

Cabinet

24 January 2017 - At a meeting of the Cabinet held at County Hall, Chichester.

Present: Mrs Goldsmith (Chairman), Mr Barling, Mr Burrett, Mr Catchpole, Mrs Field, Mr Hillier, Mr Hunt, Mr Lanzer.

Also present: Mrs Urquhart (Chairman Performance and Finance Select Committee (PFSC)).

Officers present: Nathan Elvery, Lee Neale, Sean Ruth, Avril Wilson, Katharine Eberhart, Anuschka Muller and Katherine De La Mora.

PART I

Declarations of Interest

1. There were no declarations of interest.

Minutes

2. Resolved - that the minutes of the meeting held on 2 February 2016 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

Refreshing the Future West Sussex Plan 2015 - 2019

3. The Cabinet considered a report by the Director of Finance, Performance and Procurement to endorse the updated version of the Future West Sussex Plan 2015 – 2019 for approval at the County Council meeting on 17 February 2017 (copy appended to the signed version of the minutes). The report and refreshed Plan was introduced by Louise Goldsmith, Leader, who highlighted that the County Council was constantly evolving and therefore the Plan was updated to reflect this. It had also been updated to incorporate the results of the recent What Matters to You Survey. Anuschka Muller (Head of Performance & Intelligence) highlighted the presentational and content changes that had been made to the Future West Sussex Plan.

4. Deborah Urquhart, Chairman of Performance and Finance Select Committee, confirmed that the updated Plan had been well received by the Select Committee and that they welcomed the new layout and content. David Barling, Cabinet Member for Residents Services commented that the Plan had been established over two years ago, and the priorities were still current which showed that the County Council was on the right track.

5. Resolved – that the Cabinet endorses the Future West Sussex Plan 2015-19 for approval by County Council on 17 February 2017.

Medium term financial strategy 2017/18 to 2020/21 including revenue budget 2017/18 and capital programme 2017/18 to 2017 to 2021/22

6. The Cabinet considered a report by the Director of Finance, Performance and Procurement to endorse the draft budget for 2017/18 for approval at the County Council meeting on 17 February (copy appended to the signed version of the minutes). The report was introduced by Jeremy Hunt, Cabinet Member for Finance, who raised the following points:

- The Medium Term Financial Strategy supports the delivery of the Future West Sussex Plan and was set against the four year settlement.
- Information on the replacement of funding through the retention of business rates was awaited to understand how this would impact on West Sussex.
- The Capital Programme was in principle the same as that approved by County Council in December 2016 with minor amendments outlined on pages 66-75 of the report.
- The financial settlement in December had confirmed the ability for Local Authorities to increase their Adult Social Care precept by an extra 1% (maximum of 6% over 3 years). The proposal in the papers was to retain the Adult Social Care precept at 2% and the general fund precept at 1.95% for 2017/18, recognising that the financial pressure that an additional rise would have on residents.
- A clear savings programme had been identified, whilst also investing in the key front line services (Adults and Children's).
- Thanked the Performance and Finance Select Committee for their review and endorsement of the budget.
- Thanked the finance team for their hard work to produce the budget.

7. Mrs Urquhart provided an update on the outcomes of the PFSC debate relating to the draft budget 2017/18. The Select Committee welcomed the balanced budget and raised the following issues during its debate:

- The need to ensure preventative services were developed to provide long term savings and better outcomes for residents and avoid focusing on short term gains.
- It was important to have a review of using reserves to achieve long term savings.
- The level of borrowing needed to be monitored to ensure its affordability.
- Welcomed the member engagement process on the budget during the Autumn and Winter.

8. Peter Catchpole, Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care and Health, commented that the Adults Services Budget would grow by a net of £8.2m, and the portfolio now accounted for 36% of the net revenue budget. This would help to meet the extra demand on the service as a result of the ageing population. Investment would be focused on preventative work, and the £3.3m Adult Social Care Fund would be focused on this. Mr Catchpole thanked the Leader and County Council for raising the profile of the need for national intervention in Adult Social Care and Health and the continuing lobbying of central government for a longer term solution.

9. Christine Field, Cabinet Member for Community Wellbeing confirmed that there had been a further reduction in public health grant for 2017/18. However, this would not reduce the focus on the public health agenda and the County Council would continue to work in partnership to drive the agenda forward. There would also be a focus on encouraging people to live after themselves and reduce intervention and would use the Health and Wellbeing Board to harness the talent of West Sussex.

10. Mr Hillier, Cabinet Member for Children – Start of Life, highlighted the increased pressures on the Children's budget as a result of increased demand and complexity of cases and thanked the Cabinet for their support in increasing the budget for Children's Services. The introduction of the Integrated Prevention

and Earliest Help service in 2017/18 would help to target those children that most required help.

11. Ms Goldsmith highlighted that getting the best outcome for residents was the driving force behind the budget setting. The Cabinet recognised that the rise in Council Tax was a big ask for residents and would continue to look after and do the best it could for the communities of West Sussex.

12. Ms Goldsmith and Mr Hunt thanked the Chief Executive and Executive Leadership Team for the team approach for setting the budget this year.

13. The Cabinet voted unanimously to endorse the Budget for 2017/18 to the meeting of County Council on 17 February.

14. Resolved – that the Cabinet endorses the County Council draft budget for 2017/18, Appendix 1 to the above report, for approval by the County Council on 17 February 2016.

Outside Bodies Update

15. The Cabinet considered a report by the Director of Law and Assurance to remove nine organisations from the County Council's Outside Bodies list (copy appended to the signed version of the minutes).

16. Resolved – that the nine organisations outlined in Appendix A of the report be removed from the County Council's Outside Bodies list.

Dates of Future Meetings

17. The next meeting would be held on Tuesday 6 June 2017.

Chairman

The meeting closed at 2.45 p.m.