

**Minutes of the
Executive**

(to be confirmed at the next meeting)

Date: Monday, 7 February 2022

Venue: Collingwood Room - Civic Offices

Present:

S D T Woodward, Policy and Resources (Executive Leader)
T M Cartwright, MBE, Health and Public Protection (Deputy
Executive Leader)
I Bastable, Streetscene
F Birkett, Housing
S D Martin, Planning and Development
Mrs S M Walker, Leisure and Community

Also in attendance:

R H Price, JP, for item 10(1)



1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

There were no apologies given for this meeting.

2. MINUTES

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting held on Monday 10 January 2022 be confirmed and signed as a correct record.

3. EXECUTIVE LEADER'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were no Executive Leader announcements.

4. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest made at this meeting.

5. PETITIONS

There were no petitions submitted at this meeting.

6. DEPUTATIONS

There were no deputations made at this meeting.

7. REFERENCES FROM OTHER COMMITTEES

Policy & Resources Scrutiny Panel – 20 January 2022

MINUTE 6 - CAPITAL PROGRAMME AND CAPITAL STRATEGY 2022/23

The Panel considered a report by the Deputy Chief Executive Officer on the Capital Programme and Capital Strategy 2022-23.

Councillor Kelly enquired as to whether any of the Council's commercial tenants have had issues paying their rent as a result of the Pandemic. The Finance Manager acknowledged that the Pandemic had left some tenants in difficulties and that the Council is working with them to minimise any impact for the Council, and that they would continue to closely monitor them.

Councillor Walker enquired as to whether the Council's Commercial Assets have been affected by the Pandemic. The Finance Manager confirmed that by the end of 2021 the nominal value of the Council's commercial investment portfolio had dropped, but she explained that the actual value of an investment isn't known until the point of sale, and that it is expected for values to fluctuate over time.

RESOLVED that the Panel request that the Executive note the Panel's comments above, at its meeting on 7 February 2022.

This item was considered at item 11(5) of the agenda.

MINUTE 8 - FINANCE STRATEGY, REVENUE BUDGET AND COUNCIL TAX 2022/23

The Panel considered a report by the Deputy Chief Executive Officer on the Finance Strategy, Revenue Budget and Council Tax 2022-23.

Councillor Mrs Bayford enquired about the Council's need to put money into the reserves and commented that some residents have identified that this adding to the current shortfall. The Deputy Chief Executive Officer explained that the revenue contributions to capital funding is used to replace Council vehicles, IT equipment, park facilities and bus shelters and without these reserves the Council would not be able to undertake these necessary purchases when they are needed. He also explained that in relation to the future forecast surplus of capital resources, this is not guaranteed, and it is important that the Council put money aside for when it may be needed in the future.

Members also asked questions about the new Garden Waste collection service, and that there have been comments made about the profit that the Council will be making from it. The Panel were advised that while some individual activities may make surpluses, the Council is unable to make a profit from its broader discretionary service portfolio. The income from garden waste forms part of the broader range of services for the Streetscene portfolio and that this income can be used across any services within that area.

RESOLVED that the Panel request that the Executive note the comments above, at its meeting on 7 February 2022.

This item was considered at item 11(1) on the agenda

MINUTE 9 - HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT BUDGET AND CAPITAL PLANS 2022/23

The Panel considered a report by the Deputy Chief Executive Officer on the Housing Revenue Account Budget and Capital Plans 2022-23.

RESOLVED that the Panel recommends that the Executive endorses the recommendations in the report, at its meeting on 7 February 2022.

This item was considered at item 11(2) on the agenda.

Licensing & Regulatory Affairs Committee – 25 January 2022**MINUTE 9 - GAMBLING REVIEW OF STATEMENT OF PRINCIPLES**

The Committee considered a report by the Head of Environmental Health which presented the revised draft Gambling Statement of Principles, together with Consultation responses, for approval and recommendation to the Executive before being presented to Council for adoption.

RESOLVED that the Licensing and Regulatory Affairs Committee;

(a) considered the draft document, any amendments resulting from the statutory consultation exercise and whether any substantive amendments are required; and

(b) recommends to the Executive that the final draft Gambling Act 2005 Statement of Principles 2022-2025, as attached as Appendix A to the report, be recommended for adoption by the Council.

This item was considered at item 11(3) on the agenda.

8. HOUSING

(1) Extension of Void Property Works and Component Improvement Package Works Contract 2019/2022

Resolved that the Executive agrees that the existing contract with Mountjoy Ltd be extended for a further 2 years from its existing expiry date of 30 April 2022.

9. HEALTH AND PUBLIC PROTECTION

(1) Renewal of Environmental Health Partnership Agreement

RESOLVED that the Executive agrees to delegate authority to the Chief Executive Officer, following consultation with the Executive Member for Health and Public Protection, to renew the Environmental Health Partnership Agreement with Gosport Borough Council on an open-ended basis with appropriate clauses to allow for future reviews and/or termination.

10. PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT

(1) Fareham Coastal Defence Study (Fareham Quay and Alton Grove to Cador Drive)

At the invitation of the Executive Leader, Councillor R H Price, JP addressed the Executive on this item.

RESOLVED that the Executive:

(a) approves commencement of the Fareham Coastal Defence Study; and

(b) agrees that the Director of Planning and Regeneration is given delegated authority to procure and deliver the works, subject to the award of contract being made through an Individual Decision of the Executive Member for Planning and Development.

11. POLICY AND RESOURCES

(1) Finance Strategy, Capital Programme, Revenue Budget and Council Tax 2022/23

A revised page 46 of the agenda pack was tabled at the meeting in respect of this item to provide the net rates payable from National Non-Domestic rates for 2022/23 (after Transitional arrangements and reliefs).

The comments of the Policy and Resources Scrutiny Panel were taken into account in considering this item.

RESOLVED that the Executive approves and recommends to the meeting of the Council to be held on 25 February 2022:

- (a) the capital programme and financing of £44,990,900;
 - (b) an overall revised revenue budget for 2012/22 of £10,494,800;
 - (c) a revenue budget for 2022/23 of £10,788,000;
 - (d) a council tax for Fareham Borough Council for 2022/23 of £175.22 per band D property, which represents a £5.00 per year increase when compared to the current year and is within referendum limits; and
 - (e) an unchanged Council Tax Support scheme for 2022/23
- (2) Housing Revenue Account 2022/23

The comments of the Policy and Resources Scrutiny Panel were taken into account in considering this item.

RESOLVED that the Executive approves and recommends to the meeting of the Council to be held on 25 February 2022 that:

- (a) rents be approved for Council Dwellings as set out in paragraph 23 with effect from 01 April 2022;
 - (b) rents for Council garages be increased by 3.8% with effect from 01 April 2022;
 - (c) the revised budget for 2021/22 be approved; and
 - (d) The base budget for 2022/23 be approved.
- (3) Gambling - Review of Statement of Principles

The comments of the Licensing and Regulatory Affairs Committee were taken into account in considering this item.

RESOLVED that having considered the revised Gambling Policy, as detailed in Appendix A to the report, the Executive recommends the policy to Council for adoption.

- (4) Treasury Management Strategy 2022/23

RESOLVED that the Executive:

- (a) endorses the draft Treasury Management Strategy and Investment Strategy for 2022/23, attached as Appendix A to the report; and
- (b) agrees to submit the report to Council for approval.

(5) Capital Programme and Capital Strategy 2022/23

The comments of the Policy and Resources Scrutiny Panel were taken into account in considering this item.

RESOLVED that the Executive:

- (a) endorses the draft Capital Strategy for 2022/23, attached as Appendix A to the report;
- (b) approves the capital programme for the period 2021/22 to 2025/26, amounting to £73.8million as set out in Annex 1 of the Capital Strategy; and
- (c) agrees to submit the Capital Strategy for 2022/23 to Council for approval.

(The meeting started at 6.00 pm
and ended at 6.35 pm).

Minute Item 11(1)

Tabled item 11(1) Finance Strategy, Capital Programme,
Revenue Budget and Council Tax 2022/23
Revised page 46

20. As well as the requirement to use reserves to balance the budget for 2022/23, the Finance Strategy covers the period through to 2025/26 and is showing a projected shortfall of £1.1m in the final 3 years of the strategy that could use a further proportion of the remainder of the surplus leaving a balance of £962,700.
21. There remains the unknown of the finance position after the outcome of the Fair Funding Review so any further use of reserves must be carefully considered.

COUNCIL TAX AND NATIONAL NON-DOMETIC RATE BASE

22. The council tax base for 2022/23 is 44,002.6 Band D equivalent properties.
23. The forecast of net rates payable from National Non-Domestic Rates for 2022/23 (after Transitional arrangements and reliefs) is **£41,196,636**.

COUNCIL TAX FOR 2022/23

24. With a net budget for 2022/23 of £10,788,000 and government funding of £3,117,262 along with a contribution to the collection fund of £39,398 this will leave an amount due from council tax payers of £7,710,136. This is shown in the following table:

	Base Budget 2021/22	Base Budget 2022/23	Variation
	£	£	£
Total Budget	10,271,900	10,788,000	516,100
Less:			
Government Funding	-2,731,105	-3,117,262	-386,157
Collection Fund deficit	-84,393	39,398	123,791
Total due from Council Tax Payers	7,456,402	7,710,136	+253,734
Council Tax base	43,804.5	44,002.6	
Council Tax (Band D)	£170.22	£175.22	
Cash Increase (per year)	+ £5.00	+ £5.00	

25. The proposed council tax increase is within government referendum limits.
26. The proposed council tax of £175.22 is for Band D properties only and the Fareham element of the council tax for all bands is shown in the table below:

