



Budget Council

19:30 to 22:00

21 February 2017

Present: Councillor Maxwell (Lord Mayor), Councillors Ackroyd, Bradford, Bremner, Bogelein, Brociek-Coulton, Button, Carlo, Davis, Driver, Fullman, Grahame, Haynes, Harris, Henderson, Herries, Jackson, Jones(B), Jones(T), Kendrick, Lubbock, Malik, Manning, Maguire, Packer, Peek, Price, Raby, Ryan, Sands(M), Sands(S), Schmierer, Stonard, Thomas(Va), Thomas (Vi), Waters, Woollard and Wright

Apologies: Mr Marks (Sheriff) and Councillor Coleshill

1. Lord Mayor's Announcements

The Lord Mayor said that she had attended a large number of engagements over the last month. One of the highlights was meeting the Queen at the Fiji: Art & Life in the Pacific exhibition at the Sainsbury Centre. She had been delighted to see local school children there, who had made crowns to wear, and one of them had asked the Lord Mayor if she was a pirate. She had also attended the fundraising event for the civic charity celebrating the Chinese New Year and the King's Lynn Mart where the service was held on dodgem cars. At the mayoral court for the Freeman of the City of Norwich, fifteen women and eleven men had received the Freedom of the City. The Lord Mayor had opened the exhibition on the Norwich Preservation Trust and attended the Winter Ale Festival.

2. Declarations of Interest

Councillor Waters declared a pecuniary interest in Councillor Price's proposed amendment, under item 7 (below), General Fund Revenue Budget 2017-18 and Non-Housing Capital Programme, because he worked for the LGIU.

3. Questions from the public

No public questions had been received.

4. Petitions

No petitions had been received.

5. Minutes

RESOLVED, unanimously, to approve the minutes of the meeting held on 24 January 2017.

6. Corporate Plan 2015-20

Councillor Waters moved and Councillor Harris seconded the recommendations as set out in the report.

RESOLVED, with 28 members voting in favour, 10 members voting against, to approve cabinet's recommendations of 8 February 2017, in relation to the corporate plan to 2020.

7. General Fund Revenue Budget 2017-18 and Non-Housing Capital Programme 2017-2018 to 2021-22

Councillor Stonard moved and Councillor Davis seconded the recommendations set out in the report.

(Councillor Waters having declared an interest left the room at this point.)-

Councillor Price then moved and Councillor Grahame seconded the following amendment:

“To not renew the water cooler contract and the LGIU subscription to save £4,652 and to allocate £4,000 of this to keep the hazardous waste collection service free and contribute £652 to reserves.”

On being put to the vote, with 10 members voting in favour (Councillors Bogelein, Carlo, Grahame, Haynes, Henderson, Jackson, Jones (T), Price, Raby and Schmierer), and 27 members voting against (Councillors Ackroyd, Bradford, Bremner, Brociek-Coulton, Button, Davis, Driver, Fullman, Harris, Herries, Jones (B), Kendrick, Lubbock, Manning, Maguire, Malik, Maxwell, Packer, Peek, Ryan, Sands (M), Sands (S) Stonard, Thomas (Va), Thomas (Vi), Woollard and Wright) the amendment to the motion was lost.

(Councillor Waters was readmitted to the meeting at this point.)

Councillor Schmierer moved and Councillor Bogelein seconded the following amendment:

“To reduce the level of general fund reserves by £45,000 and use this to employ an officer on one year trial basis to pursue external funding for the council.”

On being put to the vote, with 13 members voting in favour (Councillors Ackroyd, Bogelein, Carlo, Grahame, Haynes, Henderson, Jackson, Jones (T), Lubbock, Price, Raby, Schmierer and Wright) and 25 members voting against (Councillors Bradford,

Bremner, Brociek-Coulton, Button, Davis, Driver, Fullman, Harris, Herries, Jones (B), Kendrick, Manning, Maguire, Malik, Maxwell, Packer, Peek, Ryan, Sands (M), Sands (S) Stonard, Thomas (Va), Thomas (Vi), Waters and Woollard) the amendment to the motion was lost.

After the debate on the public section of the item detailed on pages 49 to 84 of the agenda, it was:

RESOLVED to exclude the public from the meeting during consideration of the exempt part of the report below on the grounds contained in the relevant paragraphs of schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended).

Councillor Stonard moved and Councillor Herries seconded the confidential matters detailed in appendix 5.

(Following the debate on the confidential matters members of the public were readmitted to the meeting.)

RESOLVED with 28 members voting in favour (Councillors Ackroyd, Bradford, Bremner, Brociek-Coulton, Button, Davis, Driver, Fullman, Harris, Herries, Jones (B), Kendrick, Lubbock, Manning, Maguire, Malik, Maxwell, Packer, Peek, Ryan, Sands (M), Sands (S) Stonard, Thomas (Va), Thomas (Vi), Waters, Woollard and Wright) and 10 members voting against (Councillors Bogelein, Carlo, Grahame, Haynes, Henderson, Jackson, Jones (T), Price, Raby and Schmierer) to approve:

(1) the cabinet's recommendations of 8 February for the 2017-18 financial year:

- (a) that the council's budgetary requirement for the 2017-18 financial year be set to £16.152m (para 6.1 in annex A);
- (b) that the proposed general fund budgets for 2017-18 and transformation plan for 2018-19 be approved, taking into account the savings, income and other budget movements set out in appendices 2, and 5 of Annex A and the transformations movements set out in appendix 3 of Annex A as amended by cabinet (see para 2);
- (c) that the council's council tax requirement for 2017-18 be set at £9.029m and that council tax be set at £249.01 for Band D, which is an increase of 2.05% (para 5.5 in annex A), the impact of the increase for all bands is shown in table 7.2 of annex A;
- (d) that the Norwich City Council precept on the council tax collection fund for 2017-18 be set at £8.732m calculated in accordance with Sections 32-36 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 as amended by the Localism Act 2011 (as shown in para 7.1 of annex A);
- (e) that the prudent level of reserves for the council be set at £4.161m in accordance with the recommendation of the Chief finance officer (as shown in para 8.11 of annex A); and

(f) that the proposed non-housing capital programme 2017-18 to 2021-22 (as shown in table 10.3 of annex A) be approved.

(2) that the total of all the precepts of the collection fund is calculated in accordance with Sections 32-36 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 as amended by the Localism Act 2011(as shown in annex B) taking into account precepts notified by Norfolk County Council and the Office of the Police & Crime Commissioner for Norfolk.

(Two hours having passed the Lord Mayor asked whether any items could be taken as unopposed business, and it was resolved that Item 9 (below) Treasury Management Strategy 2017 -18 could be taken as unopposed business)

8. Housing Rents and Budgets 2017-18

Councillor Harris moved and Councillor Stonard seconded the recommendations set out in the report.

After the debate on the public section of the item detailed on pages 85 to 102 of the agenda.

RESOLVED to exclude the public from the meeting during consideration of the exempt part of the report below on the grounds contained in the relevant paragraphs of schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended).

Councillor Harris moved and Councillor Stonard seconded the confidential matters detailed in appendix 3.

(Following the debate on the confidential matters members of the public were readmitted to the meeting.)

RESOLVED to

- (1) with 28 members voting in favour, 1 member voting against and 8 members abstaining to approve cabinet's recommendations of 8 February for the 2017-18 financial year to:
 - (a) implement the minimum 1% rent reduction in accordance with legislation set down in the Welfare Reform and Work Act 2016. ([para 5.8](#)).
 - (b) approve the proposed Housing Revenue Account budgets ([para 3.1 and Appendices 1 and 3](#)).
 - (c) approve the prudent minimum level of housing reserves ([para 6.5](#)).
- (2) with 25 members voting in favour, no members voting against and 12 members abstaining to approve cabinet's recommendations of 8 February for the 2017-18 financial year:
 - (d) to approve the proposed housing capital programme 2017-18 to 2021-22 (para 8.1):

(3) with 32 members voting in favour, 2 members voting against and 3 members abstaining to approve cabinet's recommendations of 8 February for the 2017-18 financial year:

(e) to approve that garage rents increase by 2% (para 5.12)

(4) .to note that service charges will be determined under delegated powers in compliance with the constitution (para 5.13).

9. Treasury Management Strategy 2017-18

(This item was taken as unopposed business)

RESOLVED to approve each of the key elements of this report the:

(1) Capital Prudential Indicators and Limits for 2017-18 through to 2020-21 contained within paragraphs 7 - 12 of this report;

(2) Borrowing Strategy 2017-18 through to 2020-21 (paragraphs 21 – 24);

(3) Treasury Prudential Indicators (paragraphs 25 - 28), including the Authorised Limit (paragraph 26);

(4) Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP) policy statement contained in paragraph 13;

(5) Investment Strategy 2017-18 (paragraphs 29 – 55) and the detailed criteria included in Appendix 3.

10. Andy Emms, Democratic Services Manager

The Lord Mayor and members of the council showed their appreciation to Andy Emms, democratic services manager, as he was leaving the council after 40 years' service.

LORD MAYOR