

COPELAND BOROUGH COUNCIL

STATEMENTS OF EXECUTIVE DECISIONS

HELD ON 8 JANUARY 2015

MEMBERS PRESENT: Councillors Elaine Woodburn; Hugh Branney; Geoff Garrity;
Allan Holliday Peter Kane and Gillian Troughton

OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE: Paul Walker, Chief Executive; Janice Carrol, Interim Head of Copeland Services; Lindsay Tomlinson, Democratic Services Manager & Monitoring Officer; Angela George, Interim Head of Finance and S151 Officer; Karen Morley-Chesworth, Communications Manager; Denise James, Member Services Officer.

Pat Graham, Director of Economic Growth Agenda Items 9 and 10

START TIME: 2.00 PM

CLOSE TIME: 3.45 PM

CERTIFICATION: _____

Certified a true record of decisions taken at the meeting of the 8 January 2015

Copeland Borough Council

Statement of Executive Decision

Agenda Item: 3	
Subject: Statements Of Executive Decisions	
Date of Decision: 8 January 2015	Decision made by:
Decision Reference: EXE/14/0075	Full Executive

Portfolio Holder: N/A

Context: To consider the Statements of Executive Decisions 16 December 2014

Key Decision Status: No

Decision – That the Statements of decisions made at the meeting held on the 16 December 2014 be signed as a correct record.

Explanation: N/A

Alternative Options Considered: None

Interests Declared: None

Implementation Date: 20 January 2015	Publication Date: 13 January 2015	Recorded by: Denise James
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Call-in Period Expires on: N/A	Contact Officers: Lindsay Tomlinson
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Copeland Borough Council

Statement of Executive Decision

Agenda Item: 5	
Subject: Questions from Members of the Public	
Date of Decision: 8 January 2015	Decision made by: Full Executive
Decision Reference: EXE/14/0076	

Portfolio Holder: N/A

Context: To receive and respond to any questions from Members of the Public.

Key Decision Status: N/A

DECISION: There were no questions from Members of the Public.

Explanation: N/A

Alternative Options Considered: None

Interests Declared: None

Implementation Date: 20 January 2015	Publication Date: 13 January 2015	Recorded by: Denise James
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Call-in Period Expires on: 20 January 2015	Contact Officers: Paul Walker
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Copeland Borough Council

Statement of Executive Decision

Agenda Item: 6	
Subject: Forward Plan	
Date of Decision: 8 January 2015	Decision made by:
Decision Reference: EXE/14/0077	Full Executive

Portfolio Holder: N/A

Context: To consider the Forward Plan

Key Decision Status: No

Decision – That the forward plan be noted.

Explanation: N/A

Alternative Options Considered: None

Interests Declared: None

Implementation Date: 20 January 2015	Publication Date: 13 November 2014	Recorded by: Denise James
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Call-in Period Expires on: 20 January 2015	Contact Officers: Lindsay Tomlinson
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Copeland Borough Council

Statement of Executive Decision

Agenda Item: 7	
Subject: Revenue Budget Proposals for 2015/16 and Medium Term Financial Strategy Projections 2015/16 to 2018/19	
Date of Decision: 8 January 2015	Decision made by:
Decision Reference: EXE/14/0078	Full Executive

Portfolio Holder: Councillor Gillian Troughton

Context: To consider the Revenue Budget Proposals for 2015/16 and Medium Term Financial Strategy Projections 2015/16 to 2018/19

Key Decision Status: Yes

DECISION: That the following be agreed for consultation purposes: -

- (i) the government grant settlement figures received on 18th December of £3.829m, a reduction of £765k (17%) from 2014/15, which together with other changes to specific grants and base budget review, results in a budget deficit of £1.484m for 2015/16 as detailed in paragraph 3.6 be noted. It be noted that the government grant reduction means that Copeland is once again in the category of the authorities most severely affected by the Government Grant reductions for 2015/16;
- (ii) the savings and use of reserves to close the estimated gap of £1.484m be recommended to give a balanced budget for 2015/16 as set out in Paragraph 4.3 the report and informed by the public budget consultation exercise as set out in Appendix A, with the amendment as set out in recommendation (iii) below.
- (iii) confirm that no reduction to the level of funding available to Parishes be made (following public consultation), which will be necessary to enable parishes to set their precepts.
- (iv) approve the use of the New Homes Bonus to support existing Council services, noting the associated risk of the funding being withdrawn at a future date;
- (v) approve the proposed fees and charges as detailed in Appendix B of the report;
- (vi) approve the use of £176k from Earmarked Reserves in 2015/16, as detailed in the Reserves report;
- (vii) approve the utilisation of £200k of revenue funding from 2014/15 to support the Working Differently capital programme as set out in the Capital Budget report elsewhere on the agenda and previously considered by the Executive on 25th Nov 2014.
- (viii) approve the decision that there will be no change to the current Council Tax Discount Scheme for 2015/16 as set out in the public Budget Consultation document (see 4.1);
- (ix) approve the working MTFS assumptions set out in paragraphs 3.5 including the financial planning assumption that council tax will be raised by 1.95% per annum (see paragraph 3.5 (v)). Also to note that the provisional projections to 2018/19 will be re-analysed following the May elections, but that the current deficit projections of another £3.3m savings to be found from 2016/17 onwards will represent a significant financial challenge to the authority.
- (x) agree the content of this report, and amendments agreed at the meeting will form the basis of the statutory budget consultation (under Statutory Instrument 1992 No.3171) under which the council is required to consult business ratepayers or business representatives on proposed spending; and
- (x) officers be asked to continue working with staff to ensure "in Year" savings are made.

Explanation: In accordance with the Councils budget setting process and financial regulations.

Alternative Options Considered: None

Interests Declared: Councillor Elaine Woodburn declared a non disclosable pecuniary interest in issues relating to the Level of funding available to Parishes due to her mother being the Town Clerk of a Parish Council.
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Implementation Date: 20 January 2015	Publication Date: 13 January 2015	Recorded by: Denise James
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Call-in Period Expires on: 20 January 2015	Contact Officers: Angela George
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Copeland Borough Council

Statement of Executive Decision

Agenda Item: 8	
Subject: Review of Reserves 2015/16	
Date of Decision: 8 January 2015	Decision made by:
Decision Reference: EXE/14/0079	Full Executive

Portfolio Holder: Councillor Gillian Troughton

Context: To consider a report on the review of reserves 2015/16

Key Decision Status: Yes

DECISION: That Executive agree to recommend: -

- (i) retaining the General Fund Risk Based Reserve at £2m (paragraph 2.7 of the report)
- (ii) the release of £5.178m from the unallocated general fund to allow the creation of a Business Rate Safety Net earmarked reserve (paragraph 3.2 of the report)
- (iii) Note the proposed use of general unallocated reserves in 2015/16 (paragraph 3.4 of the report) to fund the budget deficit in 2015/6 pending the identification of further savings. The final amount required will be determined during the budget process.
- (iv) approve the movement on earmarked reserves set out in paragraph 4.8
- (v) approve the use of earmarked reserves totalling £184k (£176k Revenue; £8k Capital) as set out in paragraph 4.9 of the report.

Explanation: In accordance with the Councils budget setting process and financial regulations.

Alternative Options Considered: None

Interests Declared: None

Implementation Date: 20 January 2015	Publication Date: 13 January 2015	Recorded by: Denise James
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Call-in Period Expires on: 20 January 2015	Contact Officers: Paul Walker
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Copeland Borough Council

Statement of Executive Decision

Agenda Item: 9	
Subject: Proposed Capital Programme 2015/16 – 2017/18	
Date of Decision: 8 January 2015	Decision made by:
Decision Reference: EXE/14/0080	Full Executive

Portfolio Holder: Councillor Gillian Troughton

Context: To consider the proposed Capital Programme 2015/16 – 2017/18

Key Decision Status: Yes

DECISION: That the Executive recommend that:

- (i) an existing project outline for Disabled Facilities Grants that was approved in principal in 2013/14 for inclusion in 2015/16 & 2016/17 capital programme and is still required as detailed in paragraph 2. An additional year of providing DFG's in 2017/18 has also been requested to be added to the Capital Programme 2017/18.
- (ii) the proposed draft Capital Programme for 2015/16 to 2017/18, which can be funded from Useable Capital Receipts Reserve and assuming current forecast capital receipts are realised in the three year period, (see paragraph 5 of the report), be reconsidered at the Executive meeting on 12th February 2015.
- (iii) the forecast capital receipt position as detailed in sections 5 and 6 of the report and the risk associated with any under achievement of the forecast capital receipts be noted:
- (iv) the approval of the final Project Initiation Documents (PID's) for each new project detailed in paragraph 3 and attached at Appendix D to the report be deferred for further information and this be brought back to the February meeting of the Executive. The remaining projects will need to be approved separately through another Executive meeting prior to commencement of spend.
- (v) it be noted that £200k of the Working Differently Accommodation Strategy bid is to be funded from revenue as approved at Executive 25th November 2014.

Explanation: In accordance with the Councils budget setting process and financial regulations.

Alternative Options Considered: None

Interests Declared: None

Implementation Date: 20 January 2015	Publication Date: 13 January 2015	Recorded by: Denise James
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Call-in Period Expires on: 20 January 2015	Contact Officers: Angela George
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Copeland Borough Council

Statement of Executive Decision

Agenda Item: 10	
Subject: Draft Treasury Management Strategy Statement (TMSS) Minimum Revenue Provision Policy Statement and Annual Investment Strategy 2015/16	
Date of Decision: 8 January 2015	Decision made by:
Decision Reference: EXE/14/0081	Full Executive

Portfolio Holder: Councillor Gillian Troughton

Context: To consider the Draft Treasury Management Strategy Statement (TMSS) Minimum Revenue Provision Policy Statement and Annual Investment Strategy 2015/16

Key Decision Status: Yes

DECISION: That Executive approve

i) the Treasury Management Strategy Statement 2015/16, the Annual Investment Strategy 2015/16 and the Minimum Revenue Provision Statement 2015/16 contained within this report. Executive are asked to recommend this, giving due regard to the following changes from the 2014/15 treasury strategy and subsequent in year revisions to the TMSS and approved in 2014/15.

ii) the inclusion of Property Funds (at paragraph 4.2 of the report) which may be used in future years (subject to a further detailed report specifying fund details and financial limits & prior Executive approval).

Explanation: In accordance with the Councils budget setting process and financial regulations.

Alternative Options Considered: None

Interests Declared: None

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