

RESOURCE PLANNING WORKING GROUP

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 8 FEBRUARY 2012

Present: Councillors: Gillian Troughton (Chairman); Geoff Garrity David Moore; Alistair Norwood; Elaine Woodburn; Henry Wormstrup

Councillor Graham Sunderland attended the meeting and Councillor Norman Williams attended the meeting for agenda items 1 – 10

Officers: Paul Walker, Chief Executive; Pat Graham, Corporate Director People and Places; Joanne Wagstaffe, Corporate Director, Resources and Transformation; Denise James, Member Services Officer

RP 55 Minutes

RESOLVED – That the minutes of the meeting held on 11 January 2012 be signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

RP 56 Draft Medium Term Financial Strategy 2012/13 to 2015/16

Consideration was given to a report setting out the Medium Term Financial Strategy for the period 2012/13 to 2015/15 to incorporate formally the inclusion of the Revenue Budget, Capital Programme, Reserves Strategy and Treasury Management Strategies proposed for recommendation for approval by Executive and subsequently formal approval by Full Council on the 23 February.

RESOLVED – That taking on board comments made by Members the strategy be amended the strategy the Executive be recommended to approve the strategy recommend the strategy to Council for formal approval on the 23 February.

RP 57 Proposed Treasury Management Strategy 2012/13 – 2014/15 incorporating Annual Investment Strategy 2012/13 and Minimum Revenue Provision Statement 2012/13

The final Draft Treasury Management and Investment Strategy 2012/13-2014/15 incorporating the Annual Investment Strategy 2012/13 and Minimum Revenue provision Statement 2012/13 was submitted noted prior to being submitted to the Executive and Council for formal approval.

RP 58 Council Plan and Budget Consultation 2012/13

Consideration was given to a report outlining the responses to the Councils 2012/13 council plan and budget consultation.

During consideration of this item member emphasised the importance of drawing from the experience of this years consultation in order to improve further in 2013/14.

RESOLVED – That the report be noted and considered as part of the budget process.

RP 59 Interim Report of the Internal OSC Task and Finish Group – Car Parking Fees 2012/13

Consideration was given to an interim report of the Overview and Scrutiny Internal Committee Task and Finish Group in respect of the Car Parking Fees. It was note that this report was an interim report for stage one only.

The report recommended that the Resource Planning Working Group recommend an increase in car parking fees for 2012/13 of 2.5%, however it was felt that this would be simpler if the fees increased by 2.5% rounded up to the nearest 10p.

During consideration of the report Members thought that a longer term car park pricing strategy for Whitehaven/Copeland should be developed and asked for this be included in the scope of the task and finish group.

RESOLVED – That

- a. it be noted that this interim report refers to stage one only;
- b. the scope and arrangements for the two stage review be noted;
- c. engagement to date with parts of the business community in Whitehaven be noted and that this will continue throughout stage two;
- d. the fees options considered in detail by the Task and Finish Group – including options for free parking be noted
- e. a below inflationary increase of 2.5% rounded up to the nearest 10p be recommended to the Executive to be applied across Copeland Borough Council's pay and display car parks for 2012-13 and the TFGs reasons for this be noted
- f. the proposed content of stage two of the report is noted and agreed by the Internal OSC
- g. Internal OSC be asked to look at a Whitehaven/Copeland long term pricing strategy.

RP 60 Revenue Budget Proposals 2012/13

Consideration was given to proposals for the Revenue Budget Proposals for 2012/13

RESOLVED – That a) the Executive be recommended to recommend to Council that

- i. approve subject to the amendment to the proposed Car Park charges RP 59(e) refers and no increase to Market Charges;
- ii. approve the net growth Pressures in the budget totalling £588,352 as detailed in Appendix B of the report;
- iii. approve the savings proposals totalling £1,807,171 as detailed in Appendix C of the report
- iv. approve the use of £231,405 from the General Fund balances in 2012/13 to support general expenditure; and
- v. the use of £435,564 be agreed in principle subject to all background information for earmarked reserves being circulated to members for Comment prior to the meeting of the Executive on the 14th February

b) Executive be recommended to consider and make a recommendation to Council on the Government offer of £100,000 for one year in exchange for a freeze on Council Tax levels and associated implications; and

c) taking account of the recommendation above approve the budget for 2012/13 at £11,060,425 including the use of earmarked reserves of £435,563, giving a net budget requirement of £10,624,861 to be funded from general grants £6,263,678.

RP 61 Use of Reserves 2012/13

Consideration was given to a report detailing the Council's strategy for using its revenue reserves and the balances that are available to provide support to the revenue budget.

During consideration of this item member asked for a discussion on all reserves along with details as to why they were being held to be included on an agenda shortly after the budget is completed.

RESOLVED – That the Executive be recommended to recommend that Council approves

- a) the reserves strategy as set out in the report and provides the framework for the use and level of reserves in the future; and
- b) the level of reserves held by the Council as set out in Appendix A of the report.

RP 62 Capital Programme 2012/13 – 2014/15

Consideration was given to the proposed Capital programme for 2012/13 – 2014/15 prior to recommendation to Executive and Full Council for formal approval.

RESOLVED – That a) the removal of Albion Square project from the Capital programme be noted;

- b) it be noted that the public building bid has been increased by £30,000 funded from Useable Capital Receipts Reserves;
- c) the individual Capital bids be recommended to Executive for consideration and recommendation to Council for approval; and
- d) the use of reserves be recommended to Executive for recommendation to Council for approval.

The meeting closed at 12.45PM

Chairman