

COUNCIL

25 February 2016

EXTRACT OF MINUTES OF CABINET HELD 10 FEBRUARY 2016

REPORT OF THE DEMOCRATIC SERVICES MANAGER

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RECENT REFERENCES:

None

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

Appendix A to this report sets out extracts from the minutes of Cabinet held 10 February 2016 for the consideration of Council.

RECOMMENDATION:

That Council considers the matters set out in the attached minute extracts.

Appendix A

Cabinet Minute Extract – 10 February 2016

1. **HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT (HRA) BUDGET 2016/17 AND BUSINESS PLAN**

(Report CAB2761(HSG) refers)

MINUTE EXTRACT FROM CABINET (HOUSING) COMMITTEE HELD 3 FEBRUARY 2016

(Report CAB2771 refers)

Cabinet noted that Report CAB2771 had not been notified for inclusion on the agenda within the statutory deadline. The Chairman agreed to accept the item onto the agenda as a matter requiring urgent consideration to enable it to be considered prior to The Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 22 February 2016 and Council on 25 February 2016.

Cabinet noted that there was still uncertainty regarding Government proposals contained within the Housing and Planning Bill and the budget had therefore be produced on a “worst case” basis. The overall good level of work of the Housing Team was also commended and particularly the continuation of the new homes scheme and maintenance of the existing housing stock to a good standard.

However, the risks of the impact of future Government proposals was also highlighted. The Assistant Director (Chief Housing Officer) advised that work had started on identifying properties that might have to be sold and the impact of loss of rental. However, this would be mitigated to some extent by additional rental payment received from new Council homes built. A report would be considered at the next Cabinet (Housing) Committee on 22 March 2016 to examine these matters further.

At the invitation of the Chairman, Mr D Light (TACT) confirmed that TACT had nothing further to add to comments made at the Cabinet (Housing) Committee which confirmed they had no objections to the proposals.

Cabinet agreed to the following for the reasons set out above and as outlined in the Report.

RECOMMENDED:

1. THAT THE HRA REVISED BUDGET FOR 2015/16 AND THE BUDGET FOR 2016/17 AS SET OUT IN APPENDICES 1 AND 2 TO THE REPORT BE APPROVED.

2. THAT GARAGE RENTS FOR TENANTS BE INCREASED BY 4% AND FOR NON-TENANTS BY 10% WITH EFFECT FROM 4 APRIL 2016.

3. THAT THE HOUSING CAPITAL PROGRAMME FOR 2015/16 TO 2020/21 AS SET OUT IN APPENDICES 3 AND 4 TO THE REPORT BE APPROVED.

4. THAT THE PROPOSALS FOR FUNDING THE HOUSING CAPITAL PROGRAMME AS DETAILED IN APPENDIX 5, INCLUDING THE BORROWING REQUIRED FOR 2015/16, BE APPROVED.

5. THAT AUTHORITY BE GIVEN TO INCUR CAPITAL EXPENDITURE OF £9.257M FOR THE MAINTENANCE, IMPROVEMENT AND RENEWAL PROGRAMME AS DETAILED IN THE REPORT AND APPENDIX 3 TO THE REPORT, IN ACCORDANCE WITH FINANCIAL PROCEDURE RULE 6.4 (NOTING THAT WITHIN THIS, FOR ANY SCHEMES IN EXCESS OF £100,000 A FINANCIAL APPRAISAL WILL BE APPROVED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE SCHEME OF DELEGATIONS).

6. THAT THE ASSISTANT DIRECTOR (CHIEF HOUSING OFFICER), IN CONSULTATION WITH THE HEAD OF FINANCE AND PORTFOLIO HOLDER FOR HOUSING, BE GIVEN DELEGATED AUTHORITY TO MAKE ADJUSTMENTS WITHIN THE OVERALL MAINTENANCE, IMPROVEMENT AND RENEWAL PROGRAMME AS SET OUT IN APPENDIX 3 TO THE REPORT, INCLUDING THE FLEXIBILITY TO SUBSTITUTE PROJECTS AND RE-BALANCE EXPENDITURE WITHIN AND BETWEEN THE DIFFERENT ELEMENTS/SCHEMES IN ORDER TO MEET OPERATIONAL NEEDS, CHANGING PRIORITIES AND COMMITMENT TARGETS, WITH ANY CHANGES BEING REPORTED TO COMMITTEE AT THE EARLIEST OPPORTUNITY.

7. THAT THE HRA BUSINESS PLAN SELF FINANCING ASSUMPTIONS AS DETAILED IN APPENDIX 6 BE NOTED AND THAT FORECAST WORKING BALANCES BE APPROVED.