



CABINET

WEDNESDAY, 15 FEBRUARY 2017

DECISIONS

PRESENT:	Councillor Nunn (Chair); Councillor Larratt (Deputy Chair); Councillors Hadland, Eldred, Hallam, King and Hibbert .
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Set out below is a summary of the decisions taken at the meeting of the Cabinet held on Wednesday, 15 February 2017. The wording used does not necessarily reflect the actual wording that will appear in the minutes.

These decisions will come into force and then may be implemented on the expiry of three working days after the publication of this list.

If you have any queries about any matters referred to in this decision sheet please contact Emma Powley.

THIS LIST OF DECISIONS PUBLISHED:	<u>16th February 2017</u>
DATE OF EXPIRY OF CALL IN:	<u>21st February 2017 AT 17:00 HOURS</u>

Agenda Item No	Declaration/Conflict of Interests: None
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5. ROBUSTNESS OF ESTIMATES AND ADEQUACY OF RESERVES REPORT

Cabinet recommended to Council to carefully consider the content of this report with regards to the General Fund and Housing Revenue Account prior to recommending the approval of the Council's Medium Term Financial Plan 2017/22, the Revenue Budget for 2017/18, Capital Programme 2017/22 and Treasury Management Strategy 2017/18.

Agenda Item No	Declaration/Conflict of Interests: None
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6. GENERAL FUND REVENUE BUDGET AND CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2017/18 AND MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL PLAN 2017/18 - 2021/22

2.1 Cabinet considered and welcomed feedback from consultation with the public, organisations and the Overview and Scrutiny and Audit

Committees (**detailed at Appendices 1, 2 and 3** of the report).

- 2.2 Cabinet agreed the changes to the proposed budget (detailed at paragraph 3.2.22), in light of technical adjustments and the Local Government Funding Settlement.
- 2.3 Cabinet recommended to Council the General Fund Revenue Budget for 2017/18 of £28.015m (excluding parishes) for its own purposes (detailed in paragraph 3.2.23 and **Appendices 4 and 5** of the report).
- 2.4 Cabinet recommended that Council increase the Council Tax for its own purposes, i.e. excluding County, Police and Parish Precepts, by £5 per year per band D property for 2017/18.
- 2.5 Cabinet recommended to Council that they approve the General Fund Capital Programme and proposed financing for 2017/18, including the inclusion of schemes in the Development Pool, as set out in **Appendix 6** of the report.
- 2.6 Cabinet noted the enhanced capital governance arrangements described in paragraph 3.2.31 and 3.2.32 of the report
- 2.7 Cabinet recommended to Council to confirm a minimum level of General Fund reserves of £5.5m for 2017/18, having regard to the outcome of the financial risk assessment, and also note the position on earmarked reserves (**Appendix 7** of the report).
- 2.8 Cabinet delegated authority to the Chief Finance Officer in consultation with the Chief Executive and the Cabinet Member for Finance, and where appropriate the relevant Director and Cabinet Member to:
 - Transfer monies to/from earmarked reserves should that become necessary during the financial year.
 - Update prudential indicators in both the Prudential Indicators Report and Treasury Strategy Report to Council, for any budget changes that impact on these.
- 2.9 Cabinet approved the draft Fees and Charges set out in **Appendix 9** of the report, including immediate implementation where appropriate.
- 2.10 Cabinet recommended to Council that they approve the Treasury Management Strategy for 2017-18 at **Appendix 10** of this report: incorporating:
 - (i) The Capital Financing and Borrowing Strategy for 2017-18 including:
 - The Council's policy on the making of Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP) for the repayment of debt, as required by the Local Authorities (Capital Finance & Accounting) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2008.

- The Affordable Borrowing Limit for 2017-18 as required by the Local Government Act 2003.

(ii) The Investment Strategy for 2017-18 as required by the CLG revised Guidance on Local Government Investments issued in 2010.

2.11 Cabinet delegated authority to the Council's Chief Finance Officer, in liaison with the Cabinet member for Finance, to make any temporary changes needed to the Council's borrowing and investment strategy to enable the authority to meet its obligations.

2.12 Cabinet delegated authority to the Chief Finance Officer to make any technical changes necessary to the papers for the Council meeting of 27th February 2017, including changes to the Finance Settlement and change relating to Parish Precepts and Council Tax levels associated with those changes.

Agenda **Declaration/Conflict of Interests:**
Item No None

7. HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT- RENT SETTING, REVENUE AND CAPITAL BUDGETS 2017/18

Cabinet recommended to Council to approve:

- a) An average rent decrease of 1% per dwelling, in line with the legislation and the government's national rent policy, to take effect from 3rd April 2017.
 - b) The HRA budget for 2017/18 of £52.7m expenditure including options detailed in Appendix 1.
 - c) The proposed service charges listed in Appendix 3.
 - d) The HRA capital programme for 2017/18, including future year commitments, and proposed financing as set out in Appendix 2.
 - e) That Cabinet be authorised, once the capital programme has been set, to approve new capital schemes and variations to existing schemes during 2017/18, subject to the funding being available and the schemes being in accordance with the objectives and priorities of the Council.
 - f) The Total Fees proposed for NPH to deliver the services in scope for 2017/18 detailed in Appendix 4.
- 2.2 Cabinet acknowledged the issues and risks detailed in the Chief Finance Officer's statement on the robustness of estimates and the adequacy of the reserves.
- 2.3 Cabinet recommended that Council confirm the reserves strategy of protecting balances wherever possible to allow the option of

supporting future years' budgets, aiming for a minimum level of unallocated Housing Revenue Account balances of at least £5m for 2017/18 having regard to the outcome of the financial risk assessment.

- 2.4 Cabinet delegated authority to the Chief Finance Officer to make any technical changes necessary to the papers for the Council meeting of 27th February 2017.
- 2.5 Cabinet recommended that Council delegate authority to the Chief Executive and Chief Finance Officer to implement any retained HRA budget options and restructures.
- 2.6 Cabinet delegated authority to the Chief Finance Officer in consultation with the Chief Executive and the Cabinet Members for Finance and for Housing to:
 - transfer monies to/from earmarked reserves should that become necessary during the financial year.
 - transfer monies to /from HRA working balances between the Council and NPH for cash flow purposes should that become necessary during the financial year.
 - update the budget tables and appendices, prior to Council should any further changes be necessary.
 - update prudential indicators in both the Prudential Indicators report and Treasury Strategy report, for Council for any budget changes that impact on these.

Agenda	Declaration/Conflict of Interests:
Item No	None

8. CORPORATE PLAN

Cabinet recommended to Full Council that, at its meeting of 27th February, 2017, the Corporate Plan for 2017 - 2022 be approved, and that the Chief Executive and the Leader of the Council be delegated to make any necessary amendments to finalise the Corporate Plan for publication.