

## CENTRAL BEDFORDSHIRE COUNCIL

At a meeting of the **COUNCIL** held in the Council Chamber, Priory House, Monks Walk, Shefford on Thursday, 23 February 2017.

### PRESENT

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

Cllrs	R D Berry M C Blair A D Brown J Chatterley Mrs S Clark K M Collins I Dalgarno Cllr S Dixon Mrs A L Dodwell P A Duckett K Ferguson F Firth Mrs J Freeman E Ghent C C Gomm Mrs S A Goodchild Ms A M W Graham	Cllrs	Mrs D B Gurney Cllr Mrs C Hegley J G Jamieson K Janes R W Johnstone 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 I Shingler P Smith B J Spurr R C Stay Mrs 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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### Apologies for Absence

Cllrs	Mrs A Barker N B Costin	Cllrs	P Downing P Hollick	Cllrs	G Perham
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Officers:	Miss H Bell	–	Committee Services Officer
	Mr R Carr	–	Chief Executive
	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 Ogle	–	Director of Social Care, Health and Housing
	Mr C Warboys	–	Director of Resources
	Mr Q Baker	–	AD Legal Services (Monitoring Officer)
	Mrs S Hobbs	–	Senior Committee Services Officer

C/16/73. **Prayers**

The Council stood in silent tribute in memory of Councillor Lewis Birt who had passed away on 2 February 2017.

Prayers were taken by Reverend Dr Bernard Minton, Team Vicar of Linslade.

C/16/74. **Minutes**

**RESOLVED**

**That the minutes of the meeting held on 19 January 2017 be confirmed and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.**

C/16/75. **Members' Interests**

No interests were declared.

C/16/76. **Questions, Statements and Deputations**

No members of the public had registered to speak under the Public Participation Provisions set out at Annex 1 of Part A4 of the Constitution.

There were several members of the public in attendance who expressed their wish to speak about the distribution of Section 106 monies in Potton.

The Chairman, at his discretion, permitted Mr Savage to outline his question/statement. The Executive Member for Regeneration explained that he would need to respond to the specific issues raised by way of a written reply.

Further to some disorderly conduct which ensued, the Chairman adjourned the meeting for a short period.

The meeting was adjourned at 6.55pm and resumed at 7.15pm.

Councillors Ferguson, Gurney, McVicar, J Saunders and Walker did not return to the meeting.

C/16/77. **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 (a), (b), (c) and (f).
2. The Chairman advised on the events that he had attended since the last meeting of the Council, including a Girl Guides Thinking Day Ceremony, the opening of a new hall at the Greek Orthodox Church in East Hyde.

**C/16/78. Leader of the Council's Announcements and Communications**

The Leader paid tribute to Councillor Lewis Birt who had been a member of this Council since its inception in 2009 and previously a member of Mid Beds District Council prior to 2009.

The Leader updated the Council on:

- the completion of the SEMLEP merger with NEP to form a single Local Enterprise Council
- discussions associated with England's Economic Heartland
- the Area Based Review.

**C/16/79. Recommendations from the Executive**

The Council considered recommendations from the meeting of the Executive held on 7 February 2017 seeking approval of the proposed Medium Term Financial Plan and Revenue Budget for 2017/18.

In his introduction, the Executive Member for Corporate Resources drew attention to external factors which had influenced the proposed budget and the financial pressures faced by local authorities. In particular the reduction in funding from Government and other pressures. He referred to the significant social and economic factors which influenced 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 highlighted that the budget now included a 3% increase in the social care precept.

The Executive Member for Corporate Resources referred to the outcome of the consultation on the draft budget proposals and commented on the impact of Council tax rises particularly for those on low or fixed incomes. In view of this, the Executive had decided to recommend to Council a lower rate of Council tax increase than envisaged originally.

The other Group Leaders commented on the proposed budget.

**RESOLVED**

- 1. that the Revenue Budget for 2017/18 and the Medium Term Financial Plan for 2017/18 to 2020/21, be approved;**
- 2. that in line with Government guidance, the following increases in Council tax (CBC element) for residents of Central Bedfordshire be adopted:**
  - (a) a Band D increase of £21.07, representing a 1.549% increase on the charge for 2016/17; and**
  - (b) a Band D increase of £40.80, representing a 3.0% increase on the charge for 2016/17, reflecting a precept of this amount to help fund adult social care costs.**

**In total the Band D increase would be £61.87, representing a 4.549% increase on the charge for 2016/17. The CBC element of Band D Council tax for 2017/18 would therefore be £1,421.88.**

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

Those in favour of the resolutions were:

Councillors: Berry, Blair, Bowater, Brown, chapman, Chatterley, Clark, Collins, Dalgarno, Dixon, Dodwell, Duckett, Firth, Freeman, Ghent, Gomm, Goodchild, Graham, Hegley, Jamieson, Johnstone, Jones, Kane, D Lawrence, J Lawrence, Matthews, Maudlin, Morris, Nicols, Shelvey, Smith, Spurr, Stay, Stock, Tubb, Turner, Versallion, Warren, Wells, Wenham, Woodward and Young.

Those who voted against the resolutions were:

Councillors: Ryan, Swain and Zerny.

Councillor Shingler abstained from voting.

(Councillor Johnstone left the meeting at this point)

#### **(b) Capital Programme**

The Council considered the recommendations from a meeting of the Executive held on 7 February 2017 in respect of the proposed Capital Programme for 2017/18 – 2020/21.

#### **RESOLVED**

**That the Capital Programme for 2017/18 – 2020/21 be approved.**

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

Those in favour of the resolution were:

Councillors: Berry, Blair, Bowater, Brown, Chapman, Chatterley, Clark, Collins, Dalgarno, Dixon, Dodwell, Duckett, Firth, Freeman, Ghent, Gomm, Goodchild, Graham, Hegley, Jamieson, Janes, Jones, Kane, D Lawrence, J Lawrence, Matthews, Maudlin, Morris, Nicols, Ryan, B Saunders, Shelvey, Shingler, Smith, Spurr, Stay, Stock, Swain, Tubb, Turnert, Versallion, Warren, Wells, Wenham, Woodward, Young and Zerny.

No councillor voted against the resolution.

No Councillor abstained from voting.

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

The Council considered recommendations from the meeting of the Executive held on 7 February 2017 in respect of the Housing Revenue Account (Landlord Business Plan).

**RESOLVED**

- 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 2016/17, be noted;**
- 3. that the intention to commence principal debt repayments from 2017/18, as approved previously by Council in February 2016, 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 2017/18 and the Landlord Business Plan summary at Appendices A and B to the Executive report, be approved;**
- 6. that the 2017/18 to 2020/21 HRA Capital Programme at Appendix C to the Executive report, be approved; and**
- 7. that the average rent decrease of 1% for Council tenancies for 2017/18 in line with the national rental decrease as per Government direction, be approved.**

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

Those in favour were:

Councillors Berry, Blair, Bowater, brown, Chapman, Chatterley, Clark, Collins, Dalgarno, Dixon, Dodwell, Duckett, Firth, Freeman, Ghent, Gomm, Goodchild, Graham, Hegley, Jamieson, Janes, Jones, Kane, D Lawrence, J Lawrence, Matthews, Maudlin, Morris, Nicols, Ryan, B Saunders, Shelvey, Shingler, Smith, Spurr, Stay, Stock, Swain, Tubb, Turner, Versallion, Warren, Wells, Wenham, Woodward, Young and Zerny.

No Councillors voted against the recommendation.

No Councillors abstained from voting.

**(d) Social Care Health and Housing Fees and Charges 2017/18**

The Council considered recommendations from a meeting of the Executive held on 7 February 2017 proposing revised Social Care, Health and Housing fees and charges for 2017/18.

**RESOLVED**

- 1. that the prices of the fees and charges for 2017/18 (Appendices A and B to the Executive report), be approved;**
- 2. that the new fees and charges to be introduced for 2017/18 (Appendix C to the Executive report), be approved subject to the Director of Social Care, Health and Housing and the Director of Resources, in consultation with the Executive Members for Social Care and Housing and Resources, being authorised to determine the fees and charges for the hire of guest rooms and meeting space at Priory View, Dunstable, including arrangements for a 'Friends of Priory View' association to be established, prior to 1 April 2017; and**
- 3. that the comments from the Overview and Scrutiny Committees (Appendix D to the Executive report), be noted.**

**(e) Treasury Management Strategy and Treasury Policy**

The Council considered recommendations from a meeting of the Executive held on 7 February 2017 in respect of the Treasury Management Strategy and Treasury Policy.

**RESOLVED**

- 1. to approve the Treasury Management Policy, Treasury Management Strategy Statement and Prudential Indicators for 2017/18;**
- 2. that subject to the Council's external auditor's opinion the MRP policy, as set out at Appendix D (Option 4) to the Executive report, be approved to replace the policy approved by Council on 25 February 2016, in order to allow the change in approach to MRP to be applied with effect from the financial year ending 31 March 2017; and**
- 3. that the MRP policy, as outlined in Appendix D (Option 4), be adopted in respect of the Council's financial year ending 31 March 2018, subject to the Council's external auditor's opinion.**

**(f) Council Tax Resolution**

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

**RESOLVED**

**to approve the Council Tax Resolution as set out in Appendix A.**

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

Those in favour of the resolution were:

Councillors: Berry, Blair, Bowater, Brown, Chapman, Chatterley, Clark, Collins, Dalgarno, Dixon, Dodwell, Duckett, firth, Freeman, Ghent, Gomm, Goodchild, Graham, Hegley, Jamieson, Janes, Jones, Kane, D Lawrence, J Lawrence, Matthews, Maudlin, Morris, Nicols, B Saunders, Shelvey, Shingler, Smith, Spurr, Stay, Stock, , Tubb, Turner, Versallion, Warren, Wells, Wenham, Woodward and Young.

Councillors Swain, Ryan and Zerny voted against the resolution.

No Councillor abstained from voting.

C/16/80.

**Motions**

Notice of a motion had been received from Councillor Stay as follows:

Central Bedfordshire Council is a provider and commissioner of services to older people. It also has an enabling role as a democratically elected local authority. We recognise that the future provision of quality care services for older people in Central Bedfordshire is the most significant challenge that we face.

This Council has taken an innovative approach towards significantly improved services to older people; it has invested and is continually looking to make the most effective use of existing resources whilst managing increased demand. However it recognises that these strategies alone will not meet the future needs and aspirations of an ageing population.

A different approach towards the future funding and provision of social care is needed, the opportunity for councils to introduce a social care precept will assist in the short term, but demand is projected to significantly increase.

There is an unresolved national interest in this agenda, therefore this Council calls on the Government to redouble its efforts and address the funding gap, improve cross-sector working and refocus its priorities towards meeting the critical care needs of the UK's own ageing population.

In presenting the motion, Councillor Stay emphasised the importance of prioritising the UK's ageing population.

Councillor Hegley seconded the motion.

Councillor Zerny proposed an amendment to the motion, which was to remove the word "own" prior to the word "ageing" and this was duly seconded.

Upon being put to the vote, the substantive motion was carried.

**RESOLVED**

**this Council calls on the Government to redouble its efforts and address the funding gap, improve cross-sector working and refocus its priorities towards meeting the critical care needs of the UK's ageing population.**

(Note: The meeting commenced at 6.30 p.m. and concluded at 8.37 p.m.)

Chairman .....

Dated .....