

**THE "CALL IN" PERIOD FOR THIS SET OF MINUTES ENDS AT 12 NOON ON TUESDAY 1 MARCH 2016. MINUTE Nos 105, 106, 108 AND 109 ARE NOT SUBJECT TO "CALL - IN."**

## **CABINET**

### **MEETING HELD AT THE COMMITTEE ROOM, TOWN HALL, BOOTLE ON THURSDAY 18TH FEBRUARY, 2016**

**PRESENT:** Councillor Maher (in the Chair)  
Councillors Atkinson, Cummins, Fairclough,  
John Joseph Kelly, Lappin, Moncur and Veidman

**ALSO PRESENT:** Councillors McGuire and Weavers

#### **102. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Hardy.

#### **103. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

No declarations of any disclosable pecuniary interest were received.

#### **104. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

##### **Decision Made:**

That the minutes of the Cabinet meeting held on 4 February 2016 be confirmed as a correct record.

#### **105. TREASURY MANAGEMENT POLICY AND STRATEGY 2016/17**

The Cabinet considered the report of the Chief Finance Officer which provided details of the proposed procedures and strategy to be adopted in respect of the Council's Treasury Management Function in 2016/17.

##### **Decision Made:**

That the Council be recommended to give approval to:

- (1) the Treasury Management Policy Document for 2016/17 as set out in Annex A of the report;
- (2) the Treasury Management Strategy Document for 2016/17 as set out in Annex B of the report; and
- (3) the basis to be used in the calculation of the Minimum Revenue Provision for Debt Repayment in 2015/16 as set out in Paragraph 4 of the report.

**Reasons for Decision:**

To enable the Council to effectively manage its treasury activities.

**Alternative Options considered and Rejected:**

None.

**106. THE PRUDENTIAL CODE FOR CAPITAL FINANCE IN LOCAL AUTHORITIES - PRUDENTIAL INDICATORS**

The Cabinet considered the report of the Chief Finance Officer on proposals to establish the Prudential Indicators required under the Prudential Code of Capital Finance in Local Authorities. This would enable the Council to effectively manage its Capital Finance Activities and comply with the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy Prudential Code of Capital Finance in Local Authorities.

**Decision Made:**

That the Council be recommended to:

- (1) approve the Prudential Indicators as detailed in the report, and summarised in Annex A of the report, as the basis for compliance with The Prudential Code for Capital Finance in Local Authorities;
- (2) give approval to the relevant Prudential Indicators being amended, should any changes to unsupported borrowing be approved as part of the 2016/17 Revenue Budget;
- (3) note that estimates of capital expenditure may change as grant allocations are received, as indicated in paragraph 2.2 of the report; and
- (4) grant delegated authority to the Chief Finance Officer to manage the Authorised Limit and Operational Boundary for external debt as detailed in Section 5 of the report.

**Reasons for Decision:**

To enable the Council to effectively manage its Capital Financing activities, and comply with the CIPFA Prudential Code for Capital Finance in Local Authorities.

**Alternative Options Considered and Rejected:**

None.

## **107. REVENUE BUDGET 2015/16 UPDATE**

The Cabinet considered the report of the Chief Finance Officer which provided details of the progress in the achievement of the approved savings for 2015/16 (and any residual savings carried forward from 2014/15); other financial risks elsewhere in the budget; the current forecast on Council Tax and Business Rates collection; the proposed schemes of improvements to the Bootle War Memorial, and Thornton Garden of Rest Crematorium; and the proposed use of resources from the Contamination Clearance Reserve to undertake coast protection works between Hall Road and Alt Training Bank.

### **Decision Made:** That

- (1) the progress to date on the achievement of approved savings for 2015/16 and residual savings carried forward from previous years be noted;
- (2) the wider financial pressures being experienced in the remainder of the Budget be noted;
- (3) the forecast position on the collection of Council Tax and Business Rates be noted;
- (4) approval be given to the works to improve the Bootle War Memorial, as outlined in paragraph 7 of the report, and the inclusion of £0.118m in the Capital Programme;
- (5) approval be given to the works to improve the Thornton Garden of Rest Crematorium as outlined in paragraph 8 of the report, and the inclusion of £1.3m in the Capital Programme; and
- (6) approval be given to the use of the Contamination Clearance Reserve to undertake coast protection works between Hall Road and Alt Training Bank, as outlined in paragraph 9 of the report, and the inclusion of £0.050m in the Capital Programme.

### **Reasons for Decision:**

To ensure Cabinet are informed of the latest position on the achievement of savings for the current financial year and to identify wider budget pressures being experienced elsewhere in the budget. To provide an update on the forecast outturn position on the collection of Council Tax and Business Rates; and to include additional schemes financed from grant, prudential borrowing, contributions and reserves into the Capital Programme.

### **Alternative Options Considered and Rejected:**

None.

**108. LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 2003 - CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER'S REQUIREMENTS - ROBUSTNESS REPORT**

The Cabinet considered the report of the Chief Finance Officer which provided an assessment of the robustness of the estimates and the tax setting calculations, the adequacy of the proposed financial reserves and the production of longer term revenue and capital plans, based on the proposals set out in the report on the Revenue Budget 2016/17 and Medium Term Financial Plan 2017/18 - 2019/20 (Minute No. 109 below refers).

**Decision Made:**

That the Council be requested to note the matters raised in the report during the determination of the Revenue Budget 2016/17.

**Reasons for Decision:**

To ensure that the Council consider the report in making their budget decisions.

**Alternative Options Considered and Rejected:**

None.

**109. REVENUE BUDGET 2016/17 (AND MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL PLAN 2017/18 - 2019/20)**

The Cabinet considered the report of the Chief Finance Officer which provided details of the decisions taken by the Cabinet on 14 January 2016 (Minute No. 88) to arrive at a balanced budget for 2016/17; a summary of the draft budget for 2016/17; a summary of the budget changes included in the draft budget; recommendations on the allocation of specific grants; and an update on the funding of schools agreed by the Schools' Forum.

The report indicated that on 5 March 2015, the Council had agreed a two year financial plan for the period 2015/16 to 2016/17 and that the service changes required to achieve the plan had largely been put in place but the Comprehensive Spending Review and the Local Government Finance Settlement announced by the Government had resulted in a significant increase in the Council's budget gap for 2016/17, as well as introducing further savings targets for the three years 2017/18 to 2019/20.

The Cabinet had agreed on 14 January 2016 that officers should prepare a single updated Medium Term Financial Plan to cover the period 2017/18 to 2019/20.

The following appendices were appended to the report:

- Appendix 1 – List of Budget Proposals for 2016/17
- Appendix 2 – Individual School Budgets 2016/17
- Appendix 3 – Draft Council Budgets 2016/17
- Appendix 4 – Fees and Charges 2016/17

The Chief Finance Officer circulated a supplementary note setting out amendments to the charges for Locality Services Commissioned, Regulation and Compliance, and Communities set out in Appendix 4 of the report.

**Decision Made:** That

- (1) the changes to the Council resource following the announcement of the final Local Government Finance Settlement for 2016/17 be noted;
- (2) the Council be recommended to approve the budget adjustments required as a result of the Final Settlement, set out in Paragraph 3.5 of the report;
- (3) the Council be recommended to approve a Council Tax increase of 1.99% and a Social Care Council Tax Precept of 2%, as set out in Paragraph 6.1 of the report; and
- (4) approval be given to the Fees and Charges for 2016/17 as set out in Appendix 4 of the report and amended by the supplementary note.

**Reasons for Decision:**

To provide the basis on which the Council's Budget for 2016/17 will be balanced and the Council Tax is set.

**Alternative Options Considered and Rejected:**

None. The Council has a legal duty to set a balanced and robust budget and to set the Council Tax for 2016/17 before 10 March 2016.