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SOUTHEND-ON-SEA BOROUGH COUNCIL

Meeting of Cabinet

Date: Thursday, 19th January, 2017
Place: Committee Room 1 - Civic Suite

Present: Councillor J Lamb (Chair)
Councillors A Holland (Vice-Chair), A Moring, L Salter, T Cox,
J Courtenay and T Byford

In Attendance: Councillors M Assenheim and C Mulroney
R Tinlin, J K Williams, S Leftley, A Lewis, A Atherton, J Chesterton,
J Ruffle, I Ambrose, C Gamble, F Abbott and M Sargood

Start/End Time: 2.00 - 2.35 pm

643 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Flewitt.

644 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

645 Corporate Performance Management - 2017/18

The Cabinet considered a report of the Chief Executive detailing the Council's corporate approach to performance management for 2017/18.

Resolved:-

1. That the Corporate Priority Performance Indicators to be monitored via the Monthly Performance Report (MPR) for 2017/18, as set out at Appendix 1 to the submitted report, be approved.
2. That the MPR will also include a small basket of indicators (as outlined in paragraph 4.3 of the report) relating to areas where the Council does not have lead responsibility or direct control.
3. That the Corporate Priority Actions, to support implementation of the Council's 2017/18 Corporate Priorities, as set out at Appendix 2 to the report, be approved.

Reason for Decision

To identify corporate measures and targets against which the Council's performance can be monitored and managed effectively

Other options

1. Significantly increasing the numbers of performance measures and indicators. This would place significant pressure on available resources to undertake the necessary monitoring, and would result in diverting resources from other priority areas.

2. Not identifying any Corporate Priority Actions or Indicators. This would leave the Council unable to monitor its performance against its key priorities or to assess whether resources are appropriately allocated.

Note:- This is an Executive Function

Referred direct to all three Scrutiny Committees.

Executive Councillor:- Lamb

646 Council Tax Base and National Non Domestic Rating Base 2017/18

The Cabinet considered a report of the Chief Executive concerning the calculation of the Council Tax Base for 2017/18 and the submission of the National Non Domestic Rates (NNDR1) form to the Department of Communities and Local Government (DCLG) by 31st January 2017.

Resolved:-

1. That in accordance with the Local Authorities (Calculation of Council Tax Base) Regulations 1992 (as amended by the Local Authorities (Calculation of Council Tax Base) (Amendment) (England) Regulations 2003) and Local Government Finance Act 2012 (Calculation of billing authority's council tax base Section 15):
 - (i) The Local Council Tax Support Scheme for 2017/18 approved by Council on 15 December 2016, be incorporated into the Council Tax base setting as outlined in Appendices A and B to the submitted report.
 - (ii) That the following changes to Council Tax discounts and exemptions approved by Cabinet on 5 January 2016 will remain unchanged from 1 April 2017 and these are incorporated into the Council Tax Base:-
 - Properties requiring or undergoing structural alteration or major repairs (Class D) as allowed by Section 11A of the Local Government Finance Act 2012 is set at 0%.
 - Vacant and substantially unfurnished properties (Class C) as allowed by Section 11A of the Local Government Finance Act 2012 to be entitled to receive a discount of 100% for up to 1 month. If Class D is applicable then there is no entitlement to Class C.
 - (iii) That it be noted that the further discounts and exemptions that were approved by Council on 13 December 2012 will remain unchanged from 1 April 2017 and these are incorporated into the Council Tax Base;
 - Second homes (Classes A and B) as allowed by Section 1A of the Local Government Finance Act 2012 is set at 0%.
 - Long-term empty homes (Class C) as allowed by Section 11A of the Local Government Finance Act 2012, a surcharge of 50% is set allowing a full charge of 150% where they have been unoccupied for more than 2 years.

- That a continuous 6 week period of occupancy is required between empty periods before a further discount can be awarded.
- 2. That the amount calculated by Southend-on-Sea Council as its Council Tax Base for the year 2017/18 shall be 56,917.61.
- 3. That the amount calculated by Southend-on-Sea Council as the Council Tax Base in respect of Leigh-on-Sea Town Council for the year 2017/18 shall be 8,717.19.
- 4. That it be noted that it will be necessary for the Director of Finance and Resources, in conjunction with the Leader of the Council, to approve the NDR1 form for submission to the DCLG, in line with previous delegated approval, and that the Director of Finance and Resources will include an explanation in a subsequent report to Council as to why it was not practical for Cabinet to use its own delegation.

Reason for Decision

To comply with the relevant statutory requirements.

Other Options

None.

Note:- This is an Executive Function.

Referred direct to Policy and Resources Scrutiny Committee.

Executive Councillor:- Lamb

647 Draft Housing Revenue Account Budget 2017/18 and Rent Setting

The Cabinet considered a joint report of the Deputy Chief Executive (People) and the Director of Finance and Resources setting out the Housing Revenue Account (HRA) budget for 2017/18 together with the information necessary to set a balanced budget as required by legislation.

Resolved:-

1. That a rent reduction of 1% on secure tenancies, as required by the Welfare Reform and Work Act 2016, be endorsed.
2. That an average rent increase of 4.41% on shared ownership properties, be endorsed.
3. That the proposed rent changes in 1 and 2 above to be effective from 3 April 2017, be endorsed.
4. That the increases in other charges as set out in section 5 of the submitted report, be endorsed.
5. That the management fee and increases in service charges and heating charges proposed by South Essex Homes, as set out in section 6 of the report, be endorsed.
6. That the appropriations to the Repairs Contract Pensions earmarked reserve and the HRA Capital Investment earmarked reserve, as set out in section 8 of the report, be endorsed.

7. That subject to 1 - 6 above, the HRA budget as set out in Appendix 1 to the report, be endorsed.
8. That the value of the Council's capital allowance for 2017/18 be declared as £25.370M, as determined in accordance with regulation 16 of the Local Authorities (Capital Finance and Accounting) (England) Regulations, be endorsed.

Reason for Decision

Part of the process of maintaining a balanced budget for the HRA is to consider and set a rent rise (and associated increases in other income streams). Full Council need to approve the HRA budget prior to the start of the financial year.

Other Options

As set out in the submitted report

Note:- This is an Executive Function save that approval of the final budget following Cabinet on 14th February 2017 is a Council Function.
Referred direct to Policy and Resources Scrutiny Committee.
Executive Councillor:- Flewitt

648 Draft Capital Programme 2017/18 to 2020/21

The Cabinet considered a report of the Corporate Management Team setting out a draft programme of capital projects for the period 2017/18 to 2020/21.

It was noted that the Council had been notified of a successful bid to the Department for Education for a grant of £536k for the expansion of early years (3-4 year olds) places in preparation for the 30 hour entitlement for working parents in September 2017. The grant will be included in the final capital report to Cabinet on 14th February 2017.

Resolved:-

1. That the current approved Programme for 2017/18 to 2019/20 of £125.4m, as set out in Appendix 1 to the submitted report, be noted.
2. That the changes to the approved Programme, as set out in Appendix 2 to the report, be noted.
3. That the proposed new schemes and additions to the Capital Programme for the period 2017/18 to 2020/21 totalling £59.1m of which £52.9m is for the General Fund and £6.2m for the Housing Revenue Account, as set out in Appendices 6 and 7 to the report, be endorsed.
4. That the proposed schemes subject to external funding approval for the period 2017/18 to 2020/21 totalling £42.6m as set out in Appendices 2 and 7 to the report, be endorsed.
5. That it be noted that the proposed new schemes and additions, as set out in Appendices 6 and 7 to the report, and other adjustments as set out in Appendix 2 to the report, will result in a proposed capital programme (excluding schemes subject to external funding approval) of £185.8m for 2017/18 to 2020/21.
6. That it be noted that of the total programme of £185.8m for the period 2017/18 to 2020/21, the level of external funding supporting this programme is £58.2m.

7. That it be noted that a final review is being undertaken on the 2016/17 outturn and that the results will be included in the report to Cabinet on 14th February 2017.

Reason for Decision

The proposed Capital Programme is compiled from a number of individual projects which either contribute to the delivery of the Council's objectives and priorities or enhance the Council's infrastructure.

Other Options

The proposed Capital Programme is compiled from a number of individual projects, any of which can be agreed or rejected independently of the other projects

Note:- This is an Executive Function save that approval of the final budget following Cabinet on 14th February 2017 is a Council Function.

Referred direct to all three Scrutiny Committees.

Executive Councillor:- Lamb

649 Draft Fees and Charges 2017/18

The Cabinet considered a report of the Corporate Management Team detailing fees and charges for services included in the budget proposals for 2017/18.

Resolved:-

That the proposed fees and charges for each Department as set out in the submitted report and appendices, be endorsed.

Reason for Decision

Part of the process of maintaining a balanced budget includes a requirement to consider the contribution that fees and charges make towards that aim. This report is in fulfilment of that requirement.

Other Options

None.

Note:- This is an Executive Function save that approval of the final budget following Cabinet on 14th February 2017 is a Council Function.

Referred direct to all three Scrutiny Committees.

Executive Councillor:- Lamb

650 Draft General Fund Revenue Budget 2017/18

The Cabinet considered a report of the Corporate Management Team presenting the draft revenue budget for 2017/18.

Members of the Cabinet conveyed their thanks and appreciation to the Director of Finance & Resources and his team for their sterling work in preparing the draft budget.

Resolved:-

1. That the 2017/18 draft revenue budget and any required commencement of consultation, statutory or otherwise, be approved.

2. That it be noted that the 2017/18 draft revenue budget has been prepared on the basis of a Council Tax increase of 4.99%, being 1.99% for general use and 3% for Adult Social Care.
3. That it be noted that the 2017/18 draft revenue budget has been prepared using the provisional local government finance settlement and that the outcome from the final settlement will need to be factored into the final budget proposals for Budget Cabinet and Budget Council.
4. That the 2017/18 draft revenue budget, as endorsed, be referred to all three Scrutiny Committees, Business sector and Voluntary sector to inform Cabinet, which will then recommend the Budget and Council Tax to Council.
5. That the schools position and the recommendations to the Schools Forum on 18th January 2017, as set out in Appendix 14 and 14(i) to the submitted report, be noted and referred to People Scrutiny Committee and then to Cabinet and Council.
6. That the direction of travel for 2018/19 and beyond, as set out in section 15 of the report, be endorsed.

Reason for Decision

Budget scrutiny is at the core of the Council's corporate planning framework. It is a complex process that is fully integrated with strategic service planning. Annually, prior to the start of the year, the Council agrees the budget using a consistent, transparent and prudent approach.

Other Options

None

Note:- This is an Executive Function save that approval of the final budget following Cabinet on 14th February 2017 is a Council Function.
Referred direct to all three Scrutiny Committees.
Executive Councillor:- Lamb

Chairman: _____