

EXECUTIVE MEETING

21ST JANUARY 2013

PRESENT:

Leader of the Council (Councillor M. Colledge) (in the Chair),
Executive Member for Community Health & Wellbeing (Councillor Dr. K. Barclay),
Executive Member for Economic Growth and Prosperity (Councillor M. Hyman),
Executive Member for Education (Councillor M. Cornes),
Executive Member for Finance (Councillor S. Anstee),
Executive Member for Highways and Environment (Councillor A. Mitchell),
Executive Member for Safe & Strong Communities (Councillor J. Coupe),
Executive Member for Supporting Children and Families (Councillor Miss L. Blackburn),
Executive Member for Transformation and Resources (Councillor A. Williams).

Also present: Councillors Acton, Adshead, Bowker, Cordingley, Holden, Lloyd, Ross, Shaw and A. Western.

In attendance:

Chief Executive (Ms. T. Grant),
Corporate Director, Children & Young People's Service (Ms. D. Brownlee),
Corporate Director, Transformation & Resources (Mrs. W. Marston),
Corporate Director, Environment, Transport & Operations (Mr. P. Molyneux),
Interim Corporate Director, Economic Growth & Prosperity (Mr. P. Harvey),
Director of Finance (Mr. I. Duncan),
Acting Director of Legal & Democratic Services (Ms. J. Le Fevre),
Business Change Manager (Mr. S. Gannon) (item 76 only),
Senior Democratic Services Officer (Mr. J.M.J. Maloney).

APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from the Executive Member for Adult Social Services (Councillor M. Young).

73. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations were made by Executive Members.

74. MINUTES

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the meetings held on 26th November and 17th December 2012 be approved as correct records.

75. MATTERS FROM COUNCIL OR OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEES

Councillor Lloyd advised the Executive on the current position regarding the examination by the Joint Trafford / Manchester Health Scrutiny Committee of "New Health Deal for Trafford" proposals. Significant concerns had been expressed to the Strategic Health Board, and the Joint Committee was minded to refer the proposals to the Secretary of State in the event that a satisfactory response was not received.

76. PROPOSED CHANGES TO COUNCIL TAX AND COUNCIL TAX BENEFIT

The Executive Member for Finance introduced a report setting out details of the outcome of a consultation on alternative proposals relating to a local Council Tax support scheme, with a view to the Executive making a recommendation on a preferred option to Council. It was noted that there would be further debate on various specific issues at the meeting of Council on 23/1/13.

RESOLVED: That, following the public consultation and feedback from individuals, groups and stakeholders, it be recommended that the Council approve: -

- (1) The introduction of a local council tax support scheme as outlined in proposal 1 and set out in appendix 6 to the report.
- (2) The removal of the 100% empty property council tax exemption and its replacement with a 100% discount for one month, followed by the full charge.
- (3) The removal of the second home council tax discount.
- (4) That the above changes be effective from 1 April 2013.

77. BUDGET SCRUTINY REPORT AND EXECUTIVE'S RESPONSE

Councillor Shaw, as Chairman of the Scrutiny Committee, was in attendance and thanked the Executive and its officers for their commitment to the Budget Scrutiny process, the report arising from which was now before the Executive. The Leader of the Council in turn thanked Scrutiny Members for their report, and invited the Executive to endorse the proposed response, noting that a number of the recommended actions were completed or in progress. Councillor Shaw thanked the Executive for its response, which would be formally presented to Scrutiny Committee on 6th February, and requested that any further queries from Members arising from the response be forwarded to the Scrutiny Office as soon as possible.

RESOLVED: That the Budget Scrutiny report be received and noted, and the proposed response endorsed for referral to Scrutiny Committee on 6th February, 2013.

78. LOCAL GOVERNMENT FINANCE SETTLEMENT 2013/14 & 2014/15

The Executive Member for Finance and Director of Finance introduced a report which set out key features of the provisional Settlement which had been announced on 19th December 2012. Given that in some respects the position in respect of Business Rates was not yet clear, delegated arrangements were requested in respect of a number of specific decisions in this area.

RESOLVED -

- (1) That the Executive provisional settlement be noted and taken into account when formulating final budget proposals.

- (2) That it be noted that the Leader of the Council had delegated authority for the approval of the NNDR1 form (business rates estimate) to the Director of Finance in consultation with the Executive Member for Finance.
- (3) That it be noted that the Leader of the Council had delegated to the Director of Finance authority for the approval of payment dates for business rates to the GM Fire and Rescue Service and the GM Pool (if agreed).

79. COUNCIL TAX – INTRODUCTION OF EMPTY PROPERTY PREMIUM

The Executive Member for Economic Growth and Prosperity and Director of Finance submitted a report requesting that the Executive make recommendations to Council in respect of the proposed introduction of a Council Tax Empty Property Premium, following Government's granting of discretion to do so and consistent with the Council's Empty Property Strategy.

RESOLVED: That it be recommended that the Council approve: -

- (1) That from 1st April 2013 a council tax premium of 50% be applied for properties that have remained empty for more than two years.
- (2) That the Executive has the discretion to vary this premium if it deems it appropriate to do so following the expected release of guidance from the Department of Communities and Local Government.

80. REVENUE BUDGET MONITORING 2012/13 – PERIOD 8 (APRIL - NOVEMBER 2012)

The Executive Member for Finance and Acting Corporate Director, Transformation & Resources submitted a report which informed Members of the current position regarding the monitoring of the revenue budget.

RESOLVED: That the latest forecast and planned actions be noted and agreed.

81. DECISIONS MADE BY THE GREATER MANCHESTER COMBINED AUTHORITY AND AGMA EXECUTIVE BOARD 30/11/12

The Executive received for information details of decisions made by the Greater Manchester Combined Authority and AGMA Executive Board at their meetings held on 30/11/12.

RESOLVED: That the content of the decision summaries be noted.

The meeting commenced at 6.30 p.m. and finished at 7.52 p.m.