

Unconfirmed Minutes to be confirmed at the next meeting of Cabinet.

Cabinet

28 November 2017 - At a meeting of the Cabinet held at County Hall, Chichester.

Present: Mrs Goldsmith (Chairman), Mr Burrett, Mr Hillier, Mr Hunt, Mrs Jupp, Mrs Kennard, Mr Lanzer, Mrs Urquhart.

Also present: Mr Montyn (Chairman of Performance & Finance Select Committee (PFSC)).

Officers present: Nathan Elvery, Lee Harris, Avril Wilson, Katharine Eberhart, Rachel North, Hannah Clubb, Katherine De La Mora.

PART I

Declarations of Interest

18. There were no declarations of interest.

Minutes

19. Resolved - that the minutes of the meeting held on 12 October 2017 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

Medium Term Financial Strategy 2018/19 to 2021/22 and Budget Savings 2018/19 and 2019/20 and Capital Programme 2018-19 to 2022-23

20. The Cabinet considered a report by the Director of Finance, Procurement and Performance outlining the Savings Proposals and Capital Programme 2018/19 to 2022/23 (copy appended to the signed version of the minutes). The report was introduced by Louise Goldsmith, Leader, who confirmed that revised papers had been tabled at the meeting to reflect some of the comments and recommendations made at the performance and Finance Select Committee meeting on 22 November (Copy appended to the signed minutes).

21. Jeremy Hunt, Cabinet Member for Finance and Resources outlined the key points within the report, including that the County Council was mid-way through its fixed settlement, with RSG predicted as being negative by 2020. A 1.95% yearly increase in Council Tax had been assumed for the Medium Term Financial Strategy period, however this would need to be approved by County Council in February. The Capital Programme had been refreshed to ensure projects were relevant and deliverable. In response to concerns raised at PFSC, the savings associated with the Local Assistance Network (LAN) had been revised to a saving of 100k for 2018/2019, with the funding going to charities through this scheme remaining unchanged.

22. Katharine Eberhart, Director of Finance, Procurement and Performance confirmed that this was the second stage of the three stage budget approval, following the approval of the West Sussex Plan in October. The approval of savings in December would allow for work to progress on savings ahead of the start of the financial year in April.

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23 Pieter Montyn, Chairman of Performance and Finance Select Committee, confirmed that there had been robust discussion on the Savings Proposals and Capital Programme at PFSC with a number of recommendations and comments made which was presented to Cabinet (copy appended to the signed version of the minutes). The Committee had been supportive of the LAN and its work, recognise the wide impact that a relatively small grant achieved. Mr Montyn was therefore pleased with the reduced saving proposed and that the amount of LAN funding given to charities would remain unchanged for 2018/19. .

24. The Cabinet welcomed the comments and recommendations made by the Select Committee and recognised the value of the input from the wider membership in shaping the budget.

25. The Cabinet commended the budget position and thanked the finance team for their hard work to produce a sound budget and strong capital programme. The Council had faced the savings challenge face on whilst protecting front line services and were building a robust future for the residents of West Sussex. A formal response would be provided to PFSC on the issues raised in relation to specific portfolio areas.

26. Resolved – that the Cabinet endorses the following for approval at County Council on 15th December:

- (a) The Savings Proposals as outlined in Appendix 2 covering 2018/19 and 2019/20, to help achieve a balanced budget
- (b) The Capital expenditure and proposed method of financing for the core programme and the income generating initiatives (which will be subject to their own business cases) for period 2018/19 to 2022/23 as set out in Appendices 3(a) and 3(b)
- (c) The Prudential Indicators as set out in Appendix 4.

Dates of Future Meetings

27. The next meeting is scheduled for 30 January 2018

The meeting closed at 2.45 p.m.

Chairman