

CABINET**8 February 2017****Attendance:**

Councillor Horrill -	<i>Leader and Portfolio Holder for Housing Services (Chairman) (P)</i>
Councillor Weston -	<i>Deputy Leader and Portfolio Holder for Built Environment (P)</i>
Councillor Ashton -	<i>Portfolio Holder for Professional Services (P)</i>
Councillor Godfrey -	<i>Portfolio Holder for Finance (P)</i>
Councillor Griffiths -	<i>Portfolio Holder for Health & Wellbeing (P)</i>
Councillor Humby -	<i>Portfolio Holder for Business Partnerships (P)</i>
Councillor Miller -	<i>Portfolio Holder for Economy & Estates (P)</i>
Councillor Warwick -	<i>Portfolio Holder for Environment (P)</i>

Others in attendance who addressed the meeting:

Councillors Bell, Porter, Tait, Thompson and Weir

Others in attendance who did not address the meeting:

Councillors Evans, Learney and Prince

1. DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS

Councillors Godfrey and Humby declared disclosable pecuniary interests in respect of agenda items due to their roles as a County Council employee and County Council member respectively. However, as there was no material conflict of interest, they remained in the room, spoke and voted under the dispensation granted on behalf of the Standards Committee to participate and vote in all matters which might have a County Council involvement.

Councillor Ashton declared a personal and prejudicial interest in respect of the Winchester Theatre Trust due to his wife's role as Chairman of the Trust. He left the room during consideration of this item, taking no part in the debate or decision thereon.

2. MEMBERSHIP OF CABINET COMMITTEES ETC

Councillor Horrill advised that following the appointment of new Cabinet Members (PHD734 refers) and changes to Cabinet Committees made at the previous Cabinet meeting, a number of further changes were required. These were agreed as set out below:

- a) Cabinet (Local Plan) Committee – change to invited Councillors to include Councillor Read (in place of Councillor Griffiths);

- b) East Hants/WCC Joint Environmental Services Committee – Councillors Warwick and Griffiths to be appointed (in place of Councillors Pearson and Horrill);
- c) Cabinet (Housing) Committee – change to invited Councillors to remove Councillor McLean;
- d) Independent Review Report of Silver Hill Informal Policy Group – Councillor Horrill to be appointed (in place of Councillor Godfrey);
- e) Asset Purchase Scheme Board (Report CAB2872, 7 December 2016 refers) – change membership to also include the Portfolio Holder for Finance (in addition to the Leader).

Cabinet agreed to the following for the reasons set out above.

RESOLVED:

That the changes to the membership of Cabinet Committees etc be agreed as set out above.

3. **MINUTES**

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the previous meetings held on 18 January 2017 be approved and adopted.

4. **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

At the invitation of the Chairman, Council Tait addressed Cabinet regarding the Government's recently published Housing White Paper which promoted the right homes in the right places. In summary, he believed the Council's stated housing requirements were too low and highlighted the importance of insisting on the Council's policy of 40% affordable housing. He believed that this should be provided on-site and mentioned the North Whiteley MDA where the Council had agreed to a contribution for off-site provision. He welcomed further discussion regarding the provision of more affordable homes in the Winchester town area.

Councillor Horrill stated that the Council would consider the contents of the White Paper and involve all Councillors in discussions. She also acknowledged the requirement to consider the provision of different housing tenures. She highlighted that the Council had set a target of delivering 300 new Council homes by 2020.

5. **LEADER AND PORTFOLIO HOLDER ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Councillor Weston announced that the Council's Local Plan had been found to be sound by the Inspector, subject to some minor modifications and clarification points. The Council had an agreed five year supply of land for housing. Councillor Horrill thanked the Head of Strategic Planning and other officers for their work in developing the Local Plan.

Councillor Warwick stated that the Great British Spring Clean initiative would take place from 3 to 5 May 2017 with further information available on the Council's website or in Parish Connect.

Councillor Griffiths highlighted the Council's recent action against flytipping in the District which included six prosecutions, two cases pending and a further three cases under investigation.

Councillor Ashton stated that a half day workshop had recently been facilitated by the Council on Digital Visioning to examine how new and developing technology could be utilised to meet the Council's various requirements (for example, in relation to tourism, parking and residents). Participants had included Virgin Media, IBM, local universities and the County Council.

6. **COUNCIL STRATEGY 2017-2020**
(Report CAB2899 refers)

Councillor Horrill drew Members' attention to the five key areas of the Strategy, as summarised in Paragraph 8.2 of the Report, and emphasised that the aim was for the Strategy to be a "living document". Over 400 responses had been received to the consultation on the Strategy, with overall support for the Council's aspirations. The table at Paragraph 9.3 of the Report summarised the highest number of comments received and the Council's proposed response. Councillor Horrill highlighted that the Council's focus should be outward rather than inward and involve listening and learning from local residents and businesses, and also other local authorities.

At the invitation of the Chairman, Councillors Thompson, Porter and Bell addressed Cabinet and their comments are summarised below.

Councillor Thompson believed that the Strategy remained largely unchanged since the previous version and her concerns remained as stated at that stage. There was no overall prioritisation of projects and no cross-reference of outcomes between Portfolio Plans. She emphasised that consultation responses had emphasised environment issues as a key concern, but this area lacked targets, and the proposed entrepreneurial approach was the least liked. She remained concerned about the risks involved in this approach, in particular with the Strategic Asset Purchase Scheme which could include purchase of assets outside of the District. She also highlighted that the Council-run Guildhall was currently operating at a loss.

Councillor Porter welcomed the proposed new title of Council Strategy. However, she expressed concern about any proposals to adopt "Pay to Stay" for Council tenants. She also highlighted the following areas:

- the importance of mental health, particularly with regard to young people;
- working with other organisations promoting health, for example The Ramblers with health walks;

- tackling air quality issues, particularly poor air quality at children's height on walk/cycle to school routes;
- whilst popular with some, local large events did cause some concerns for nearby residents;
- flood prevention works should be a priority.

Councillor Bell acknowledged the Strategy included the environment as one of its five key areas but believed further steps could be taken and also highlighted the lack of cross-referencing between different Portfolio Plans. For example, the Housing Portfolio Plan could include the importance of renewables and energy efficiency and Business Partnership Portfolio Plan could refer to "green business". She also concurred with Councillor Porter's concerns regarding air quality, particular at children's walking levels and queried progress on new cycle routes funded from CIL receipts.

Councillor Horrill acknowledged the comment regarding cross-referencing but highlighted that it was a matter of judgement in how the Strategy was presented in order to keep its content to a reasonable length. However, there was a great deal of integration between proposals and a large amount of detail in other plans and strategies, which sat beneath the Council Strategy. Councillor Horrill also highlighted that it had been agreed that all Council reports would now include a section on environmental considerations in acknowledgement of its importance.

Cabinet also noted that the Council would seek to be working in partnership with other organisations in delivering the stated outcomes. Members commented that the Portfolio Holders worked closely with each other, with ongoing discussions and cross-referencing. Cabinet agreed that to include further detail risked making the Strategy too lengthy and consequentially less user-friendly.

Cabinet thanked the Corporate Director (Professional Services) and other officers involved in the preparation of the Strategy.

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

RECOMMENDED:

THAT THE REVISED COUNCIL STRATEGY 2017-20 BE AGREED.

7. **PAY POLICY STATEMENT 2017/18**
(Report CAB2897 refers)

Cabinet noted that under the Council Constitution Access to Information Procedure Rules (Rule 15.1 General Exception), this was a key decision which was not included in the Forward Plan. Under this procedure the Chairman of The Overview and Scrutiny Committee had been informed.

Councillor Ashton stated that the annual publication of the Statement was a requirement of the Localism Act 2011 and there were no changes proposed since last agreed. However, should changes be required during 2017/18 following further consideration by the new Chief Executive and Cabinet, an updated Statement would be brought forward for approval.

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

RECOMMENDED:

THAT THE PAY POLICY STATEMENT BE APPROVED, AS ATTACHED AS APPENDIX 1 TO THE REPORT.

8. **MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL STRATEGY, BUDGET AND COUNCIL TAX 2017/18**
(Report CAB2896 refers)

Councillor Godfrey highlighted that Government Grants were reducing by approximately £1.4m in 2017/18, which was approximately 5.5% of the Council's total General Fund revenue budget. He emphasised that careful financial planning for this reduction had mitigated the impact. However, in order to continue to deliver the Council's services and to ensure a balanced budget for 2017/18, an increase in Council Tax of £4.34 at Band D was proposed.

At the invitation of the Chairman, Councillor Thompson addressed Cabinet and in summary raised concerns about the lack of detail contained with the Report regarding proposed changes to Council services or attempts to increase revenue or reduce costs. She believed that the Council had received a significantly lower level of grant than average which offered a bad deal for the local taxpayer and suggested that the Leader lobby Government to address this. Councillor Thompson also expressed concern about the over-reliance on an unrealistic capital programme which she believed relied on the sale of high value homes on the Station Approach site. Local residents and Ward Councillors believed that any development of Station Approach should be at a lower density than currently proposed.

Councillor Godfrey responded that there was a great deal of information available in support of the budget proposals, but it was not appropriate to go into too great a level of detail within this Report. He highlighted that in 2018/19 the Council would not receive any Government grant and the proposals in the Capital Strategy were essential in order to address this shortfall. Each project would have its own detailed project business case. In addition he emphasised that the Council had, in conjunction with the Audit Committee, developed a new Risk Management Strategy which would assist in future decisions.

Councillor Godfrey highlighted that there were significant differences between Government settlements between rural Districts (such as Winchester) and

those in urban areas and he did not believe Winchester had been treated any differently by the Government than other similar authorities.

In response to questions, Councillor Godfrey stated that there remained a great deal of uncertainty regarding Business Rates Retention and therefore an amount of £1.0m is set aside within the business rates reserve for any unexpected fluctuations in retained business rates, for example appeals in excess of those already provided for.

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

RECOMMENDED:

1. THAT THE LEVEL OF GENERAL FUND BUDGET FOR 2017/18 BE AGREED AS SET OUT IN THE SUMMARY AT APPENDIX A TO THE REPORT.

2. THAT THE POLICY AS PREVIOUSLY AGREED BY THE COUNCIL ON 14 JULY 1999 (MIN 186 REFERS) BE CONFIRMED TO TREAT ALL EXPENSES OF THE COUNCIL AS GENERAL EXPENSES OTHER THAN THOSE SPECIFICALLY IDENTIFIED AND ITEMISED IN THE WINCHESTER TOWN ACCOUNT, AND IN CONSEQUENCE OF WHICH THE SUM OF £888,242 BE TREATED AS SPECIAL EXPENSES UNDER SECTION 35 OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT FINANCE ACT 1992 IN RESPECT OF THE WINCHESTER TOWN AREA, APPENDIX G.

3. THAT THE COUNCIL TAX FOR THE SPECIAL EXPENSES IN THE WINCHESTER TOWN AREA AT BAND D FOR 2017/18 BE INCREASED TO £65.21.

4. THAT THE BALANCE ON THE COLLECTION FUND FOR DISTRIBUTION TO THIS COUNCIL, CALCULATED IN JANUARY 2017 OF £149,824 FOR COUNCIL TAX, BE APPROVED.

5. THAT THE LEVEL OF COUNCIL TAX AT BAND D FOR CITY COUNCIL SERVICES FOR 2017/18 BE INCREASED TO £134.99.

6. THAT PARISH COUNCIL TAXES BE NOTED AS SET OUT IN APPENDIX H TO THE REPORT.

7. THAT THE CAPITAL PROGRAMME AND CAPITAL PROGRAMME FINANCING (APPENDICES C AND D TO THE REPORT, WHICH HAVE BEEN UPDATED FROM CAB2889

CAPITAL PROGRAMME AND STRATEGY, DUE TO CHANGES RESULTING FROM CAB2893(HSG)) BE APPROVED.

- 8. THAT IN RELATION TO MEMBERS' ALLOWANCES:**
- (A) THE GENERAL INFLATION INDEX IN THE MEMBERS' ALLOWANCES SCHEME BE NOT APPLIED FOR 2017/18.**
 - (B) THE INFLATION INDEX FOR 2017/18 FOR COUNCILLOR MILEAGE RATES BE APPLIED, SO AS TO CONTINUE THE LINK TO HMRC MILEAGE RATES, SHOULD HMRC MAKE ANY ADJUSTMENTS.**
 - (C) AN INDEPENDENT REMUNERATION PANEL BE APPOINTED TO UNDERTAKE A REVIEW OF THE COUNCIL'S MEMBERS ALLOWANCES SCHEME IN AUTUMN 2017, SO AS TO ALLOW ANY CHANGES TO BE INCLUDED IN THE BUDGET FOR 2018/19.**

9. THAT THE COUNCIL'S CONTINUING NEED TO PROMOTE CHANGE IN HOW IT DOES THINGS AND DRIVE TO REPLACE LOST CENTRAL GOVERNMENT GRANT WITH NEW FUNDING STREAMS, BE RECOGNISED AND SUPPORTED.

9. PROPOSED GRANT ALLOCATIONS FOR 2017/18
(Report CAB2888 refers)

Councillor Ashton left the meeting at the start of this item.

Cabinet had regard to the extract from the minutes of the Winchester Town Forum held 25 January 2017 regarding this report (Report CAB2902 below refers).

Councillor Miller drew Members' attention to the proposal that Integr8 Community be included within the organisations that would receive core funding in order to bring the KAYAC building back into use, although the details had not yet been finalised (Resolution 2 below refers).

During discussion, whilst acknowledging the work of local groups, it was queried whether it was appropriate for the Council to continue to award the amount of grants proposed in the current financial climate. Councillor Miller stated that it was hoped that the Council would continue to be able to support organisations and it was reviewing the current grants delivery system in order to make efficiency savings.

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

RESOLVED:

That, subject to the Council's approval of the Budget and Council Tax for 2017/18:

1. the proposed allocations totalling £754,330 for the financial year 2017/18 set out in Appendix 1, be approved;
2. the determination of the exact level of funding for Integr8 Community to bring the KAYAC building back into community use be delegated to the Assistant Director (Economy & Communities), in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Estates, up to a maximum figure of £40,000 in 2017/18;
3. the Assistant Director (Chief Housing Officer) be given delegated authority to determine the exact figure to be made available in Core Grants to Winchester Churches Nightshelter and Winchester Rent Deposit Scheme for 2017/18, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Housing Services;
4. the total allocation of £71,000 set out in the Report for Project Grants and Small Grants be approved, and authority be delegated to the Assistant Director (Economy & Communities) in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Estates to determine the apportionment of funds between these two grants programmes in order to ensure effective deployment of the budget;
5. that authority be delegated to the Assistant Director (Economy & Communities) in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Estates to determine awards of Project Grants up to a value of £5,000 from 2017/18 onwards;
6. a total allocation of £25,000 (including an allocation of £5,000 from the Economy & Arts budget) be approved, to continue delivery of apprenticeship support grants, access to work grants, micro-business development grants and business start-up grants;
7. authority be delegated to the Assistant Director (Economy & Communities) to determine the final apportionment of funds between the programmes referenced in Recommendation 4 above in order to ensure effective deployment of the budget;
8. an allocation of £10,000 from the Economy & Arts budget be approved to continue delivery of the cultural grants programme in 2017/18;
9. dependant on the General Fund 2016/17 outturn as a whole, any budget for Project Grants and Small Grants for 2016/17 which remains unallocated as at 31 March 2017 be added to the Grants and Commissioning Reserve for emergency or special

applications, to be determined by the Assistant Director (Economy & Communities) in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Estates.

10. **EXTRACT FROM THE MINUTES OF THE WINCHESTER TOWN FORUM HELD 25 JANUARY 2017**

(Report CAB2888 refers)

At the invitation of the Chairman, Councillor Weir addressed Cabinet as Chairman of the Winchester Town Forum. She highlighted the request from the Town Forum that Cabinet match the Forum's agreed funding of £60,000 for St Maurice's Covert. This was an additional £10,000 to the sum of £50,000 previously agreed at Cabinet. The additional funding was required to complete Phase 1 of the project.

Cabinet agreed to consider this request further and provide a response prior to the budget being agreed at Council on 23 February 2017.

Cabinet noted that the remaining recommendations contained within the minute extract had been agreed under consideration of Report CAB2888 and CAB2896 above.

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

RESOLVED:

That the extract from the minutes of the Winchester Town Forum held 25 January 2017 be noted and the recommendations contained therein be agreed, with the exception of the request to increase the one-off budget for St Maurice's Covert from £50,000 to £60,000 (which was deferred).

11. **TREASURY MANAGEMENT STRATEGY 2017/18**

(Report CAB2898 refers)

Councillor Godfrey emphasised the importance of the Strategy and thanked the Audit Committee for its monitoring role.

In response to questions, the Head of Finance confirmed that the Strategy did recognise both investment and liquidity risk.

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

RECOMMENDED:

1. THAT THE TREASURY MANAGEMENT STRATEGY STATEMENT (TMSS) 2017/18 AS SET OUT IN THIS REPORT BE APPROVED AND IMPLEMENTED FROM THE DATE OF THE

COUNCIL MEETING, AND ALSO THE FOLLOWING INDIVIDUAL ITEMS AS INCLUDED IN THE TMS:

- A) ANNUAL BORROWING STRATEGY 2017/18 (SEE PARAGRAPH 11);**
- B) ANNUAL INVESTMENT STRATEGY 2017/18 (SEE PARAGRAPH 12);**
- C) PRUDENTIAL INDICATORS 2017/18 TO 2019/20 (SEE ANNEX C);**
- D) MINIMUM REVENUE PROVISION (MRP) POLICY STATEMENT (SEE ANNEX D).**

2. THAT THE TREASURY MANAGEMENT STRATEGY BE KEPT UNDER REGULAR REVIEW TO TAKE ACCOUNT OF ANY CHANGES IN THE CURRENT GLOBAL ECONOMIC SITUATION.

12. MINUTES OF THE BAR END FORUM HELD 9 JANUARY 2017

(Report CAB2901 refers)

Cabinet agreed to the following for the reasons and outlined in the Report.

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the Bar End Forum held 9 January 2017 be received (as attached as Appendix A to the minutes).

13. MINUTES OF THE CENTRAL WINCHESTER REGENERATION INFORMAL POLICY GROUP (IPG) HELD 18 JANUARY 2017

(Report CAB2900 refers)

As Chairman of the IPG, Councillor Weston updated Members on the Community Planning Weekend for the Central Winchester area, to be held on 24 and 25 March 2017. The event was to be run by John Thompson Partnership, and all Councillors and key stakeholders would be invited. Councillor Weston confirmed that the event would be formally launched on 10 February 2017.

More details of both events would be made available shortly.

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

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the Central Winchester Regeneration Informal Policy Group held 18 January 2017 be received (as attached as Appendix B to the minutes).

14. **FUTURE ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION**

RESOLVED:

That the list of future items, as set out in the Forward Plan for March 2017, be noted.

The meeting commenced at 10.00am and concluded at 11.30am

Chairman