

SUMMARY OF DECISIONS TAKEN (PART 1 – FOR PUBLICATION)

MEETING: Council – Wednesday 29 February 2012 – 19.00 hrs.
Council Chamber, Daneshill House, Stevenage, SG1 1HN

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

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST
Apologies for absence were received from Councillors H Burrell and L Harrington. There were no declarations of interest.
2. MINUTES – 7 DECEMBER 2011
A revised set of Minutes for the meeting held on 7 December 2011 was circulated at the meeting. It was RESOLVED that the Minutes of the Council meeting of 7 December 2011 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Mayor.
3. MINUTES – 25 JANUARY 2011
It was RESOLVED that the Minutes of the Extraordinary Council meeting of 25 January 2012 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 she had attended since the last meeting.

5. MAIN DEBATE – 2012/2013 COUNCIL TAX AND BUDGET AND 2012/2013 CAPITAL FORWARD PLAN AND 5 YEAR CAPITAL STRATEGY

The Main Debate related to the reports circulated as item 5 and item 13 on the agenda. The Chief Executive reported 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 Authority and that the recommendations from the Executive, with the updated formal Council Tax resolution had been circulated around the Chamber.

The Leader presented the 2012/2013 Budget. The recommendations as circulated around the Chamber were moved and seconded.

An amendment was moved, seconded and lost.

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

1. That the Budget summarised at Appendix A to report, be the Council's General Fund Budget for 2011/12 and 2012/13.

2. That the following be approved:

- a. the revised working revenue estimates for the year 2011/12 amounting to £10,481,550 and the revenue estimates for 2012/13 amounting to £10,722,700;
- b. the contribution to balances totalling £368,543 in 2011/12;
- c. the contribution from balances totalling £242,528 in 2012/13.

3. That it be noted that at its meeting on 17 January 2012 the Executive calculated the amount of 28,988.45 Band D equivalent

properties as its council tax base for the year 2012/13 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 2012/13 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. £71,868,080 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.
- b. £66,403,289 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. £5,464,791 Being the amount by which the aggregate at 4a above exceeds the aggregate at 4b 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 4c divided by the amount at 3 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 4d. 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 2012/13 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	£ 745.89
B	£ 870.20
C	£ 994.52

D	£ 1,118.83
E	£ 1,367.46
F	£ 1,616.09
G	£ 1,864.72
H	£ 2,237.66

b. That it be noted that for the year 2012/13 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	£ 98.55
B	£ 114.97
C	£ 131.40
D	£ 147.82
E	£ 180.67
F	£ 213.52
G	£ 246.37

H £ 295.64

6. That, having calculated the aggregate in each case of the amounts at 4e. and 5a. 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 2012/13 for each of the categories of dwellings shown below:

Valuation Bands

A £ 970.12

B £ 1,131.80

C £ 1,293.49

D £ 1,455.17

E £ 1,778.54

F £ 2,101.92

G £ 2,425.29

H £ 2,910.34

7. To determine in accordance with Section 52ZB Local Government Finance Act 1992 that the Council's basic amount of council tax for 2012/13 is not excessive in accordance with the principles approved by the Secretary of State under Section 52ZC having calculated the aggregate in each case of the amounts at 4e.

8. That approval be given to a General Fund Revenue Account Contingency Sum in the Budget and Policy Framework for

2012/13 of £400,000.

9. That the advice of the Strategic Director (Resources) on the robustness of the draft budget and the adequacy of reserves (Appendix C) be noted.

10. That the Fees and Charges increases (Appendix F) be noted.

11. That the contribution from the Collection Fund for 2012/13 of £81,442 be noted.

12. That it be noted that Council may, at its discretion, agree to vary the budget, in the course of its considerations.

13. 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 17 January 2012 and continues to meet the financial objectives set by the Chief Finance Officer.

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

The Leader of the Opposition asked for clarification as to the system operated for the collection of nappies in purple sacks so that

they did not go to landfill sites; what the disposal and monitoring arrangements were for these items; and what arrangements were there for visitors to the Town to access the facility?

The Portfolio Holder for Environment and Regeneration undertook to provide a reply.

The Leader declined the opportunity to raise any issues on this occasion.

10. NOTICE OF MOTIONS

None.

11. QUESTIONS TO COMMITTEE CHAIRS / EXECUTIVE MEMBERS

None.

12. MATTER REFERRED FROM THE EXECUTIVE AND AUDIT COMMITTEE – PRUDENTIAL CODE INDICATORS AND TREASURY MANAGEMENT STRATEGY

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

1. That the 2012/2013 Treasury Management Strategy as detailed in Appendix A be adopted subject to the amendment of paragraph 4.1 of Appendix A to read 'The Council has determined that it will only use approved counterparties from selected countries with a minimum sovereign rating of AA+ (changed from AA-) from Fitch Ratings (or equivalent from other agencies if Fitch does not provide).
2. That the Prudential Code Indicators as detailed in Appendix A, attachment six be adopted.
3. That the modification to investment criteria, as detailed in paragraph 4.2.3 of the report and Appendix A, attachment 3 for instant access call accounts be adopted.

4. That the following comments from the Audit Committee be noted:

a. The Audit Committee expressed its concerns over the sustainability of the borrowing requirement within the General Fund and would wish to receive assurance of the Council's intended actions to rebalance the budget through the application of the Asset Management Strategy.

b. The Audit Committee expressed its support for recommendation 3, the modification to investment criteria.

NOTE: Councillors J Mead, R Parker CC, G Snell and J Mead requested that their abstentions to the vote on this matter be recorded in the minutes.

13. MATTER REFERRED FROM THE EXECUTIVE– 2012/13 CAPITAL FORWARD PLAN AND 5 YEAR CAPITAL STRATEGY

This item was dealt with in conjunction with item 5.

It was moved seconded and **RESOLVED:**

1. That the revised 2011/12 and the final 2012/13 General Fund capital programme (which include the amendments made by the Leader's Services Priority Group), as detailed in Appendix A to the report be approved.

2. That revised 2011/12 and the draft 2012/13 Housing Revenue Account (HRA) capital programme as detailed in Appendix A to the report be approved.

3. That the updated forecast of resources as summarised in Appendix A to the report be approved.

4. That the ongoing work of the Corporate Capital Review Group (CCRG) and Leader's Services Priority Group, to bring the 5 year Capital Strategy into balance, be noted.

14. MATTER REFERRED FROM AUDIT COMMITTEE – REVISIONS TO FINANCIAL REGULATIONS

It was moved, seconded and **RESOLVED** that the revised Financial Regulations be approved.

15. OFFICER REPORT – REPORT OF INDEPENDENT PANEL ON MEMBERS' ALLOWANCES

The recommendations in the report were moved and seconded.

An amendment was moved, seconded and lost.

It was **RESOLVED**::

1. That the recommendations of the Independent Panel be agreed
2. That outside the Scheme, but in accordance with the recommendations of the Independent Panel, the Allowance for the Mayor and Deputy Mayor be approved at £9,795 and £5,000 per annum respectively and that these allowances be index linked in the same way as allowances paid under the Member's Allowances Scheme.
3. That the 2011-2012 Members' Allowances Scheme be amended to include a Special Responsibility Allowance for the Leader of the Opposition of £4,000 per annum (as recommended by the Independent Panel). This allowance to be backdated to 26 May 2011.
4. That given the current Standards Committee arrangements will continue until July 2012, the Independent Chair and Independent Members of that Committee continue to receive a monthly allowance based on the 2010/2011 Scheme until 30 June 2012.
5. That with effect from 1 July 2012 the Independent person who must be consulted on alleged breaches of a code of conduct receive an annual allowance (paid monthly pro-rata) at the same rate as the Co-opted Member of the Audit Committee

6. That a new scheme of allowances for 2012/2013, as shown at Appendix A to the report, based on the above resolutions, be approved.

16. PAY POLICY STATEMENT

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

1. That the Pay Policy Statement as set out in accordance with the Localism Act, 2011 as Appendix One to the report be approved.
2. That 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.

17. MINUTES – AUDIT COMMITTEE – 29 NOVEMBER 2011

It was moved, seconded and **RESOLVED** that the Minutes of the Audit Committee meeting held on 29 November 2011 be noted.

18. EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

It was **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 items of business on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as described in paragraphs 1-7 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Act, as amended by SI 2006 No. 88.
2. That having considered the reasons for the following reports being in Part II it is determined that maintaining the exemption from disclosure of the information contained therein outweighs the public interest in disclosure.

PART II

19. PART II OFFICER REPORT – SENIOR OFFICER APPOINTMENTS

In accordance with the Officer Employment Procedure rules in the Constitution every member of the Executive had been informed of the proposals set out in the report and it was reported to the meeting that no objections had been received.

It was moved seconded and **RESOLVED:**

1. That the following provisions of the Officer Employment Procedure rules in the Council's Constitution be waived:

Paragraph 3 (b) –

‘..... following the recommendation of such an appointment by the relevant Committee or Sub-Committee of the Council. That Committee or Sub-Committee must include at least one member of the Executive.’

Paragraph 3 (c) (i) –

‘(c) An offer of appointment to the post of Head of Paid Service must not be made by Council until:

(i) The Committee or Sub-Committee has notified the Head of Human Resources and Organisational Development of the name of the person to be offered the post and any other particulars relevant to the appointment.’

2. That Nick Parry's appointment to the following posts be confirmed as permanent:

- a. Head of Paid Service
- b. Chief Executive
- c. Returning Officer
- d. Electoral Registration Officer

3. That Scott Crudgington's appointment as Deputy Chief Executive be confirmed as permanent.
4. That Peter Bandy's appointment as Strategic Director (Environment) be confirmed as permanent.
5. That Marcel Coiffait's appointment as Strategic Director (Community) be confirmed as permanent.
6. That these appointments take immediate effect.
7. That the consequential Head of Service appointments are noted and approved.

20. PART II MINUTES – AUDIT COMMITTEE – 29 NOVEMBER 2011

It was moved, seconded and **RESOLVED** that the Part II Minutes of the Audit Committee meeting held on 29 November 2011 be noted.