

COPELAND BOROUGH COUNCIL

STATEMENTS OF EXECUTIVE DECISIONS

HELD ON 17 FEBRUARY 2014

MEMBERS PRESENT: Councillor Allan Holliday (in the Chair); Hugh Branney; George Clements; Peter Kane and Gillian Troughton

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors George Clements and Elaine Woodburn

OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE: Paul Walker, Chief Executive; Pat Graham, Head of Service; Darienne Law, Head of Corporate Resources; Keith Parker, Head of Neighbourhoods; Janice Carrol, Waste Services Manager; John Groves, Head of Nuclear and Planning; Julie Betteridge, Head of Regeneration and Community; Denise James, Member Services Officer

Penny Mell, Head of Policy and Transformation, Agenda Items 1 – 8

Councillor Graham Sunderland also attended the meeting

START TIME: 2.00 PM

CLOSE TIME: 3.45 AM

CERTIFICATION: _____

Certified a true record of decisions taken at the meeting of the 17 February 2014

Copeland Borough Council

Statement of Executive Decision

Agenda Item: 3	
Subject: Declarations of Interest	
Date of Decision: 17 February 2014	Decision made by:
Decision Reference: EXE/13/0109	Full Executive

Portfolio Holder: N/A

Context: To note declarations of Disclosable and Non-Disclosable Pecuniary Interests
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Key Decision Status: No

Decision: There were no declarations of interests made.

Explanation: N/A

Alternative Options Considered: None

Interests Declared: N/A

Implementation Date: 27 February 2014	Publication Date: 20 February 2014	Recorded by: Denise James
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Call-in Period Expires on: 27 February 2014	Contact Officers: Tim Capper
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Copeland Borough Council

Statement of Executive Decision

Agenda Item: 5	
Subject: Capital Budget Quarter 3 Summary Financial Report 2013/15	
Date of Decision: 17 February 2014	Decision made by: Full Executive
Decision Reference: EXE/13/0110	

Portfolio Holder: Councillor Gillian Troughton
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Context: To consider the Capital Budget Quarter 3 Summary Financial Report 2013/14
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Key Decision Status: Yes

<p>Decision – That a) the approved gross capital budget of £3,872,464, £1,902,514 of which is funded by external income to give a net current capital budget of £1,969,950 be noted;</p> <p>b) the position as at 31 December 2013 (Quarter 3) of capital receipts for 2013/14 as set out in this report be noted;</p> <p>c) the forecast year-end variance on the overall Capital Programme 2013/14 is a gross under spend of £2,431,960 at 31 December 2013. This will result in a £1,345,486 underspend in external income to give a total net variance of £1,086,474. The majority of this underspend is expected to be carried forward to complete projects in 2014/15 be noted; and</p> <p>d) the total anticipated capital spend in the next three months to 31 March 2014 is £881,122 depending on variables as detailed in paragraph 3.5 of the report be noted.</p>

Explanation: As part of the Council budget monitoring procedure.
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Alternative Options Considered: None

Interests Declared: None

Implementation Date: 27 February 2014	Publication Date: 20 February 2014	Recorded by: Denise James
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Call-in Period Expires on: 27 February 2014	Contact Officers: Darienne Law
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Copeland Borough Council

Statement of Executive Decision

Agenda Item: 6	
Subject: Treasury Management – Quarter 3 Financial Summary 2013/14	
Date of Decision: 17 February 2014	Decision made by: Full Executive
Decision Reference: EXE/13/0111	

Portfolio Holder: Councillor Gillian Troughton
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Context: To consider the Treasury Management – Quarter 3 Financial Summary 2013/14
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Key Decision Status: Yes

Decision: That the report be noted.

Explanation: As part of the Council budget monitoring procedures.

Alternative Options Considered: None

Interests Declared: None

Implementation Date: 27 February 2014	Publication Date: 20 January 2014	Recorded by: Denise James
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Call-in Period Expires on: 27 February 2014	Contact Officers: Darienne Law
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Copeland Borough Council

Statement of Executive Decision

Agenda Item: 7	
Subject: Revenue Budget Quarter 3 Monitoring Report 2013/14	
Date of Decision: 17 February 2014	Decision made by: Full Executive
Decision Reference: EXE/13/0112	

Portfolio Holder: Councillor Gillian Troughton
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Context: To consider the Revenue Budget Quarter 3 Monitoring Report – Quarter 3 2013/14

Key Decision Status: No

Decision: That	
(i)	the risks to the budget as detailed in sections 2 and 4 and the income projections in section 3 of the report be noted;
(ii)	the approved net current revenue budget of £11,658m as set out in paragraph 1.4 of the report be noted;
(iii)	it be noted that at Q3 the projected year-end underspends as verified by CLT are:- <ul style="list-style-type: none">• £258k underspend against one off earmarked reserves for project work and initiatives;• £511k underspend against base budget;• £179k underspend achieved as the council has managed to successfully bid for additional external income – see paragraph 1.7 for details. This totals £948k against the current approved revenue budget of £11,658m. See Appendices A & C of the report;
(iv)	the anticipated safety net position the authority will find itself in this financial year for NNDR, and the associated £165k cost, as detailed in paragraph 3.3 be noted;
(v)	the decision taken by Head of Corporate Resources, on outstanding debts totalling £23k as set out in paragraphs 1.3 and 1.4 of Appendix E be noted.

Explanation: In accordance with Councils performance monitoring procedures

Alternative Options Considered: None

Interests Declared: None

Implementation Date: 27 February 2014	Publication Date: 20 February 2014	Recorded by: Denise James
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Call-in Period Expires on: 27 February 2014	Contact Officers: Darienne Law
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Copeland Borough Council

Statement of Executive Decision

Agenda Item: 8	
Subject: Revenue Budget Proposals 2014/15	
Date of Decision: 17 February 2014	Decision made by: Full Executive
Decision Reference: EXE/13/0113	

Portfolio Holder: Councillor Gillian Troughton
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Context: To consider Revenue Budget proposals for 2014/15 prior to being submitted to Council for approval.

Key Decision Status: Yes

Decision: That

1. the final settlement figures received from Government on 5th February are set out in Section 2 be noted;
2. the feedback from the public and business consultation set out in Section 6, Appendix K and Section 8 and considers the potential impact of the proposed policy decisions and the mitigating actions as set out within Appendix J and Appendix L be considered and noted;
3. Council be recommended that the policy decisions set out within the report be approved and implemented as follows:-
 - (a) grant funding DIGS and Cumbria Rural Housing Trust be ceased
 - (b) the concurrent services grant to parish councils be withdrawn over a two period starting in 2014/15 with a 50% reduction;
 - (c) fees and charges be increased for car parking and the crematorium and cemeteries in line with RPI.
 - (d) Not to introduce the Crematorium and Cemeteries surcharge in 2014/15 but to off-set with funding from within the Council's Transformation Fund allocated for 14/15 and look to introduce in 2015/16 instead if other lines of funding cannot be found
 - (e) fully costed proposals be brought back for the introduction of new charges within the waste and recycling service for the provision of new and replacement bins and boxes.
 - (f) council tax be increased by 1.95% for 2014/15.
 - (g) Parish councils continue to be compensated for the actual impact of the Localisation of Council Tax scheme on their tax base for 2014/15.
 - (h) the proposed technical change to council tax in relation to Probate, see paragraph 3.2 (10) of the report be agreed;
4. Council be recommended to approve that
 - (i) the proposals for increases in Fees and Charges set out in Appendix D of the report
 - (ii) the changes to the 2014/15 budget projections following the receipt of the final settlement as set out in Table 3 and notes at 3.2 of the report;
 - (iii) the use of the new homes bonus to underpin the costs of existing council services;
 - (iv) the acceptance of the principle of bidding for additional funding from the BEC social fund as set out in Section 5 of the report and that detailed proposals are considered and approved by the Executive.
 - (v) the savings proposals for 2014/15 of £662k (£500k adjusted approved Feb 2013 and £162k proposed as set out in Appendix F which seeks to balance the Council's budget and address the 2014/15 projected budget shortfall, as shown in Table 5, paragraph 6;
 - (vi) Earmarked Reserves, as detailed in Section 7, including the release of £336k to the general fund unallocated reserve to support the pension deficit and the creation, from general fund unallocated reserve of a new knotweed EMR and the use of £275k to support specific activities in 2014/15 budget, all as detailed in the Earmarked Reserve report attached as Appendix H to this report;
 - (vii) the impact of the proposals on General Reserves of supporting the 2014/15 budget by £230k reducing the Unallocated Reserve to £653k and the risk base to £2m to give a total general fund balance of £2.7m as set out in 7.3 and 10 and Appendix I;
 - (viii) Council delegate the setting of the council tax to the Council Tax Setting Committee which will meet on 4 March 2014.
5. taking account of the above the Executive to approve a budget to recommend to Council of £10,511 for 2014/15 as set out in Para 3.1 Table 3 of the report.

Explanation: In accordance with the Council's Budget setting process.
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Alternative Options Considered: None

Interests Declared: None

Implementation Date: 27 February 2014	Publication Date: 20 February 2014	Recorded by: Denise James
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Call-in Period Expires on: 27 February 2014	Contact Officers: Darienue Law
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Copeland Borough Council

Statement of Executive Decision

Agenda Item:	
Subject: Exclusion of Press and Public	
Date of Decision: 17 February 2014	Decision made by: Full Executive
Decision Reference: EXE/13/0114	

Portfolio Holder: N/A

Context: Excludes Press and Public from the meeting for Agenda Item 9
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Key Decision Status: No

Decision: That the Press and Public be excluded from the meeting for Agenda Items 9 on the grounds of exempt information as identified in paragraph 7 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 as amended.
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Explanation: N/A

Alternative Options Considered: None

Interests Declared: None

Implementation Date: 27 February 2014	Publication Date: 20 February 2014	Recorded by: Denise James
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Call-in Period Expires on: 27 February 2014	Contact Officers: Tim Capper
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Copeland Borough Council

Statement of Executive Decision

Agenda Item: 9	
Subject: Corporate Leadership Restructure	
Date of Decision: 17 February 2014	Decision made by: Full Executive
Decision Reference: EXE/13/0115	

Portfolio Holder: Councillor Gillian Troughton
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Context: To consider a report on changes to the senior organisational structure. It was noted that Personnel Panel had approved the recommendations subject to one amendment to recommendation 2. "Review and approved ~~the final~~ this structure proposal for implementation in accordance with the Council's change management policies and procedures."

During consideration of this item member commended officers for their continued support in difficult times.

Key Decision Status: Yes

Decision: That 1) the responses and feedback as part of the formal consultation and resulting changes to the structure be considered and noted;

2. Review and approved this structure proposal for implementation in accordance with the Council's change management policies and procedures;

3. the changes to the structure be approved.

Explanation:

Alternative Options Considered: None

Interests Declared: None

Implementation Date: 27 February 2014	Publication Date: 20 February 2014	Recorded by: Denise James
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Call-in Period Expires on: 27 February 2014	Contact Officers: Paul Walker
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Copeland Borough Council

Statement of Executive Decision

Agenda Item: 9	
Subject: Copeland Pool Update	
Date of Decision: 17 February 2014	Decision made by: Full Executive
Decision Reference: EXE/13/0116	

Portfolio Holder: Councillor Hugh Branney

Context: As part of the capital programme discussion the Copeland Pool Fitness Extension contingency budget line was highlighted as a tight sum within the total project costs and reliant on strong project and cost management to ensure contract spend is within the agreed contract price. Executive requested a progress report on the contract and contingency delivery and on-going requirements at future Executive meetings with the understanding that any additional contingency requirements would be evidenced as part of this reporting.

Key Decision Status: Yes

Decision: That a) the update be noted; and b) a further report be submitted to the March meeting.
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Explanation: To keep Members updated on progress with the project.
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Alternative Options Considered: None

Interests Declared: None

Implementation Date: 27 February 2014	Publication Date: 20 February 2014	Recorded by: Denise James
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Call-in Period Expires on: 27 February 2014	Contact Officers: Paul Walker
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