

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

Cabinet

30 January 2018 - 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, Kim Curry, Katharine Eberhart, Katherine De La Mora.

PART I

Declarations of Interest

28. There were no declarations of interest.

Minutes

29. Resolved - that the minutes of the meeting held on 28 November 2017 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

Medium Term Financial Strategy 2018/19 to 2021/22 and Revenue Budget 2018/19

30. The Cabinet considered a report by the Director of Finance, Procurement and Performance setting out the Medium Term Financial Strategy 2018/19 to 2021/22 and the Revenue Budget for 2018/19 (copy appended to the signed version of the minutes). The report was introduced by Louise Goldsmith, Leader, who highlighted the increased challenge in budget setting every year due to the uncertainty in future finances. The County Council was however delivering good quality services to its residents and was setting a £533m budget for 2018/19 to continue to deliver these services.

31. Jeremy Hunt, Cabinet Member for Finance and Resources highlighted that the Capital Programme and Savings Schedule had been approved by Cabinet and County Council in December. Mr Hunt highlighted the key points in the report including the following:

- The MTFS and Revenue Budget supported the five key aims of the West Sussex Plan.
- The report was recommending an additional 1% Council Tax increase following the announcement in the provisional financial settlement in December, taking the total proposed increase to 4.95%. In light of future uncertainty on funding from central government the extra 1% was needed to underpin the County Council's key services.
- Despite the challenges ahead, there had been budget increases in the Adults & Health, Children and Young People and Environment portfolios.
- Thanked staff for the high quality services they continue to deliver to residents.

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

32. Katharine Eberhart, Director of Finance, Procurement and Performance highlighted that the Business Rate information was outstanding from the District and Boroughs and would be tabled at County Council on 16 February with any variances being managed through the Budget Management Reserve. Additional savings were outlined in Appendix 3 and had been discussed at the Performance and Finance Select Committee in January. Reserves had also been reviewed to ensure they were at a sufficient level to keep the County Council safe, taking into account the future uncertainties around Business Rate retention and the Fairer Funding Review.

34 Pieter Montyn, Chairman of Performance and Finance Select Committee, confirmed that there had been a robust discussion at the Select Committee on 18 January and highlighted the following key points.

- The Committee supported the continued lobbying of Central Government on funding for schools and Adults Social Care.
- The Committee recognised the need to work with partners on homelessness and affordable housing.
- The Committee supported the additional 1% increase in Council Tax, requesting that further detail be provided at County Council on 16 February on the plans for this additional income.

35. The Cabinet fully supported the budget and thanked officers and the Cabinet Member for Finance and Resources for developing a robust budget.

36. The Cabinet supported the additional 1% Council Tax increase and the proposals for its expenditure, recognising that this was necessary to be able to continue to provide vital services to residents. An overhaul of Local Authority Funding was required from government for a more long term solution to the funding issues, however in the meantime, the County Council had a duty to do the best for their residents and would continue to campaign for fairer funding for the County Council.

37. Resolved – that the Cabinet endorses the County Council Draft Budget for 2018/19, as set out in Annex 1, 2 and 3, for approval by County Council on 16 February 2018

Dates of Future Meetings

38. The next meeting is scheduled for 29 January 2019

The meeting closed at 2.40 p.m.

Chairman