

Chairman - Councillor R M Smith - *Deputy Leader in the Chair*

Present (for all or part of the meeting):-

Councillors:

F Beatty	Economic Development and Planning Portfolio
J M Pert	Community and Health Portfolio
C V Trowbridge	Leisure Portfolio

Officers in attendance:-

Mr T Clegg	Chief Executive
Dr T Redpath	Corporate Business and Partnerships Manager
Mr A Yendole	Strategic Planning and Placemaking Manager
Mr J Dean	Democratic Services Officer

CAB40 Minutes

Minutes of the meeting held on 2 December 2021 as published on 3 December 2021 were agreed as a correct record.

CAB41 Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors P M M Farrington and J K Price.

CAB42 General Fund Revenue Budget and Capital Programme 2022-25

Considered a report proposing to the Council the General Fund Revenue Budget for 2022-23, the updated Capital Programme 2022-23 and indicative budgets for 2023-24 to 2024-25.

The Deputy Leader noted that although some detail had been provided uncertainty remained regarding the future of Local Government funding and the inevitable impact on the Council's finances. Councillor Smith was pleased however to report Council Tax remained below inflation, services were maintained and the Council was debt free and continued to invest in capital schemes across the Borough.

In concluding his comments the Deputy Leader highlighted the proposals as set out in paragraph 2 of the report. The Cabinet subsequently voted on the recommendations, which were declared to be carried.

RESOLVED:- that the proposals of the Deputy Leader be approved as follows:-

That the following be recommended to Council:-

- (a) the Budget Requirement for the General Fund Revenue Budget for 2022-23 be set at £14.304 million;
- (b) the indicative General Fund Revenue Budgets be set at £15.290 million for 2023-24 and £15.878 million for 2024-25;
- (c) the detailed portfolio budgets as set out in appendix 1 of the report be approved;
- (d) the General Fund working balance be set at a minimum of £1.0 million;
- (e) the detailed capital programme as set out in appendix 2 of the report be approved;
- (f) the Council Tax for 2022-23 be increased by 1.9% to £165.38;
- (g) the Council's Tax Base be set at 48,490.39 (as determined by the Head of Finance);
- (h) it be noted that the inflation parameter for fees and charges for 2022-23 was generally set at 3% as approved by Cabinet on 4 November 2021.

Members of the Cabinet extended their thanks to the interim Head of Finance and his colleagues for their efforts in this area of work.

THIS ITEM IS NOT SUBJECT TO CALL IN AND WILL BE REFERRED TO RESOURCES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE ON 18 JANUARY 2022 AND COUNCIL ON 1 FEBRUARY 2022.

CAB43 Treasury Management Strategy, Minimum Revenue Provision Policy, Annual Investment Strategy 2022/23

Considered a report seeking to obtain the Council's approval of:-

- Prudential and Treasury indicators - setting of indicators to ensure that the capital investment plans of the Council are affordable, prudent and sustainable;
- The Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP) Policy;

- Treasury Management Strategy Statement for 2022/23 - to set treasury limits for 2022/23 to 2023/24 and to provide a background to the latest economic forecasts of interest rates;
- Annual Investment Strategy 2022/23 - to set out the strategy of investment of surplus funds.

The Deputy Leader highlighted the Councils lack of borrowing requirement and continued investment in capital projects before highlighting the proposals as set out in paragraph 2 of the report. The Cabinet voted on the recommendations which were duly declared to be carried.

RESOLVED:- that the proposals of the Deputy Leader be approved as follows:-

- (a) To recommend the following for approved by Council:-
 - (i) the Prudential and Treasury indicators;
 - (ii) the MRP Policy Statement;
 - (iii) the Treasury Management Policy;
 - (iv) the Annual Investment Strategy for 2022/23;
- (b) To note that indicators may change in accordance with the final recommendations from Cabinet to Council in relation to both the General Fund Revenue Budget and the Capital Programme.

Members of the Cabinet again extended their thanks to the interim Head of Finance and his colleagues for their efforts in this area of work.

THIS ITEM IS NOT SUBJECT TO CALL IN AND WILL BE REFERRED TO AUDIT AND ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE ON 18 JANUARY 2022 AND COUNCIL ON 1 FEBRUARY 2022.

CAB44 Cannock Chase Special Area of Conservation: Developer Contributions

Considered a report seeking:-

- approval to require applications for residential development involving a net increase of one or more dwellings to make a financial contribution to mitigate the impact of recreational pressure arising from the developments on the Cannock Chase Special Area of Conservation;

- to provide approval for entering into and adopting a new Memorandum of Understanding as one of the Partner authorities of the Cannock Chase Special Area of Conservation (SAC) Partnership;
- to provide approval for signing a Financial Agreement to enable Stafford Borough Council to administer funds on behalf of the Cannock Chase SAC Partnership and the other competent authorities.

Councillor F Beatty highlighted the proposals as set out in paragraph 2 of the report to which the Cabinet voted on the recommendations, which were subsequently declared to be carried.

RESOLVED:- that the proposals of the Cabinet Member, Economic Development and Planning Portfolio be approved as follows:-

That:-

- (a) the new developer contribution charge of £290.58 per dwelling unit be brought into effect from 1 April 2022 to mitigation for new residential proposals in Stafford Borough, within a 0-15 km Zone of Influence from the Cannock Chase Special Area of Conservation boundary;
- (b) the Cabinet agrees and adopts the latest Cannock Chase SAC Memorandum of Understanding;
- (c) authority be delegated to the Head of Development (in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Resources) to sign the final version of the draft Financial Agreement on behalf of Stafford Borough Council, following on from the Cannock Chase SAC Memorandum of Understanding being entered into.

The Cabinet were unanimous in their support for this item which would mitigate the impact of development in this much-loved area of the Borough.

CHAIR