

CENTRAL BEDFORDSHIRE COUNCIL

At a meeting of the **EXECUTIVE** held in the Council Chamber, Priory House, Monks Walk, Shefford on Tuesday, 10 January 2017.

PRESENT

Cllr J G Jamieson (Chairman)
Cllr M R Jones (Vice-Chairman)

Executive Members: Cllrs Cllr S Dixon Cllrs R D Wenham
Cllr Mrs C Hegley J N Young
B J Spurr

Deputy Executive Members: Cllrs A D Brown Cllrs E Ghent
K M Collins Mrs T Stock
I Dalgarno B Wells
Mrs A L Dodwell

Apologies for Absence: Deputy Executive Members Mrs S Clark
G Tubb
Cllrs

Members in Attendance: Cllrs Mrs A Barker Cllrs Mrs S A Goodchild
R D Berry Ms A M W Graham
D Bowater B Saunders
J Chatterley A Zerny
F Firth

Officers in Attendance Mr Q Baker AD Legal Services (Monitoring Officer)
Mr R Carr Chief Executive
Mr M Coiffait Director of Community Services
Mrs S Hobbs Committee Services Officer
Mr G Jones Assistant Director Children's Services
Mr J Longhurst Operations
Director of Regeneration and Business
Mrs J Ogley Director of Social Care, Health and Housing
Mrs M Scott Director of Public Health
Mr C Warboys Director of Resources

E/16/83. **Minutes**

RESOLVED

that the minutes of the meeting held on 6 December 2016 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

E/16/84. **Members' Interests**

None were declared.

E/16/85. **Chairman's Announcements**

Item 13 'Enterprise Requirement Planning Systems Upgrade' had been withdrawn.

The Chairman announced the sad deaths of the former Mid Bedfordshire District Council Councillors Brian Golby and Eric Jakes.

A grant of £5.6m for supported living, including Houghton Regis had been received from the Homes and Communities Agency.

E/16/86. **Petitions**

No petitions were received.

E/16/87. **Public Participation**

No members of the public had registered to speak.

E/16/88. **Forward Plan of Key Decisions**

RESOLVED

that the Forward Plan of Key Decisions for the period 1 February 2017 to 31 January 2018 be noted.

E/16/89. **Draft Budget & Medium Term Financial Plan 2017/18 – 2020/21**

The Executive considered a report from the Executive Member for Corporate Resources that proposed the draft budget for 2017/18 and updated the Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP). It was noted that the Provisional Financial Settlement for Local Government had only been released on 15 December 2016 and that it had not been possible for the full implications of this to be incorporated within the Executive report. This included the announcement that councils would be permitted to apply a Social Care Precept of up to 3% in 2017/18.

Further details were still expected from the Government on proposals for the 100% retention of National Non Domestic Rates by authorities.

These issues and any other Government announcements, together with the outcome of the consultation, would be taken into account in the final budget proposals considered by the Executive on 7 February before recommendations were made to Council.

In response to questions, the Executive Member for Social Care and Housing highlighted Appendix F, and drew attention to the Council's specific statutory duties in relation to specific budget proposals.

In response to a question, the Executive Member for Corporate Resources explained the purpose of general and earmarked reserves and the implications of drawing on these. Reserves had been reviewed and it was unsustainable to use reserves to fund reoccurring expenditure.

Reason for decision: To enable consultation on the draft budget 2017/18 and MTFP 2017-2021, prior to recommendations being made by the Executive on 7 February 2017 to Council on 23 February 2017.

RESOLVED

that the draft Budget for 2017/18 and the updated Medium Term Financial Plan 2017/18 – 2020/21 be approved as the basis for the consultation with the Overview and Scrutiny Committees and other interested parties.

[NOTE: Cllr Mrs Barker and Zerny arrived during this item.]

E/16/90. Draft Capital Programme 2017/18 – 2020/21

The Executive considered a report from the Executive Member for Corporate Resources that proposed the Capital Programme for the Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP) period 2017/18 to 2020/21. The proposed Capital Programme would continue to support the following significant schemes:

- New School Places;
- improving the A421 between Junction 13 of the M1 and Milton Keynes Magna Park;
- M1/A6 Link Phase 1 and 2;
- Highways Structural Maintenance;
- Dunstable Leisure Centre and Library; and
- Broadband infrastructure.

Reason for decision: To enable consultation on the draft Capital Programme 2017/18 to 2020/21, prior to recommendations being made by the Executive on 7 February 2017 to Council on 23 February 2017.

RESOLVED

that the draft Capital Programme for 2017/18 to 2020/21 be approved for consultation with Overview and Scrutiny Committees and other interested parties.

E/16/91. **Draft Budget for the Housing Revenue Account (Landlord Service) 2017/18 - 2020/21 and Business Plan**

The Executive considered a report from the Executive Member for Corporate Resources that set out the draft Housing Revenue Account (HRA), with proposals that responded to legislative changes; made best use of the investment potential; accounted for rent reduction; and aligned to the debt strategy in the context of the long term business plan.

Reason for decision: To enable consultation on the draft HRA Landlord Business Plan Budget for 2017/18, prior to recommendations being made by the Executive on 7 February 2017 to Council on 23 February 2017.

RESOLVED

that the draft Housing Revenue Account budget proposals for 2017/18, as set out in the report, be approved as the basis for consultation with Overview and Scrutiny Committees and more broadly, public consultation.

E/16/92. **Sustainability and Transformation Plan 2016 - 2020**

The Executive considered a report from the Executive Member for Health that included the Sustainability and Transformation Plan (STP) for Bedfordshire, Luton and Milton Keynes (BLMK) which had been published on 15 November 2016.

In response to a question, the Director for Social Care, Health and Housing explained the risk sharing arrangement associated with the Better Care Fund.

Reason for decision: To ensure the financial sustainability of health and care services.

RESOLVED

- 1. that the publication of the draft Sustainability and Transformation Plan (STP) be noted;**
- 2. that the STP be endorsed on the basis that the priorities reflected in the Plan aligned with the Council's aspirations for greater emphasis on prevention; reduced reliance on acute services; strengthened primary care services delivered close to where people live and integrated wherever possible with social care and other services; and**

3. **that the Social Care, Health and Housing Overview and Scrutiny Committee take the lead role in scrutinising the Plan and that all other scrutiny committee engagement on the STP to be channelled through this route to ensure a cohesive approach.**

E/16/93. **BT's Proposal to Remove 80 Payphones across Central Bedfordshire**

The Executive considered a report from the Executive Member for Community Services that provided the results of the consultation on the Council's First Decision in respect of the proposal from British Telecom (BT) to remove 80 payphones in Central Bedfordshire. The report also proposed the Second Decision (and Final Notice) taking into account the responses received to the consultation.

The Executive Member for Community Services advised that the Council would support a recommendation from the Fire Authority that consideration should be given to using decommissioned payphone boxes to accommodate defibrillators.

Reason for decision: The results of the second stage consultation showed that 75% of respondents supported the First Decision – to agree to the removal of 43 payphones and object to 37 being removed. There was a clear rationale for keeping or removing each payphone, which was supported by the consultation feedback.

RESOLVED

1. **that the Second Decision, which was to object to 37 payphones being removed and to agree to the removal of 43 payphones, as set out in Appendix 2 to the report, be approved;**
2. **that BT be reminded of their duty under the Equality Act 2010 to ensure that services were accessible and that it was not indirectly discriminating against the disabled or elderly by removing these payphones; and**
3. **that BT be informed of any specific requests and suggestions received as part of the consultation regarding the future/alternative use of payphone kiosks.**

E/16/94. **Enterprise Requirement Planning (ERP) Systems Upgrade**

This item was withdrawn.

(Note: The meeting commenced at 9.30 a.m. and concluded at 10.09 a.m.)

Chairman

Dated