



## MINUTES

### BUDGET COUNCIL

7.30pm – 9.50pm

18 February 2014

Present: Councillors Driver (Lord Mayor), Ackroyd, Arthur, Barker, Boswell, Bradford, Bremner, Brimblecombe, Brociek-Coulton, Button, Carlo, Galvin, Gayton, Gihawi, Grahame, Grenville, Harris, Haynes, Howard, Jackson, Kendrick, Little, Lubbock, MacDonald, Manning, Maxwell, Neale, Price, Sands (M), Sands (S), Stammers, Stephenson, Stonard, Storie, Thomas, Waters and Wright.

Apologies: Mr Graham Creelman (Sheriff), Councillors Blunt and Henderson

#### 1. LORD MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Lord Mayor announced that he had accepted an invitation from the mayor of Novi Sad to attend the annual celebration of the city's foundation as a "free city". He accompanied representatives of the Norfolk and Norwich Novi Sad Association who were also invited in recognition of the work they do to promote links between our two twin cities. As part of the trip he had been particularly pleased to visit the Milan Petrovic school which was supported by the association's fundraising.

#### 2. DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

There were no declarations of interest.

#### 3. QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

The Lord Mayor announced that no questions from the public had been received.

#### 4. PETITIONS

The Lord Mayor announced that no petitions had been received.

## 5. MINUTES

**RESOLVED** to agree the accuracy of the minutes of the meeting held on 28 January 2014.

## 6. CORPORATE PLAN 2012-2015

Councillor Arthur moved and Councillor Waters seconded the recommendations in the report.

The Lord Mayor said that an amendment from Councillor Boswell had been received and circulated. Councillor Arthur had indicated to him that she was unwilling to accept the amendment. Councillor Boswell moved and Councillor Galvin seconded the following amendment:

“To amend the recommendation to read:

To approve the Corporate plan as the council’s overarching policy framework for 2014-2015, including the amendments as set out in the report and below:

- update the proposed revised target in the performance measure " % reduction in CO2 emissions from local authority operations" in the table under paragraph 6 of the report, from "2014-15 2.2% " to "2014-15 2.2% with on-going in-year review to stretch the target in this and subsequent years by finding more capital funding";
- Include the number of people using community centres as a performance measure under the heading “City of character and culture”;
- Include a performance measure based on the reduction of tonnage of residual waste, instead of the percentage of waste that is recycled.”

On being put to the vote, with 16 members voting in favour and 21 members voting against, the amendment was declared lost.

**RESOLVED**, with 24 members voting in favour and 13 members voting against, to approve the Corporate plan as the council’s overarching policy framework for 2014-2015, including the amendments as set out in the report.

## 7. GENERAL FUND REVENUE BUDGET AND NON-HOUSING CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2014-15

Councillor Waters moved and Councillor Maxwell seconded the recommendations in the report.

The Lord Mayor said that amendments had been received from Councillors Little and Wright and circulated. Councillor Waters had indicated to him that he was unwilling to accept these amendments.

Councillor Little moved and Councillor Stammers seconded the following amendment:

“General fund revenue budget:-

- (1) To amend recommendation 1. by deleting “...and Annex A” and replace it with “...., annex 1 and the changes detailed below”:-

*Add the following items:-*

	£s
Reinstate replacement of trees outside conservation areas	47,500
Gulley unblocking	20,000
Additional staff for benefits service	30,000
Grant for provision of general advice service	25,000
	<hr/>
	122,500

*Reduce the following:-*

Grass cutting budget by 5%	47,500
Contribution to reserves	75,000
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	122,500

Non – housing capital programme 2014-15-

- (2) to amend recommendation 6. to read:-

6. that the *Non-housing capital plan 2014-15 to 2017-18* should be as set out in paragraph 9.8 of annex 1, and the *Non-housing capital programme 2014-15* should be as set out in paragraph 10.4 of annex 1, as amended as follows:-;

	£s
<i>Add the following items:-</i>	
Additional Carbon Management Projects	350,000
<i>Delete the following:-</i>	
Rose Lane – design and build new multi-storey car park	7,000,000

On being put to the vote, with 16 members voting in favour and 21 members voting against, the amendment was declared lost.

Councillor Wright moved and Councillor Lubbock seconded the following amendment:

(1) To amend recommendation 1 to read:-

1. that the council's budgetary requirement be set to **£18.357m** and that the budgets set out in paragraphs 13 and 14 are approved, taking into account the savings, income and other budget movements set out in the report, annex A and the changes detailed below:-

*Make the following savings:-*

	<b>£s</b>
Reduce communications budget	28,500
Combine production of Citizen with Your Norfolk (county) publication	30,000
Reduce members allowances budget	20,000
	<u>78,500</u>

*Include growth :-*

Reverse increase in allotments	2,000
Pilot Scheme to reinstate public toilet facilities using private sector locations (advertising and promotion)	6,500
Scoping work for road safety options	10,000
Establishment of Friends' Groups	10,000
	<u>28,500</u>

(2) To amend recommendation 4 to read:-

4. that council tax should be set at £230.27 for band D

(NB- reduces income by £148K- attracts Council Tax Freeze Grant of £98K. net effect is to reduce budget by £50K)"

On being put to the vote, with 3 members voting in favour, 32 members voting against and 1 member abstaining, the amendment was declared lost.

**RESOLVED**, with 21 members voting in favour and 15 members voting against::

- (1) that the council's budgetary requirement be set to £18.407m and that the budgets set out in paragraphs 13 and 14 are approved, taking into account the savings, income and other budget movements set out in the report and annex A;

- (2) that the prudent level of reserves for the council is set at £4.496m in accordance with the recommendation of the chief finance officer;
- (3) that the council's council tax requirement is set at £7.776m;
- (4) that council tax should be set at £234.76 for band D, which is an increase of 1.95%;
- (5) that the precept of the collection fund for 2014-15 is calculated in accordance with sections 32-36 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 as amended by the Localism Act 2011 as per the statutory determination at annex 2;
- (6) that the *Non-housing capital plan 2014-15 to 2017-18* should be as set out in paragraph 9.8 of annex A, and the *Non-housing capital programme 2014-15* should be as set out in paragraph 10.4 of annex A.

(The Lord Mayor announced that two hours had passed since the start of the meeting and he asked members to consider if any of the remaining items could be considered as unopposed.)

## **8. UNOPPOSED BUSINESS**

**RESOLVED** to take the following two items as unopposed business.

## **9. HOUSING RENTS AND BUDGETS 2014-15**

**RESOLVED**, unopposed, to approve the cabinet's recommendations of 5 February 2014 for the 2014-15 financial year:

- (1) that the council housing rent increase of 1.5% as set out in paragraph 1(a) is approved;
- (2) that the HRA budgets set out in paragraph 4 are approved;
- (3) that the prudent minimum level of housing reserves set out in paragraph 7.11 of Annex A is approved; and,
- (4) that the housing capital plan 2014-15 to 2018-19 set out in paragraph 9, and the housing capital programme 2014-15 set out in paragraph 9.1 of Annex A are approved.

**10. TREASURY MANAGEMENT STRATEGY 2014-15**

**RESOLVED**, unopposed, to approve the:

- (1) capital prudential indicators and limits for 2014-15 to 2016-17 contained within paragraphs 7 - 12 of this report;
- (2) borrowing strategy 2014-15 to 2016-17 (paragraphs 21 – 24);
- (3) treasury prudential indicators (paragraphs 25 - 28), including the authorised limit (paragraph 26);
- (4) Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP) policy statement (paragraph 13);  
and
- (5) investment strategy 2014-15 (paragraphs 29 – 52) and the detailed criteria included in appendix 3.

LORD MAYOR