

Decisions of the meeting of the CABINET held
at 9.30am on Tuesday 24 January 2012 at the
Civic Centre, Stone Cross, Northallerton

Present

Councillor N W Huxtable (In the Chair)

Councillor R Kirk
B Phillips
M S Robson

Councillor T Swales
P R Wilkinson

Also in Attendance

Councillor K Billings
D M Blades
Mrs C S Cookman
J Coulson
Mrs B S Fortune

Councillor B Griffiths
Mrs J A Griffiths
K G Hardisty
M J Prest

CA.52 **DRAFT BUDGET 2012/13**

All Wards

The subject of the decision:

This report presented the draft revenue budget proposals for the next financial year for consideration.

Alternative options considered:

None.

The reason for the decision:

Cabinet was satisfied with the draft budget proposals.

THE DECISION:

That Council be recommended to approve the draft revenue estimates for 2012/13.

CA.53 **COUNCIL TAX 2012/13**

All Wards

The subject of the decision:

This report considered for 2012/13 the level of Council Tax, the Prudential Indicators, the Policy on Balances and Reserves and a Statement of Pay Policy. Detailed budget proposals were contained in a separate report on the agenda and this report assumed that budgets had been approved in the sum of £7,995,790 for 2012/13. The current approved financial strategy (December 2011) assumed a Council Tax increase of 2.5%. However, the Government announced a scheme for a second year of Council Tax freeze for those Councils that set a Council Tax which was not higher than their 2011/12 Council Tax level. This was discussed further in

Annex A of the report and a letter from the Department for Communities and Local Government dated 14 November 2011 giving detailed of the scheme was attached at Annex B of the report.

The Cabinet Member for Corporate Management reported that there were no comments received from the consultation with ratepayers held on 17 January 2012.

Alternative options considered:

Cabinet suggested a change to the Statement of Pay Policy regarding Flexibility to address recruitment issues for vacant posts to ensure that departures from the policy could not be implemented without having to seek full Council approval for a change of the policy statement.

The reason for the decision:

To maintain the long term viability of the Council's finances and ensure sustainability by investing in community projects as determined by the Council's priorities and supporting the maintenance and enhancement of service delivery. To maintain the integrity of the Council's financial strategy.

THE DECISION:

It is recommended to Council that:-

- (1a) the Council Tax for District Council purposes be set at £91.72 for Band D properties in line with the Council's financial strategy;
- (1b) Members agree to participate in the Government's Council Tax Freeze scheme (the effect of which would be to hold the Council Tax Band at £89.48);
- (2) that the appropriate amount be taken from the Council's Taxpayers Reserve to support recommendation 1 above;
- (3) the Council sets the final overall Council Tax incorporating the requirements of all precepting authorities;
- (4) the Prudential Code Indicators identified in Annex C of the report be approved and that the indicators confirm that the expenditure and treasury management decisions are affordable, prudent and sustainable;
- (5) the risk issues identified in this report be recognised;
- (6) the Policy on Balances and Reserves at Annex D of the report be approved; and
- (7) the Policy Statement on Pay at Annex E of the report be approved as amended.

The meeting closed at 11.10am.

Leader of the Council

AGENDA ITEM NO:

**(CA.54 to CA.60)
Decisions taken under Cabinet
authority to take effect on 6 February 2012)**

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Present

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Councillor R Kirk
B Phillips
M S Robson

Councillor T Swales
P R Wilkinson

Also in Attendance

Councillor K Billings
D M Blades
Mrs C S Cookman
J Coulson
Mrs B S Fortune

Councillor B Griffiths
Mrs J A Griffiths
K G Hardisty
M J Prest

CA.54 **MINUTES**

THE DECISION:

That the decisions of the meeting held on 13 December 2011 (CA.46 – CA.51),
previously circulated, be signed as a correct record.

CA.55 **SENIOR MANAGEMENT REVIEW**

All Wards

The subject of the decision:

Since inception of shared services with Richmondshire in April 2009 there had been a shared senior management structure. Shared services were at the stage where all of the service based business cases were agreed and either implemented or being implemented. A second pass approach was also being taken to realise the benefit of learning across all services as the shared services approach had developed. In keeping with this second pass approach, senior management requirements had also been reviewed.

Alternative options considered:

None.

The reason for the decision:

To continue to improve partnership working and efficiencies.

THE DECISION:

That the revised senior management arrangements and change requirements as detailed in the annex to the report be approved.

CA.56

USE OF LEISURE RELATED S106 FUNDS

Thirsk Wards

The subject of the decision:

The Council's policy in relation to leisure related Section 106 Agreements was to secure sustainable appropriate open space, sport and children's play provision within the site of a new development where the local Parish Council agreed to manage it locally. Occasionally this was not possible and so Section 106 Agreements were negotiated with developers to secure funds for community recreational projects off site where they could be related to that particular development. This report sought approval to allocated £7,000 of Section 106 funding, that was already secured for public open space, sport and recreation in Thirsk, to complete changing facilities at the Pavilion on Thirsk Flatts. The money would be secured and received by the Council from the Norby Site.

Alternative options considered:

None.

The reason for the decision:

To comply with the legal responsibility upon the Council to ensure its funding is used in a way consistent with the individual S106 Agreement.

THE DECISION:

That an allocation of £7,000 from Section 106 funding be allocated to the Thirsk Flatts Trust in respect of changing room extension work.

Declaration of Interest

Councillor M S Robson declared a personal interest as Chairman of the Flatts Trust and left the room during the discussion and voting on this matter.

CA.57

BOARD APPOINTMENTS – BROADACRES

All Wards

The subject of the decision:

The Council appointed two members to the Board of Broadacres Housing Association. Whilst there had been changes to the number of nominees over the years these appointments went back to when Hambleton Housing Association (and then Broadacres) was first formed following the council house stock transfer in the early 1990's. This report sought approval to formally withdraw from making Council appointees to the Broadacres Housing Association Board.

Alternative options considered:

None.

The reason for the decision:

To take account of changing circumstances.

THE DECISION:

That the Council formally withdraw from making appointments to the Broadacres board in line with its constitution.

Declarations of Interest

Councillor B Phillips declared a personal interest as a shareholder in Broadacres and also as a Member of Broadacres Board of Management and left the room during discussion and voting on this item.

Councillors J Coulson and M J Prest declared personal interests as shareholders in Broadacres.

Councillor Mrs J Griffiths, N Huxtable and T Swales declared personal interests as former shareholders in Broadacres.

CA.58

FORWARD PLAN

All Wards

The subject of the decision:

This report sought approval of a Forward Plan of items for the period from February – May 2012. The plan would be updated as further items arose or other amendments became necessary.

Alternative options considered:

None.

The reason for the decision:

To comply with the Council's constitution.

THE DECISION:

That the Forward Plan for the period February – May 2012 be endorsed.

CA.59

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT

THE DECISION:

That under Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the press and public were excluded from the meeting during consideration of the item of business at minute no CA.60 on the grounds that it involved the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraph 1 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Act as the Cabinet was satisfied that the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighed the public interest in disclosing the information.

CA.60

WORLD OF JAMES HERRIOT BUSINESS PLAN

All Wards

The subject of the decision:

This report considers the adoption of a Business Plan for The World of James Herriot. A copy was attached at Annex A of the report. The primary objective of the Business Plan was to reduce the gap between income and expenditure with a view to a neutral balance within 3 years.

Alternative options considered:

None.

The reason for the decision:

To agree the future operation of the World of James Herriot.

THE DECISION:

That:-

- (1) the Business Plan for The World of James Herriot attached at Annex A be approved and a subsidy of £60,000 be agreed for 2012/13;
- (2) in principle £50,000 be allocated from the Service Improvement Reserve to support the implementation of the Business Plan with the decision on individual projects subject to further Value for Money Statements;
- (3) a 3 year revenue forecast be presented to a future Cabinet meeting; and
- (4) negotiations take place in relation to a community asset transfer of The World of James Herriot operations to a suitable community group and a further report be submitted to Cabinet.

Declaration of Interest

Councillor J Coulson declared a personal interest as he had exhibited various collections in a number of museums.

The meeting closed at 11.10am.

Leader of the Council