

COUNCIL
17 February 2015 at 7.00 pm

Further to the recent despatch of agenda and papers for the above meeting, please find the following item(s) which were marked as 'to follow':

6. Matters considered by the Cabinet

- c) Treasury Management Strategy 2015/16 (Replacement pages 43-44)
- d) Revenue Budget and Council Tax 2015/16 (Replacement pages 79-80)
- e) Adoption of the Allocations & Development Management Plan (Replacement pages 129-130)

7. Matters considered by the Licensing Committee

- b) Gambling Act 2005 and Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1982: Licence Fees 2015/2016 (Replacement pages 213-214)
- c) Licensing - Draft Statement of Licensing Act 2003 Policy (Replacement pages 221-222)

To assist in the speedy and efficient despatch of business, Members wishing to obtain factual information on items included on the Agenda are asked to enquire of the appropriate Director or Contact Officer named on a report prior to the day of the meeting.

Should you require a copy of this agenda or any of the reports listed on it in another format please do not hesitate to contact the Democratic Services Team as set out below.

For any other queries concerning this agenda or the meeting please contact:

The Democratic Services Team (01732 227241)

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Item 6 (c) – Treasury Management Strategy

The attached report was considered by the Cabinet on 5 February 2015, relevant minute extract below:

Cabinet – 5 February 2015 (Minute 76)

The Portfolio Holder for Finance and Resources introduced a report setting out the Council's Treasury Management Strategy for 2015/16, covering its borrowing arrangements and its annual investment strategy. The annual investment strategy sets out the Council's policies for managing its investments and for giving priority to the security and liquidity of those investments.

Members' attention was drawn to paragraph 61 of the report, which provided further details on Enhanced Money Market Funds (EMMFs). These funds had not been utilised because of concerns from some Members that they carried more risk than other permitted investments, but it was proposed they would be utilised from 2015/16. Alternatively, the Principal Accountant suggested that the limit for lending to any of the top five Building Societies not meeting minimum credit rating requirements be increased from £2 million to £4 million each and the limit for lending to Handelsbanken be increased from £3 million to £5 million to give options rather than lending to the Government at 0.25%.

Members noted that the Finance and Resources Advisory Committee had recommended that:

- a) investments in AAA rated Enhanced Money Market Funds be commenced with an overall limit of £5 million which may be in a single fund or split between different funds;
- b) the limit for investments in any of the top five Building Societies not meeting minimum credit rating requirements be increased from £2 million to £4 million each;
- c) the limit for lending to Handelsbanken be increased from £3 million to £5 million; and
- d) subject to those comments, Cabinet recommend that Council approve the Treasury Management Strategy for 2015/16.

Members noted the sale of the Icelandic bank investment which brought the matter to a conclusion. The overall result was that the Council recovered the full amount of the original investment.

Public Sector Equality Duty

Members noted that consideration had been given to impacts under the Public Sector Equality Duty.

Replacement page 43

Agenda Item 6c

Resolved: That

- a) investments in AAA rated Enhanced Money Market Funds be commenced with an overall limit of £5 million which may be in a single fund or split between different funds;
- b) the limit for investments in any of the top five Building Societies not meeting minimum credit rating requirements be increased from £2 million to £4 million each;
- c) the limit for lending to Handelsbanken be increased from £3 million to £5 million; and
- d) subject to those comments, Cabinet **recommend that Council approve the Treasury Management Strategy for 2015/16.**

Item 6 (d) – Revenue Budget and Council Tax 2015/16

The attached report was considered by the Cabinet on 5 February 2015, relevant minute extract below:

Cabinet – 5 February 2015 (Minute 72)

The Portfolio Holder for Finance & Resources introduced a report setting out the proposed budget and required level of Council Tax for 2015/16. Member's considered the full budget report and included the change recommended by Cabinet on 15 January. That change was to reduce the Council Tax increase assumption from 3% to 2% for 2016/17 to 2018/19.

At the last Finance & Resources Advisory Committee meeting it was debated whether the Council Tax increase assumption should be reduced to 2% for the whole 10-year period. The motion was put to the vote and was lost. The additional impact of this change would be £2.3m.

The Portfolio Holder was pleased to report that this report once again left the Council with a balanced budget over the next 10 years.

The Chief Officer for Finance highlighted that the report contained a number of appendices including budget amounts for all service areas, growth and savings items agreed as well as pay costs and a risk analysis.

On Tuesday the Government had announced the final funding settlement figures for 2015/16 which were unchanged from the provisional figures issued before Christmas.

The figures assumed that once again no funding would be passed on to Town and Parish Councils for Council Tax Support. This was one of the three options Council would be asked to consider and were included in the recommendations.

Appendix H contained a review of reserves which included the recommendation to set up an On-Street Parking Reserve where any surpluses above budget could be held before being spent on permitted purposes.

A Property Investment Reserve was also to be established as Council had previously agreed to set aside £5m for the Property Investment Strategy. This would come from £2.2m from the General Fund Reserve and smaller amounts from other reserves. The balance would be funded from capital receipts.

Public Sector Equality Duty

Members noted that consideration had been given to impacts under the Public Sector Equality Duty.

Agenda Item 6d

Resolved: That Council be recommended to:

- (a) Approve the Summary of Council Expenditure and Council Tax set out in Appendix E to the report.
- (b) Approve the 10-year budget 2015/16 to 2024/25 which is the guiding framework for the detailed approval of future years' budgets set out in Appendix B to the report, including the growth and savings proposals set out in Appendix C-D to the report, and that where possible any variations during and between years be met from the Budget Stabilisation Reserve: and
- (c) Approve the changes to reserves set out in Appendix H.
- (d) Members' views are sought on the issue of Council Tax Support funding for Town and Parish Councils and one of the following options be approved:
 - i. An amount of funding is passed to Town and Parish Councils for Council Tax Support in 2015/16 equivalent to the amount passed on in 2013/14 less 48% (the Council's reduction in Revenue Support Grant);
 - ii. A different amount is passed to Town and Parish Councils for Council Tax Support in 2015/16;
 - iii. No funding is passed to Town and Parish Councils for Council Tax Support in 2015/16.

Item 6 (e) – Adoption of the Allocations & Development Management Plan

The attached report was considered by the Cabinet on 5 February 2015, relevant minute extract below:

Cabinet – 5 February 2015 (Minute 77)

The Portfolio Holder for Local Planning & Environment introduced a report setting out the Allocations and Development Management Plan (ADMP) which supplemented the Core Strategy by identifying housing allocations, areas of employment and important areas of open space. The ADMP also set out new development management policies, which were consistent with the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF).

The ADMP was examined by the Planning Inspectorate in March 2014 and a consultation on the Inspector's Main Modifications was held 21 August – 2 October 2014. The Inspector's final report had been issued and found the Plan sound, subject to the incorporation of the Main Modifications previously consulted upon.

The Chairman highlighted that the Inspector of the London Plan had reported that the published housing numbers were incorrect. There would be a meeting on 19 February 2015 with Council's in the South East and East of England to discuss the impact this may have. The Chief Officer for Planning highlighted that the London Debate had highlighted the importance of having an up to date Development Plan.

The Chairman also highlighted that consideration should be given to bringing the 300,000 empty homes into use.

Public Sector Equality Duty

Members noted that consideration had been given to impacts under the Public Sector Equality Duty.

Resolved: That Council be recommended that the Allocations and Development Management Plan, incorporating the Inspector's main modifications, minor amendments and factual updates, be adopted, published and copies made available at a price to be agreed by the Portfolio Holder.

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Item 7 (b) – Gambling Act 2005 and Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1982: Licence Fees 2015/2016

The attached report was considered by the Licensing Committee on 2 February 2015, relevant minute extract below:

Licensing Committee - 2 February 2015 (Minute 16)

The report set out the proposed fees for the Gambling Act 2005 and Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1982 for the year 1 April 2015 to 31 March 2016. The Licensing Partnership Manager informed Members that the recommendation in the report was also to include the fees set out in Appendix A and paragraph 11 of the report. The fees ensured that the Council complied with its statutory duty and ensured that the Gambling Licensing service remained self-financing in accordance with the Council's Service and Budget Plan.

In response to a question, Members were informed that the model used broke down the various steps to produce the licences and the increase had mostly been on areas where the Council did not have any licensees and had been based on the 'time' it would take if a licence of its type was submitted. The Licensing Partnership Manager gave Members the example of a bingo hall.

Public Sector Equality Duty

Members noted that consideration had been given to impacts under the Public Sector Equality Duty.

Resolved: That it be recommended to Full Council that the fee levels as set out in Appendix A and paragraph 11 in the report be approved.

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Item 7 (c) – Licensing - Draft Statement of Licensing Act 2003 Policy

The attached report was considered by the Licensing Committee on 2 February 2015, relevant minute extract below:

Licensing Committee - 2 February 2015 (Minute 17)

The report detailed consultation responses to the Council's proposed revision of Statement of Licensing Policy which set out the policies the Council would generally apply to promote the licensing objectives when making decisions on applications made under the 2003 Act.

Members noted that most of the comments made had already been implemented or been responded to sufficiently. A Member commented that there were formatting issues on page 38 of the agenda and that paragraph 17.12 was incomplete and carried over to paragraph 17.14. The committee was advised that the formatting and numbering would be adjusted. It was also brought to Members attention that the quorum for the Licensing Hearing was 2 and therefore paragraph 16.2 should include the word generally so that the sentence would read as 'A sub committee will normally consist of 3 suitably trained members'.

A Member commented that paragraph 3.8 did not read well and the word 'are' should be removed from the paragraph. In response to a question the Licensing Partnership Manager advised that the policy should incorporate other policies that the Council had and health was a key subject for the Council, therefore it was important that all policies within the council were linked and showed best practice. She clarified that licensees were not being asked to diagnose health issues but rather, when they were aware of conditions that their customers may have, to consider whether it was suitable to keep serving alcohol to that individual.

Public Sector Equality Duty

Members noted that consideration had been given to impacts under the Public Sector Equality Duty.

Resolved: That subject to the comments of the Licensing Committee, Full Council approve the statement of the Licensing Policy.

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