

SPECIAL EXECUTIVE MEETING – BUDGET PROPOSALS

14 OCTOBER 2019

PRESENT

Leader of the Council (Councillor A. Western)(in the Chair),
Executive Member for Children’s Social Care (Councillor C. Hynes),
Executive Member for Communities and Partnerships (Councillor G. Whitham),
Executive Member for Environment, Air Quality and Climate Change (Councillor S. Adshead),
Executive Member for Finance and Investment (Councillor T. Ross),
Executive Member for Health, Wellbeing and Equalities (Councillor J. Slater),
Executive Member for Public Safety, Governance and Reform (Councillor M. Freeman).

Also present: Councillors Acton, Blackburn, Butt, Carter, Coggins, Myers and Welton.

In attendance:

Chief Executive (Ms. S. Todd),
Corporate Director, Place (Mr. R Roe),
Corporate Director, Finance and Systems (Ms. N. Bishop),
Corporate Director, Governance and Community Strategy (Ms. J. Le Fevre),
Corporate Director, People (Ms. S. Saleh),
Acting Corporate Director, Adult Services (Ms. D. Eaton),
Interim Corporate Director of Children’s Services (Mr. G. Rowney),
Democratic and Scrutiny Officer (Mr. J.M.J. Maloney).

APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors J. Baugh, J. Harding and J.A. Wright.

50. QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

It was reported that no public questions had been received in respect of items on the current meeting’s agenda.

51. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations were made by Executive Members.

52. EXECUTIVE’S DRAFT REVENUE BUDGET PROPOSALS 2020/21 AND MTFS 2021-23

The Executive Member for Finance and Investment and the Corporate Director of Finance and Systems submitted a report which set out, for the purposes of consultation and scrutiny, the Executive’s updated 3 year budget strategy proposals and draft revenue budget proposals for 2020/21 and Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) for the period 2021-23.

The Executive Member for Finance and Investment drew Members' attention to key issues and drivers underpinning the current proposals, including an additional increase in the envisaged budget gap arising from a recent and unexpected variation by Government of the PWLB interest rate.

The Executive's thanks were accorded to Finance officers for their efforts in collating the proposals which responded to corporate priorities whilst minimising, as far as was currently possible, the extent of the budget gap. An opportunity was provided for Members to raise questions and issues on the report's content. A number of factual responses and clarifications were provided. In cases where queries related to the merits of the inclusion or non-inclusion of certain proposals, Members were advised that there would be an opportunity to explore these issues in detail as part of the envisaged Budget Scrutiny process, which the current report was intended to inform.

In this context, since the report was explicitly intended for Scrutiny referral, and to allow the consultation process to be undertaken with as much notice as possible, the Executive agreed that it would be appropriate for the current proposals to be exempted from the call-in procedure

RESOLVED -

- (1) That the 2020/21 to 2022/23 proposed budget strategy, draft revenue budget and MTFS including the income and savings proposals be approved for the purposes of consultation only (where necessary) and that these proposals will also be referred to the Scrutiny Committee for their consideration.
- (2) That the proposal be noted to increase Council Tax by 3.99% in 2020/21 (comprising 2% adult social care precept and 1.99% general increase) and by similar levels for 2021/22 and 2022/23.
- (3) That the remaining budget gap for the years 2020/21 to 2022/23 be noted.
- (4) That it be noted that that the draft proposals are subject to various consultation exercises, analysis and impact assessments, movements in core funding, specific grants, costing and robustness assessments.
- (5) That the Reserves Policy included at Section 5 of the report and the Service Reserves Programme at Annex G to the report be approved and adopted.
- (6) That, in order to allow prompt consultation and referral to Scrutiny, this decision be deemed urgent, and not subject to call-in.

The meeting commenced at 6.00 p.m. and finished at 6.15 p.m.