumption of alcohol on the premises as to the proposed policy set out in Appendix 1 of the report and report any responses received to the General Purposes Committee before having the policy formally adopted.

**16. OFFICER REPORT – CHANGES TO THE CONSTITUTION**

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

1. That Council approve the following amendments to the Constitution:
  - which are required to operate the Leader and Cabinet (England) model set out in Appendix 1 of the report – with effect from 25 May 2011-02-24
  - in order to simplify the arrangements for executing documents under the Council's seal set out in Appendix 2 of the report – with effect from 24 February 2011
  - in order to remove the requirement in Financial Regulations for the Executive to approve the writing off of certain debts by approving the changes set out in Appendix 3 of the report – with effect from 24 February 2011
  - in order to reverse temporary changes to the scheme of delegation for officers relating to Town and Country planning – with effect from 24 February 2011
2. That Council adopt an officers' Code of Conduct in the form set out in Appendix 5 of the report for inclusion in Section 5 of the Council's Constitution – with effect from 24 February 2011

<b>17. OFFICER REPORT – MEMBERS’ ALLOWANCES SCHEME 2011/2012</b>
<p>It was noted that all groups had agreed that their Members would voluntarily forego at least 5% of their individual basic and special responsibility allowances for 2011/12 and that mileage allowance would not be claimed for any Council business within the Borough boundary.</p> <p>It was moved, seconded and <b>RESOLVED</b> that a Members’ Allowances Scheme be agreed for 2011/2012 as set out in Appendix A of the attached report.</p>
<b>18. AUDIT COMMITTEE – PART 1 DRAFT MINUTES – 13 DECEMBER 2010</b>
<p>It was moved, seconded and <b>RESOLVED</b> that the minutes of the Audit Committee held 13<sup>th</sup> December 2010 be noted.</p>
<b>19. EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC</b>
<p>It was <b>RESOLVED</b>:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. That under Section 100 (A) of the Local Government Act 1972, the press and public be excluded from the meeting for the following items of business on the grounds that they involve 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 2006 No.88.</li> <li>2. That having considered the reasons for the following reports being in Part II it be determined that maintaining the exemption from disclosure of the information contained therein outweighs the public interest in disclosure.</li> </ol>
<b>PART II</b>
<b>20. PART II OFFICER REPORT – SENIOR OFFICER APPOINTMENTS</b>
<p>It was moved, seconded and <b>RESOLVED</b>:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. That Marcel Coiffait be appointed as Strategic Director (Community) from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2011 until 31<sup>st</sup> March 2012.</li> <li>2. That Marcel Coiffait be appointed as the Council’s representative as a member of Stevenage Homes Limited.</li> </ol>
<b>21. AUDIT COMMITTEE – PART II DRAFT MINUTES - 13 DECEMBER 2010</b>
<p>It was moved, seconded and <b>RESOLVED</b> that the minutes of the Audit Committee held 13<sup>th</sup> December 2010 be noted.</p>