

EXECUTIVE BOARD

Monday 28 January 2008

COUNCILLORS PRESENT: Councillors John Goddard (Chair), David Rundle (Vice-Chair) Mohammed Altaf-Khan, Jim Campbell, Jean Fooks, Sajjad Malik, Patrick Murray and Matthew Sellwood.

OFFICERS PRESENT FOR THE WHOLE OF THE MEETING: Peter Sloman (Chief Executive), Tim Sadler and Michael Crofton-Briggs (Interim Executive Directors), Sarah Fogden and Roy Summers (Finance), Jeremy Thomas and Brenda Lammin (Legal and Democratic Services).

OFFICERS PRESENT FOR PART OF THE MEETING: Pat Jones (Legal and Democratic Services), Lorraine Freeman and Mark Jaggard (City Development), Peter McQuitty and Claire Taylor (Policy, Performance and Communications).

247. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Antonia Bance and Caroline Van Zyl.

248. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

249. PUBLIC QUESTIONS

There were no questions.

250. PROPOSED EXPENDITURE OF FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTIONS MADE TO THE COUNCIL UNDER PLANNING AGREEMENTS

The Head of City Development submitted a report (previously circulated and now appended).

Resolved that Council be RECOMMENDED to: -

- (1) agree to the inclusion of new schemes to be added to the Capital Programme and additional contributions to schemes already in the Capital Programme, as set out in appendix 1 of the report;

- (2) release developer contributions totalling £1,524,261.03 to the County Council as Highway Authority as the mini highway agency agreement will terminate in November 2008, as set out in appendix 2 to the report.

(No member voted against.)

251. MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL STRATEGY 2008/09 TO 2010/11

The Head of Finance submitted a report (previously circulated and now appended). The Board also considered recommendations of the Finance Scrutiny Committee, as set out in the supplementary report tabled at the meeting.

Resolved to: -

- (1) approve the Medium Term Financial Strategy 2008/09 to 2010/11;
- (2) note that the portfolio holder (Councillor Campbell) accepted the comments of the Finance Scrutiny Committee in respect of the need to move away from aspirational targets and towards measurable ones, and the need to build into the consultation process more time for cross party discussions on corporate priorities (noting that the senior management restructure at the end of 2007 had meant that the Medium Term Financial Strategy had not been produced as early as he may have wished this year).

(Councillors Malik and Sellwood abstained.)

252. BUDGET 2008/09 TO 2010/11

The Head of Finance submitted a report (previously circulated and now appended) together with a supplementary document (now appended) setting out amendments and additions to the report. The Board also considered recommendations of the Finance Scrutiny Committee, as set out in the supplementary report tabled at the meeting.

The Leader of the Council commented that the City Council (and local government as a whole) had received its worst Comprehensive Spending Review settlement in 10 years, and no settlements over the past 10 years had been generous. This, together with new burdens imposed by central government but not fully funded by central government, and other external factors outside of the Council's control, made budget setting very difficult. Councillor Goddard emphasised the need for the Council to take a longer term view when setting its budget and to ensure that everything contained in the budget was energy efficient and took into account the effects of climate change.

Resolved to: -

- (1) RECOMMEND Council to: -

- (a) approve the General Fund budget at section 1 of the budget book;
 - (b) approve the Housing Revenue Account budget at section 2 of the budget book and an average rent increase of 6.25%;
 - (c) approve the Capital Programme;
 - (d) approve the allocation of the next tranche of one-off funds received to replace the General Fund budget risk contingency for high risk savings, up to the value of 100% of the high risk savings;
 - (e) agree that all growth spending items can only proceed once the section 151 Officer is assured that savings are being delivered (paragraph 14) and following the approval of a business case by Executive Board, as set out in paragraph 13 of the report;
 - (f) agree that in determining the 2007/08 financial outturn, the Chief Executive and Section 151 Officer can approve technical adjustments of funds between revenue and capital in order to optimise the Council's financial position in line with the Medium Term Financial Strategy;
- (2) note the schedule of fees and charges, as set out in the supplementary document submitted by the Heads of Finance, and that this would form the basis of proposals to be submitted to Council for adoption as part of the overall budget;
 - (3) request that more information be provided on the business case for new spend proposals so that members could make informed decisions on priorities;
 - (4) note the recommendations of the Finance Scrutiny Committee and the Portfolio Holders' responses, as set out in the supplementary report tabled at the meeting.

(Councillors Malik and Sellwood abstained.)

253. CORPORATE PLAN 2008-11

The Head of Policy, Performance and Communications submitted a report (previously circulated and now appended). The Board also considered recommendations of the Finance Scrutiny Committee, as set out in the supplementary report tabled at the meeting.

Resolved to: -

- (1) note and welcome the concept draft Corporate Plan 2008-11;
- (2) note the long list of corporate priorities, and suggest that a shorter list of

corporate priorities and action points should be included when the Corporate Plan was submitted to Council for adoption;

- (3) ask officers to include in the report to Council a recommendation authorising officers to make any further amendments to the Corporate Plan necessary to reflect decisions made on the Budget.

(No member voted against.)

254. MINUTES

Resolved that the minutes (previously circulated) of the meeting of the Board held on 7 January 2008 be approved as a correct record.

(No member voted against.)

The meeting began at 9.00 am and ended at 10.05 am.