

## **CABINET**

MINUTES of a meeting of the Cabinet held on 24 January 2017 at Council Chamber, County Hall, Lewes

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PRESENT      Councillors Keith Glazier (Chair)  
                    Councillors Nick Bennett, Bill Bentley, Chris Dowling, David Elkin (Vice  
                    Chair), Carl Maynard, Rupert Simmons and Sylvia Tidy

Members spoke on the items indicated

Councillor Barnes	- item 5 (minute 54)
Councillor Blanch	– item 5 (minute 54)
Councillor Clark	– item 5 (minute 54)
Councillor Daniel	– item 5 (minute 54)
Councillor Davies	– item 5 (minute 54)
Councillor Field	– item 5 (minute 54)
Councillor Keeley	– item 5 (minute 54)
Councillor S Shing	– item 5 (minute 54)
Councillor Shuttleworth	– item 5 (minute 54)
Councillor Stogdon	– item 5 (minute 54)
Councillor St Pierre	– item 5 (minute 54)
Councillor Tutt	– item 5 (minute 54)
Councillor Ungar	– item 5 (minute 54)
Councillor Webb	– item 5 (minute 54)

### 52      MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 13 DECEMBER 2016

52.1      The minutes of the Cabinet meeting held on 13 December 2016 were agreed as a correct record

### 53      REPORTS

53.1      Copies of the reports referred to below are included in the minute book

### 54      RECONCILING POLICY, PERFORMANCE AND RESOURCES

54.1      The Cabinet considered a report by the Chief Executive, together with further information received following the publication of the Cabinet agenda including a summary of the consultation meeting held with Trade Unions and additional comments from the Adult Social Care and Community Safety Scrutiny Committee and a petition in relation to the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme

54.2      The following amendment moved by Councillor Elkin and seconded was CARRIED

Delete recommendation 2. (iv) and replace with:

2. (iv)      Approve the net Revenue Budget estimate of £365.0m for 2017/18 set out in Appendix 2, including the contribution to the East Sussex Better Together budget of £135.0m and authorise the Chief Operating Officer, in consultation with the Chief Finance Officer, Leader and Deputy Leader, to make adjustments to the presentation of the budget book to reflect the final settlement and final budget decisions; subject to the amendments set out below:

Deleting the following savings proposals Children's Services:

Duke of Edinburgh- County Council continues to co-ordinate the Duke of Edinburgh award scheme - £0.029m

Youth Cabinet - continue to organise the election and running of Youth Cabinet - £0.041m

Increase investment into the following areas in support of the County Councils priorities:

1. Highways: additional investment into highways drainage to support the strategic asset management approach to maintaining the highways infrastructure £1.000m
2. Highways: Additional investment into highways pavements to support mobility in local communities - £0.300m
3. Communities: Additional investment into Community Match - £0.150m
4. Children's Services: Additional investment into Youth Services
  - Detached and mobile outreach Youth Work Programmes – working with community safety to identify and then target Antisocial Behaviour hot spots - £0.045m
  - Junior Autistic Spectrum Disorder activity sessions – £0.052m
  - Drop in group work provision in targeted communities - £0.033m
5. Transition funding for schools for 2017/18: Allocate £0.750m to schools to mitigate impact of changes to High Needs Block

Delete recommendation 2. (vi) and replace with:

2 (vi) Approve the Capital Programme for 2016- 2023, including a commitment to a 5 year Highways maintenance programme of £91.3m, as set out in Appendices 2 and 8, subject to an annual reduction in the revenue contribution to the capital programme of £2.0m.

Note:

The additional investment set out in 2(iv)5, transition funding for schools in 2017/18, to be funded by reducing the Transformation and Delivery Risk Provision accordingly.

The remaining additional investment set out in amended recommendation 2(iv) totals £1.650m per annum to be funded by the reduction of the revenue contribution to the Capital Programme of £1.650m. In addition it increases the provision required in the revenue budget to repay borrowing by £0.350m per annum. So the total reduction in the revenue contribution to the capital programme is £2.0m which is to fund the additional investment plus the increased interest costs of borrowing.

54.3 It was RESOLVED to:

1. Approve the fees and charges set out in Appendix 6 and delegate authority to the Chief Finance Officer to approve an increase to all other fees and charges by up to 2%;
2. Recommend County Council to:
  - i. Approve in principle the draft Council Plan at Appendix 1 and authorise the Chief Executive to finalise the Plan in consultation with the relevant Lead Members;
  - ii Increase council tax by 3% for the adult social care precept to help mitigate the pressures on Social Care;
  - iii. increase the level of the general council tax by 1.99% in line with the current Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP) (Appendix 3) and then issue precepts accordingly to be paid by Borough and District Councils in accordance with the agreed schedule of instalments at Appendix 7;
  - iv Approve the net Revenue Budget estimate of £365.0m for 2017/18 set out in Appendix 2, including the contribution to the East Sussex Better Together budget of £135.0m and authorise the Chief Operating Officer, in consultation with the Chief Finance Officer, Leader and Deputy Leader, to make adjustments to the presentation of the budget book to reflect the final settlement and final budget decisions; subject to the amendments set out below:

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  - Drop in group work provision in targeted communities - £0.033m
5. Transition funding for schools for 2017/18: Allocate £0.750m to schools to mitigate impact of changes to High Needs Block
- v. Approve the fees and charges set out in Appendix 6 and delegate authority to the Chief Finance Officer to approve an increase to all other fees and charges by up to 2%;
- vi. Approve the Capital Programme for 2016- 2023, including a commitment to a 5 year Highways maintenance programme of £91.3m, as set out in Appendices 2 and 8, subject to an annual reduction in the revenue contribution to the capital programme of £2.0m.
- vii. Note the MTFP forecast for the period 2018/19 to 2020/21, as set out in Appendix 3;
- viii Note the comments of the Chief Finance Officer on budget risks and robustness, as set out in Appendix 9;
- ix Note the draft Strategic Investment Plan for East Sussex Better Together set out at Appendix 5; and
- x. Note the comments from engagement exercises set out in Appendix 10

Reason

54.4 The financial challenge the Council faces is considerable and the choices between saving and spending areas are difficult. In making recommendations to the County Council, the Cabinet has sought to balance the needs of residents and businesses in the County for services and the affordability of those services.

55 EAST SUSSEX, SOUTH DOWNS AND BRIGHTON & HOVE WASTE AND MINERALS SITES PLAN AND REVISED EAST SUSSEX MINERALS AND WASTE DEVELOPMENT SCHEME

55.1 The Cabinet considered a report by the Director of Communities, Economy and Transport

55.2 It was RESOLVED to recommend the County Council to:

- (1) agree to adopt and publish the Waste and Minerals Sites Plan, incorporating the main modifications and minor modifications, and updated Policies Map;
- (2) publish the relevant adoption statement and Sustainability Appraisal (incorporating Strategic Environmental Assessment) Report;
- (3) authorise the Director of Communities, Economy and Transport to agree any further minor non-material changes to the content of the Waste and Minerals Sites Plan with the South Downs National Park Authority and Brighton & Hove City Council prior to publication; and
- (4) agree to adopt the revised Minerals and Waste Development Scheme attached as Appendix 2 to the report.

#### Reason

55.3 Following a Public Examination into the WSMP, the Inspector who carried out the examination has found that the Plan, subject to Main Modifications, is legally compliant and sound which means that the Council should now adopt the WMSP. The WMSP contains waste and minerals site specific planning policy to 2026 which replaces the remainder of the saved policies contained in the Waste Local Plan (2006) and Minerals Local Plan (1999). The revised Minerals and Waste Development Scheme, should the Council adopt the WMSP, will reflect the adoption of the WMSP and commit the Council to undertaking a review of relevant minerals policies within the WMP in partnership with the South Downs National Park Authority and Brighton & Hove City Council.

#### 56 TREASURY MANAGEMENT POLICY AND STRATEGY 2017/18

56.1 The Cabinet considered a report by the Chief Operating Officer

56.2 It was RESOLVED to recommend the County Council to:

- (1) approve the Treasury Management Policy and Strategy Statement for 2017/18;
- (2) approve the Prudential and Treasury Indicators 2017/18 to 2019/20; and
- (3) approve the revised Minimum Revenue Provision Policy Statement 2016/17 and 2017/18

#### Reason

56.3 The Policy sets out the acceptable limits on ratings, investment periods, amounts to be invested and the borrowing strategy. The financial position is kept under constant review and if at any time it is felt that any of these limits represent an unacceptable risk appropriate and immediate action will be taken accordingly

#### 57 APPOINTMENT OF EXTERNAL AUDITORS

57.1 The Cabinet considered a report by the Chief Operating Officer

57.2 It was RESOLVED to recommend the County Council to:

- (1) approve that the Council opts into the national scheme for the appointment of an External Auditor to the Council for 2018/19;
- (2) approve the adoption of Public Sector Audit Appointments (PSAA) as the appointing persons for the Council; and
- (3) approve the inclusion of a request for a collaborative auditor appointment with Orbis partners (Surrey County Council and Brighton & Hove City Council) in the prescribed acceptance form

## Reason

57.3 Opting into the national scheme is one choice open to the Council. The PSAA have the support of the LGA, which has worked to secure the option for principal local government bodies to appoint auditors through a dedicated sector-led national procurement body. Appointing an External Auditor via a national collective scheme has some clear advantages, which are outlined in paragraph 3.3 of this report. There are also benefits to the Council in requesting a collaborative auditor appointment with the other Orbis partners.

## 58 CONSERVATORS OF ASHDOWN FOREST BUDGET 2017/18

58.1 The Cabinet considered a report by the Chief Operating Officer

58.2 It was RESOLVED to:

1. approve the Conservators' budget for 2017/18;
2. recommend to the County Council the annual contribution of £68,220 for 2017/18 from Communities, Economy and Transport (CET) budget; and
3. approve the annual grant for 2017/18 from the Trust Fund of £65,100

## Reason

58.3 The County Council has a statutory obligation to meet the shortfall between approved expenditure and income of the Conservators and it has the responsibility for approving the level of expenditure

## 59 ITEMS ARE TO BE REPORTED TO THE COUNTY COUNCIL

59.1 The Cabinet agreed that items 5, 6, 7, 8, and 9 should be reported to the County Council  
*[Note: The items being reported to the County Council refer to minute numbers 54, 55, 56, 57 and 58]*