

CENTRAL BEDFORDSHIRE COUNCIL

At a meeting of the **COUNCIL** held in the Council Chamber, Priory House, Monks Walk, Shefford on Thursday, 25 February 2016.

PRESENT

Cllr D Bowater (Chairman)
Cllr Mrs C F Chapman MBE (Vice-Chairman)

Cllrs	Mrs A Barker R D Berry M C Blair A D Brown J Chatterley K M Collins N B Costin I Dalgarno S Dixon Mrs A L Dodwell P Downing P A Duckett K Ferguson F Firth Mrs J Freeman E Ghent C C Gomm Mrs S A Goodchild	Cllrs	Ms A M W Graham Mrs D B Gurney C Hegley P Hollick J G Jamieson K Janes M R Jones J Kane D J Lawrence Mrs J G Lawrence K C Matthews Ms C Maudlin D McVicar R Morris T Nicols A Ryan B Saunders J A G Saunders	Cllrs	D Shelvey P Smith B J Spurr R C Stay T Stock T Swain G Tubb A M Turner M A G Versallion B Walker N Warren B Wells R D Wenham T Woodward J N Young A Zerny
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Cllrs	L Birt Mrs S Clark	Cllrs	R W Johnstone G Perham I Shingler
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Officers:	Miss H Bell	–	Committee Services Officer
	Mr R Carr	–	Chief Executive
	Mrs D Broadbent-Clarke	–	Director of Improvement and Corporate Services
	Mr M Coiffait	–	Director of Community Services
	Mrs S Harrison	–	Director of Children's Services
	Mr J Longhurst	–	Director of Regeneration and Business
	Mrs J Ogley	–	Director of Social Care, Health and Housing
	Ms M Peaston	–	Committee Services Manager
	Mrs M Scott	–	Director of Public Health
	Mr C Warboys	–	Chief Finance Officer

C/15/75. **Minutes**

RESOLVED

That the minutes of the meeting held on 21 January 2016 be confirmed and signed by the Chairman as a correct record subject to recording Councillor Johnstone as having been present.

C/15/75. **Minutes**

RESOLVED

That the minutes of the meeting held on 21 January 2016 be confirmed and signed by the Chairman as a correct record subject to recording Councillor Johnstone as having been present.

C/15/76. **Members' Interests**

No declarations of interests were declared.

C/15/77. **Chairman's Announcements and Communications**

1. The Chairman explained that in accordance with Local Authorities (Standing Order) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2014 there would be a recorded vote for agenda items 7 (c), (d), (e) and (g).
2. The Chairman advised that he would be hosting an event at the Grove Theatre Dunstable on 24 April 2016 called 'It takes two', comprising the West End's leading ladies and men.
3. The Chairman advised that he had attended commencement of build ceremonies at Leighton Middle School and The Church of England Academy, Cranfield.
4. The Chairman advised that a photographer would be taking action shots during the meeting for the Communications team to use for the promotion of the web casting service.

C/15/78. **Leader of the Council's Announcements and Communications**

The Leader made the following announcements:

- The Household and Waste Recycling Centre, Biggleswade, had reopened, following its refurbishment
- Priory View Independent Living scheme would be opening shortly
- Flitwick Leisure Centre would be opening on Monday 29 February 2016
- Good progress was being made on the A5/M1 Link Road
- The Executive had put forward plans for the redevelopment of Dunstable Leisure Centre incorporating a replacement library.

C/15/79. **Questions, Statements and Deputations**

The Chairman invited former Central Bedfordshire Councillor, Rita Egan to ask a question under the Public Participation Provisions set out at Annex 1 of Part A4 of the Constitution.

Ms Egan asked a question about how the Council intended to take account of the outcomes from the recent budget consultation.

The Executive Member for Corporate Resources explained the Council's approach to consultation and how the feedback was used to inform decision-making.

C/15/80.

Recommendations from the Executive

(a) Traded Services to Schools & Academies – Proposed Charges for 2016/17.

The Council considered a recommendation from the Executive proposing charges for traded services to schools and academies for non statutory services for the year ahead. An inflation rate had been applied in line with the Council's Budget Strategy.

RESOLVED

that the charges for 2016/17 for non-statutory services to schools and academies be approved.

(b) Redevelopment of Dunstable Leisure Centre and Library

The Council considered a recommendation from the Executive for revised proposals for the re-development of the Dunstable leisure centre and library.

RESOLVED

that an additional £3.519m be allocated to the redevelopment of Dunstable Leisure Centre and Library in accordance with the revised option 7 as set out in the report to the Executive, on 9 February 2016.

(c) Budget 2016/17 & Medium Term Financial Plan

The Council considered recommendations from the meeting of the Executive held on 9 February 2016 seeking approval of the proposed Medium Term Financial Plan and Revenue Budget 2016/17.

An explanatory report was also noted, which set out the additional transitional funding sums announced recently by the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government for - 2016/17 and 2017/18 and the intention to use these sums to reduce the call on reserves.

Additionally, Members also noted the full results of the consultation which had been carried out on the proposed budget.

In his introduction, the Executive Member for Corporate Resources drew attention to the factors which had influenced the proposed budget and the financial challenges faced by local authorities. He referred to the significant social and economic drivers of change within Central Bedfordshire across the medium term and beyond. He commented that

the budget had to be sustainable, affordable and support the Council's priorities. He advised that transitional funds had been announced recently that he was grateful to local MP's for helping to make this Council's case to Government.

The Leaders of the Independent and Labour Groups commented on the proposed budget. The Executive Member for Corporate Resources thanked Members for their supportive comments which had been made and emphasised that the budget proposals had been drawn up with a view to supporting delivery of front line services.

RESOLVED

- 1. that the Revenue Budget for 2016/17 and the Medium Term Financial Plan for 2016/17 to 2019/20, be approved;**
- 2. that in line with Government guidance, the following increases in council tax (CBC element) for residents of Central Bedfordshire be approved:**
 - (a) a Band D increase of £25.51, representing a 1.95% increase on the charge for 2015/16; and**
 - (b) a Band D increase of £26.17, representing a 2.0% increase on the charge for 2015/16, reflecting a precept of this amount to help fund adult social care costs.**

In total the Band D increase will be £51.68, representing a 3.95% increase in the charge for 2015/16. The CBC element of Band D council tax for 2016/17 will therefore be £1,360.01.

In accordance with The Local Authorities (Standing Orders) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2014, a recorded vote was taken.

Those in favour of the motions were:

Councillors: Barker, Berry, Blair, Bowater, Brown, Chapman, Chatterley, Collins, Costin, Dalgarno, Dixon, Dodwell, Downing, Duckett, ferguson, Firth, Freeman, Ghent, Gomm, Goodchild, Graham, Gurney, Hegley, Hollick, Jamieson, Janes, Jones, Kane, D Lawrence, J Lawrence, Matthews, Maudlin, McVicar, Morris, Nicols, Ryan, B Saunders, J Saunders, Shelvey, Smith, Spurr, Stay, Stock, Swain, Tubb, Turner, Versallion, Walker, Warren, Wells, Wenham, Woodward, Young.

Councillor Zerny voted against the motion.

(d) Capital Programme 2016/17 to 2019/20

The Council considered the recommendations from a meeting of the Executive held on 9 February 2016 in respect of the proposed Capital Programme for 2016/17 to 2019/20.

RESOLVED

that the Capital Programme for 2016/17 to 2019/20 be approved.

In accordance with The Local Authorities (Standing Orders) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2014, a recorded vote was taken.

Those in favour of the motion were:

Councillors: Barker, Berry, Blair, Bowater, Brown, Chapman, Chatterley, Collins, Costin, Dalgarno, Dixon, Dodwell, Downing, Duckett, Ferguson, Firth, Freeman, Ghent, Gomm, Goodchild, Graham, Gurney, Hegley, Hollick, Jamieson, Janes, Jones, Kane, D Lawrence, J Lawrence, Matthews, Maudlin, McVicar, Morris, Nicols, Ryan, B Saunders, J Saunders, Shelvey, Smith, Spurr, Stay, Stock, Swain, Tubb, Turner, Versallion, Walker, Warren, Wells, Wenham, Woodward, Young & Zerny.

No Councillors voted against the motion.

(e) Budget report for the Housing Revenue Account(Landlord Business Plan)

The Council considered the recommendations from the meeting of the Executive held on 9 February 2016 in respect of the Housing Revenue Account (Landlord Business Plan)

RESOLVED

that the Housing Revenue Account (HRA) budget proposals for 2016/17 be approved, as follows:

- 1. that the recent legislative changes relating to Housing Finance and their impact on the Landlord Business Plan, be noted;**
- 2. that the HRA's debt portfolio and interest payments due in 2015/16, be noted;**
- 3. that the intention to commence principal debt repayments from 2017/18, as approved previously by Council in February 2015, be noted;**
- 4. that the Landlord Business Investment Plan, which proposes HRA investment throughout the Council area, be approved;**

5. that the HRA Revenue Budget for 2016/17 and the Landlord Business Plan summary at Appendices A and B to the Executive report, be approved;
6. that the 2016/17 to 2019/20 HRA Capital Programme at Appendix C to the Executive report, be approved;

In accordance with The Local Authorities (Standing Orders)(England)(Amendment) Regulations 2014, a recorded vote was taken.

Those in favour of the motions were:

Councillors: Barker, Berry, Blair, Bowater, Brown, Chapman, Chatterley, Collins, Costin, Dalgarno, Dixon, Dodwell, Downing, Duckett, Ferguson, Firth, Freeman, Ghent, Gomm, Goodchild, Graham, Gurney, Hegley, Hollick, Jamieson, Janes, Jones, Kane, D Lawrence, J Lawrence, Matthews, Maudlin, McVicar, Morris, Nicols, Ryan, B Saunders, J Saunders, Shelvey, Smith, Spurr, Stay, Stock, Swain, Tubb, Turner, Versallion, Walker, Warren, Wells, Wenham, Woodward, Young & Zerny.

No Councillors voted against the motions.

(f) Treasury Management Strategy and Treasury Policy

The Council considered the recommendation from the meeting of the Executive held on 9 February 2016 in respect of the Treasury Management Strategy and Treasury Policy.

RESOLVED

that the Treasury Management Policy, Treasury Management Strategy and Prudential Indicators for 2016/17, be approved.

Note: Councillor Downing left the meeting at the conclusion of this item.

(g) Council Tax Resolution

The Council considered the recommendation in respect of the Council Tax Resolution as set out at Appendix A to the report submitted.

The Executive Member for Corporate Resources advised the Council that there was an amendment to Appendix B, final column against Fairfield, where the figure should read -0.18% instead of 0.00%.

RESOLVED

that the Council Tax Resolution set out in Appendix A(i) as amended be approved

In accordance with The Local Authorities (Standing Orders)(England)(Amendment) Regulations 2014, a recorded vote was taken.

Those in favour of the motion were:

Councillors: Barker, Berry, Blair, Bowater, Brown, Chapman, Chatterley, Collins, Costin, Dalgarno, Dixon, Dodwell, Duckett, Ferguson, Firth, Freeman, Ghent, Gomm, Goodchild, Graham, Gurney, Hegley, Hollick, Jamieson, Janes, Jones, Kane, D Lawrence, J Lawrence, Matthews, Maudlin, McVicar, Morris, Nicols, Ryan, B Saunders, J Saunders, Shelvey, Smith, Spurr, Stay, Stock, Swain, Tubb, Turner, Versallion, Walker, Warren, Wells, Wenham, Woodward, Young.

Councillor Zerny voted against the motions.

(Note: The meeting commenced at 6.30 p.m. and concluded at 7.30 p.m.)

Chairman

Dated