



NOTICE OF MEETING

CABINET

MONDAY, 8 FEBRUARY 2016 AT 1.00 PM

EXECUTIVE MEETING ROOM - THE GUILDHALL

Telephone enquiries to Joanne Wildsmith, Democratic Services Tel 9283 4057
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Membership

Councillor Donna Jones (Chair)

Councillor Luke Stubbs
Councillor Ken Ellcome
Councillor Lee Mason
Councillor Robert New

Councillor Linda Symes
Councillor Steve Wemyss
Councillor Neill Young

(NB This Agenda should be retained for future reference with the minutes of this meeting.)

Please note that the agenda, minutes and non-exempt reports are available to view online on the Portsmouth City Council website: www.portsmouth.gov.uk

Deputations by members of the public may be made on any item where a decision is going to be taken. The request should be made in writing to the contact officer (above) by 12 noon of the working day before the meeting, and must include the purpose of the deputation (for example, for or against the recommendations). Email requests are accepted.

AGENDA

- 1 Apologies for Absence**
- 2 Declarations of Interests**
- 3 Record of Previous Decision Meeting - 3 December 2015 (Pages 1 - 10)**

A copy of the record of the previous decisions taken at Cabinet on 3 December 2015 is attached.

RECOMMENDED that the record of decisions of the previous decisions taken at Cabinet on 3 December is approved as a correct record and signed by the Leader.

4 Council Tax Discounts (including Policy on Empty Dwellings) (Pages 11 - 20)

The purpose of the report by the Director of Community and Communication is to ask Council to approve changes to Portsmouth City Council's "Council Tax Policy for Second Homes, Long Term Empty Properties and determining discounts for certain dwellings" for implementation on 1 April 2016 (attached as appendix 1).

RECOMMENDED

That Cabinet agree and recommend to Council

- (1) To continue the current policy of 0% council tax discounts on second homes**
- (2) To continue the current policy of giving 40% council tax discounts for 12 months for empty and unfurnished properties undergoing major repair**
- (3) To amend the first phase of the empty homes period to reduce the council tax discount from 100% to 0% with effect from 1 April 2016.**

5 Portsmouth City Council Budget & Council Tax 2016/17 & Medium Term Budget Forecast 2017/18 to 2019/20 (Pages 21 - 80)

Purpose of Report

The primary purpose of this report is to set the Council's overall Budget for the forthcoming year 2016/17 and the associated level of Council Tax necessary to fund that Budget.

The report makes recommendations on the level of Council spending for 2016/17 and the level of Council Tax in the context of the Council's Medium Term Financial Strategy in order to achieve its stated aim as follows:

"In year" expenditure matches "in year" income over the medium term whilst continuing the drive towards regeneration of the City and protecting the most important and valued services

The recommended Budget for 2016/17 has been prepared on the basis of the decisions taken by the City Council on the 8th December 2015 relating to:

- The Council Tax proposals for the general increase as well as the additional flexibility to increase Council Tax for Adults Social Care Services
- The approved budget savings
- The transfer from the MTRS Reserve to increase the size of the Business Intervention Fund to increase the scale and pace of the programme of Service interventions

This report also provides a comprehensive revision of the Council's rolling 3

year financial forecast for the new period 2017/18 to 2019/20 (i.e. extending the forecast to 2019/20) considering both the future outlook for both spending and funding. In that context, wider recommendations are made regarding the levels of reserves to be maintained and additional contributions to the Capital Programme in order to meet the Council's aspirations for the City as well as maintaining the Council's overall financial strength.

In particular, this report sets out the following:

- (a) The challenging financial climate facing the City Council in 2016/17 and beyond and the consequential budget deficits that result
- (b) A brief summary of the Medium Term Financial Strategy for achieving the necessary savings as approved in the report to Council in November 2013
- (c) A brief recap of the budget decisions taken by the City Council at its meeting of the 8th December 2015
- (d) The Revised Revenue Budget and Cash Limits for the current year
- (e) The Local Government Finance Settlement for 2016/17 to 2019/20
- (f) The Business Rate income for 2016/17 and future years
- (g) The Council Tax base and recommended Council Tax for 2016/17
- (h) The proposed Revenue Budget and Cash Limits for 2016/17
- (i) The forecast Revenue Budget, provisional Cash Limits and revised Savings Requirements for 2017/18, 2018/19 and 2019/20
- (j) Estimated Revenue Balances over the period 2015/16 to 2019/20
- (k) The Medium Term Resource Strategy (MTRS) Reserve, its financial position and proposed use to achieve cashable efficiencies
- (l) The forecast Collection Fund balance as at 31 March 2016 for both Council Tax and Business Rates
- (m) The Non Domestic Rates poundage for 2016/17
- (n) The statement of the Section 151 Officer on the robustness of the budget in compliance with the requirements of the Local Government Act 2003.

RECOMMENDED

That Cabinet agrees and recommends to Council that the recommendations in paragraphs 3.1-3.8 be approved.

6 Capital Programme 2015/16 to 2020/21 (Pages 81 - 150)

Purpose

The purpose of this report is to:

- Summarise the key features of the Capital Strategy approved by the City Council on 4th February 2009 and the revised Capital Investment Priorities of the City Council, approved by City Council on 24th January 2012
- Highlight the inter-relationship between the capital programme, the revenue budget and the Medium Term Financial Strategy
- Determine the corporate capital resources available including:
 - Adjustments for under and overspendings to the existing approved Capital Programme
 - Update the capital resources available for all new and changed grants, capital receipts, revenue contributions and other contributions
 - The identification of additional assets which the Administration wishes to declare surplus to requirements
- Seek approval of the overall Capital Programme and "new starts" (including the Housing Investment Capital Programme) for 2015/16 and future years in accordance with the Capital Strategy
- Describe and approve the Prudential Indicators arising from the revised Capital Programme 2015/16 to 2020/21
- Delegate authority to the S.151 Officer to alter the mix of capital funding to make best use of City Council resources

RECOMMENDED

That Cabinet agrees and recommends to Council that the recommendations set out in paragraphs 3.1 and 3.2 of the report be approved

7 Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) Implementation Grant (New Burdens) 2016-17 allocation (Supplementary Item) (Pages 151 - 154)

A supplementary item has been added to the agenda with the agreement of the Leader of the Council; the report by the Director of Children's Services was not available at the time of publication of the main agenda as this was dependent upon confirmation of the grant, which was only made on 29 January 2016. The reason for urgency is the need to confirm staff in post following the announcement of the SEND Implementation Grant for 2016-17.

The purpose of the report is to seek agreement to allocate the Special Educational Needs Implementation Grant for 2016-17.

This funding will be used to continue to fund the additional staff who have been recruited to carry out the transfer of existing statements and learning disability assessments to education health and care plans, as specified in the new special educational needs and disabilities legislation.

The funding allocated to Portsmouth for 2016-17 is £131,559. This has been allocated as an un-ring fenced grant and so Cabinet approval is required in order to allocate this grant to the education directorate to support continued implementation of the SEND reforms.

RECOMMENDED that the Cabinet:

- (1) Approve the full allocation of the Special Educational Needs Implementation Grant of £131,559 in 2016-17.**
- (2) Approve the proposals for utilising the grant to continue to fund the staff who have been employed on a fixed term basis to enable successful transfer of existing statements and learning disability assessments to education health and care plans.**

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