
CABINET

Wednesday, 3rd January, 2018

Present: Councillor Miles Parkinson (in the Chair), Councillors Paul Cox and Gareth Molineux

In Attendance: Councillors Tony Dobson, Terry Hurn, Abdul Khan and Jenny Molineux

Apologies: Councillors Clare Cleary, Munsif Dad and Ken Moss

283 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were submitted from Councillors Clare Cleary, Munsif Dad and Ken Moss.

284 Declarations of Interest and Dispensations

There were no declarations of interest or dispensations.

285 Minutes of Cabinet

The Minutes of the meeting of Cabinet held on 6th December 2017 were submitted for approval as a correct record.

Resolved - **That the Minutes be received and approved as a correct record.**

286 Reports of Cabinet Members

There were no reports.

287 Council Tax Base 2018 - 2019

The Leader of the Council (Councillor Miles Parkinson) submitted a report relating to the Council Tax Base for the financial year 2018/2019. In accordance with Section 35 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, the Council was required to formally determine the Council Tax Base for 2018/2019 prior to 31st January 2018. That determination allowed the Council to notify the major preceptors (Lancashire County Council, the Police and Crime Commissioner for Lancashire and Lancashire Combined Fire Authority) by 31st January of the Council Tax Base. The requisite calculations for Hyndburn and Altham (attached as Appendices A and B respectively to the report) had to be carried out in accordance with the Local Authorities (Calculation of Council Tax Base) Regulations 2012 and once determined, could not be changed. That Base had to be used when the Council set the levels of Council Tax for the year 2018/2019. It was proposed that the Tax Base for Hyndburn for the financial year 2018/2019 be 20,506 which was an increase from last year's Tax Base of 309 (20,197) and that the 2018/2019 Tax Base for Altham be 314 which was an increase from last year's Tax Base of 9 (305). A Customer First Analysis (Equality and Diversity Implications) was attached at Appendix C to the report. Approval of the report was not deemed a key decision.

Reasons for Decision

It was a statutory requirement to set a Council Tax Base.

Alternative Options Considered and Reasons for Rejection

Failure to set a Council Tax Base was not an option.

Resolved

- (1) That the report be approved;**
- (2) That in accordance with the Local Authorities (Calculation of Tax Base) Regulations 2012, the amount calculated by the Council as its Council Tax Base for the financial year 2018/2019 be 20,506; and,**
- (3) That in accordance with the Local Authorities (Calculation of Tax Base) Regulations 2012, the amount calculated by the Council for its Council Tax Base for the Parish of Altham for the financial year 2018/2019 be 314.**

The following item was submitted as urgent business with the Chair's agreement in accordance with Section 100B(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the reason being to assist in the development of the Local Plan for Hyndburn.

288 Green Belt Assessment

The Leader of the Council submitted a report relating to the Green Belt Assessment being undertaken to inform the development of the Local Plan for Hyndburn. Approval of the report was not deemed a key decision.

Reasons for Decision

1) The Council was preparing a Local Plan for Hyndburn and it was necessary to undertake a Green Belt Assessment. An assessment had not been undertaken since the Local Plan was adopted in 1996 and the assessment would form an essential part of the evidence needed in the development of the Site Allocations Development Plan Document and for the Masterplan that would be prepared in 2018 for the future development of the Huncoat Zone. The assessment would identify general areas of Green Belt before identifying more detailed parcels that abutted the urban boundary.

2) At this stage, the Green Belt assessment would not be identifying land that should be taken out of the Green Belt or land that should remain in the Green Belt, it was simply an assessment against the five purposes set out by the National Planning Policy. In determining whether to allocate land for development, it was necessary to take into account a wide range of factors, one of which would be the findings of the assessment if the site was within the Green Belt.

Alternative Options Considered and Reasons for Rejection

A large portion of the Borough was designated Green Belt and an assessment would form an important part of the evidence base for the review of the Core Strategy, the Site Allocations Development Plan Document and the Huncoat Masterplan. If a Green Belt assessment was not undertaken, it was likely to be difficult to defend decisions relating to areas of Green Belt, for example, in cases where developers were seeking to take land out

of the Green Belt that the Council wished to retain in the Green Belt, or where the Council believed land should be taken out of the Green Belt. If an assessment of the Green Belt was not undertaken, there was a risk that the Plan might not be found “sound” by an Inspector.

Resolved - **That the report be noted and a further report be presented to Cabinet setting out the findings of the Green Belt assessment when it had been completed.**

The following item was submitted as urgent business with the Chair’s agreement in accordance with Section 100B(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the reason being to ensure the most up to date information was provided.

289 Financial Position October 2017/18 - Report for the Year Ending 31st March 2018

The Portfolio Holder for Resources submitted a report on the financial spending of the Council up to the end of October 2017 and the financial forecast outturn position for the Accounting Year 2017/18. The financial detail of the report was shown as a table at the end of the report. Spend for the first seven months of the financial year was £6,097,838 compared to a Budget of £6,336,009 giving a positive variance of £238,000. The current forecast spend to the end of the financial year in March 2018 was £10,986,000 compared to a Budget of £11,197,000. That forecast produced a positive variance of £211,000. The main areas of financial pressure were Parks and Cemeteries and Regeneration and Property Services. Approval of the report was not deemed a key decision.

Reasons for Decision

To inform Cabinet of the financial spending of the Council at the end of October 2017 and the prediction of the outturn position to the end of the financial year in March 2018.

There were no alternative options for consideration or reasons for rejection.

Resolved - **That the report be noted and Corporate Management Team be asked to look to reduce costs and increase income over the remainder of the year to improve the Council’s overall financial position.**

Signed:.....

Date:

Chair of the meeting
At which the minutes were confirmed