

**Minutes of the
Executive**

(to be confirmed at the next meeting)

Date: Monday, 6 February 2017

Venue: Collingwood Room - Civic Offices

Present:

S D T Woodward, Policy and Resources (Executive Leader)
T M Cartwright, MBE, Public Protection (Deputy Executive Leader)
Miss S M Bell, Leisure and Community
K D Evans, Planning and Development
Miss T G Harper, Streetscene
Mrs K Mandry, Health and Housing

Also in attendance:

B Bayford, Chairman of Health and Housing Policy Development and Review Panel
Mrs S M Bayford, Chairman of Scrutiny Board
M J Ford, JP, Chairman of Public Protection Policy Development and Review Panel
A Mandry, Chairman of Planning and Development Policy Development and Review Panel
Ms S Pankhurst, Chairman of Leisure and Community Policy Development and Review Panel
N J Walker, Chairman of Planning Committee
Mrs K K Trott, For Item 9(1)
R H Price, JP, For Item 10(2)
S Cunningham, For Item 10(2)
C J Wood, For Item 10(3)



1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

There were no apologies given for this meeting.

2. MINUTES

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Executive meeting held on the 09 January 2017 be confirmed and signed as a correct record.

3. EXECUTIVE LEADER'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Executive Leader announced that following a period of local public consultation and review, despite representations from members of the public and the Council, the Post Office has disappointingly confirmed its decision to proceed with the proposal to move the Fareham Crown Post Office branch into the WHSmith store at 4 Savoy Buildings in West Street.

4. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillors T M Cartwright and Mrs K Mandry declared Non-Pecuniary Interests for item 10(3) as they are members of the Daedalus Working Group. They both remained present at the meeting for the discussion of the item.

Councillor C J Wood declared a Non-Pecuniary Interest when he addressed the Executive on item 10(3) as he is a member of the Daedalus Working Group. Councillor Wood also declared a Non-Pecuniary Personal Interest in respect of this item due to the close proximity of his parents' property to the Daedalus site. He remained present at the meeting.

5. PETITIONS

The Executive Leader provided Members with an update in relation to the Petition that had been presented to the Council meeting in December 2016 requesting the removal of neglected horses from land in Newgate Lane.

The Executive Leader advised that the petition had been discussed at the Public Protection Policy Development and Review Panel on the 17 January 2017. It had been noted that the Council does not own the land at Newgate Lane and therefore does not have any powers of eviction at the site and the Panel heard that the Council's Environmental Health Service is aware of the case history of the horses at Newgate Lane and will continue to work closely with the RSPCA to provide full support of any action they consider it necessary to take.

6. DEPUTATIONS

There were no Deputations made at this meeting.

7. MINUTES / REFERENCES FROM OTHER COMMITTEES

The Executive Leader advised that there will be an item to note at the next meeting in respect of the Traffic Management Programme.

8. STREETSCENE

- (1) Holly Hill Cemetery Extension

RESOLVED that the Executive:-

- (a) agrees to the provision of an extension to the Holly Hill Cemetery; and
- (b) approves a budget of £300,000 to construct the cemetery extension.

9. PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT

- (1) Fareham (Town Centre) Regeneration: Vision for Consultation

At the invitation of the Executive Leader, Councillor Mrs K K Trott addressed the Executive on this item.

RESOLVED that the Executive agrees the Draft Regeneration Vision for Fareham Town Centre set out in Appendix A for consultation.

- (2) Welborne Delivery - Purchase of residential property

RESOLVED that the Executive:-

- (a) agrees the terms for the purchase of the residential property, as set out in the confidential Appendix A; and
- (b) delegates authority to the Director of Finance and Resources, following consultation with the Executive Leader, to agree minor amendments to the terms as appropriate.

10. POLICY AND RESOURCES

- (1) Housing Revenue Account Budget and Capital Plans 2017/18

The Executive noted an amendment to the Housing Revenue Account Budget and Capital Plans 2017/18 that was tabled at the meeting.

RESOLVED that the Executive agrees to recommend to Council that:-

- (a) rents be approved for Council Dwellings as set out in paragraph 11 with effect from 03 April 2017;
- (b) rents for Council garages be increased by 6.2% with effect from 03 April 2017;
- (c) discretionary fees and charges be increased with effect from 03 April 2017;
- (d) the revised budget for 2016/17 be approved;

- (e) the base budget for 2017/18 be approved;
 - (f) the capital programme and financing for 2016/17 to 2020/21 be approved; and
 - (g) annual budgets and assumptions are set with the aim of ensuring sufficient surpluses are held to repay debt on the date of maturity of each loan.
- (2) Finance Strategy, Capital Programme, Revenue Budget and Council Tax 2017/18

The Executive noted an amendment to the Finance Strategy, Capital Programme, Revenue Budget and Council Tax 2017/18 that was tabled at the meeting.

At the invitation of the Executive Leader, Councillors S Cunningham and R H Price, JP, addressed the Executive on this item.

Councillor Price put forward a proposal that provision be made in the budget to fund an outreach worker to support the increasing number of rough sleepers in the Town Centre. The Executive Leader indicated that the Health and Housing and Public Protection Policy Development and Review Panels would be the appropriate forum to discuss the need for this resourcing and that if it were considered necessary, provision could be made from within the existing spending reserve.

RESOLVED that the Executive approves and recommends to the meeting of the Council to be held on 24 February 2017:-

- (a) the capital programme and financing of £63,686,000;
 - (b) an overall revised revenue budget for 2016/17 of £8,903,300;
 - (c) a revenue budget for 2017/18 of £8,616,700; and
 - (d) a council tax for Fareham Borough Council for 2017/18 of £150.22 per band D property, which represents a £5.00 increase when compared to the current year and is within referendum limits.
- (3) Solent Airport - Refurbishment of Control Tower/Provision of Corporate Facilities

Councillors T M Cartwright declared a Non-Pecuniary Interest for this item as he is the Chairman of the Daedalus Working Group. Councillor T M Cartwright remained present at the meeting and took part in the discussion of this item.

Councillor Mrs K Mandry declared a Non-Pecuniary Interest for this item as she is a Member of the Daedalus Working Group. Councillor Mrs K Mandry remained present at the meeting and took part in the discussion of this item.

At the invitation of the Executive Leader, Councillor C J Wood addressed this Executive on this item.

Councillor C J Wood declared Non-Pecuniary Interests for this item as he is a member of the Daedalus Working Group and also in respect of the close proximity of his parents' property to the Daedalus site. He remained present at the meeting.

Councillor T M Cartwright requested that provision be made from these funds for the north end of the Control Tower to be painted white to improve its appearance.

RESOLVED that the Executive:-

(a) agrees to the inclusion of the following schemes in the 2017/18 capital programme:

- Refurbishment of the control tower at an indicative cost of £333,000; and
- Provision of fuelling equipment and infrastructure at an indicative cost of £250,000;

(b) delegates authority to the Director of Finance and Resources, following consultation with the Executive Leader, to award the contracts for the refurbishment of the control tower, subject to the cost being within the allocated budget.

(c) delegates authority to the Director of Finance and Resources, following consultation with the Deputy Leader, to finalise detailed arrangements for the procurement of fuelling equipment, subject to the cost being within allocated budget; and

(d) agrees that the north end of the building be painted white in order to improve its appearance.

(4) Treasury Management Strategy and Prudential Indicators 2017/18

RESOLVED that the Executive:-

(a) endorses the draft Treasury Management Strategy and Prudential Indicators for 2017/18, attached as Appendix A to this report; and

(b) submits the report to Council for approval.

(The meeting started at 6.03 pm
and ended at 7.07 pm).

REVENUE BUDGETS

5. The following table summarises the base and revised budgets for 2016/17 and the base budget for 2017/18, of the Housing Revenue Account and Housing Repairs Account.

	Base Budget 2016/17 £000s	Revised Budget 2016/17 £000s	Base Budget 2017/18 £000s
Housing Revenue Account			
Income	-12,324	-12,303	-12,578
Management and Finance	4,482	4,392	4,382
Repairs - Revenue	2,973	4,452	4,449
Improvements - Capital	2,682	2,999	3,636
HRA Surplus/Deficit	-2,187	-460	-111
Planned transfer to Reserves	2,164	0	0
Transfer to/from HRA Revenue Reserve	-23	-460	-111
Closing Balances			
HRA Revenue Reserve	-3,729	-4,167	-4,276
Repairs Reserve	-1,500	-1,500	-1,500
Major Repairs Reserve	-1,324	-7	-13
Capital Development Fund	-4,564	-869	0
1:4:1 Receipts	-523	-414	-263
Unspent Grants	0	-140	0
Total	-11,640	-7,097	-6,052

RENTS

6. When the Council left the HRA Subsidy System in March 2012, rents were assumed to rise at a rate of RPI (as at end of September) + 0.5% plus £2 to achieve convergence by 2015/16.
7. The Spending Review of 2013 took away the ability for Local Authorities to increase rents (for tenants in situ) to achieve convergence by the said date. The Government's rent setting policy changed so that rents from 2015/16 should increase at the rate of CPI (as at end September) plus 1% for a period of ten years to give certainty to landlords.
8. In the Summer Budget of July 2015, the Government announced that Social Housing Rents will fall by 1% a year for four years from April 2016. This is provided for in legislation within the Welfare Reform and Work Bill.
9. For 16/17, rents for low cost home ownership accommodation (shared-owner) and sheltered housing are excluded from this direction. The Council has 60 shared-ownership homes and 645 sheltered housing homes.

20. The amount of government support, including transitional grant, that the Council expects to receive in 2017/18 is £2,161,654 which is a reduction of £505,100 or 19% when compared to 2016/17. A report on how the funding gap is to be closed was approved by the Executive in October 2016.
21. With further cash reductions expected after 2019/20, it is important that the Council continues to identify and secure cash-releasing efficiencies each year in order to maintain the high level of service currently provided and continue to achieve its corporate priority to minimise council tax increases.

COUNCIL TAX AND NATIONAL NON-DOMETIC RATE BASE

22. The revised council tax base for 2016/17 is 42,005.7 Band D equivalent properties which is the same as the original estimate.
23. The council tax base for 2017/18 is 42,371.6 Band D equivalent properties.
24. The net rates payable from National Non-Domestic Rates for 2017/18 (after Transitional arrangements and reliefs) is **£43,284,023**.

COUNCIL TAX FOR 2017/18

25. With a net budget for 2017/18 of £8,616,700 and government support of £2,161,654 and the use of collection fund balances of £89,894, the Executive is able to recommend a council tax increase for 2017/18 of £5. This is shown in the following table:

	Base Budget 2016/17	Base Budget 2017/18	Variation
	£	£	£
Total Budget	8,903,300	8,616,700	-286,600
Less:			
Government Support	2,592,859	2,088,023	-504,836
Use of Collection Fund surplus	136,473	89,894	-46,584
Transitional Grant	73,895	73,631	-264
Total due from Council Tax Payers	6,100,068	6,365,152	+265,084
Council Tax base	42,005.7	42,371.6	
Council Tax	£145.22	£150.22	
Cash Increase	+ £5.00	+ £5.00	

26. The proposed council tax increase is within government referendum limits.
27. The overall income from taxpayers of £6,365,152 represents approximately 13% of the gross spend by the council for 2017/18 of £47.6million.

