

Minutes of Cabinet

22 February 2017

Present:

Councillor I.T.E. Harvey, Leader and Council Policy co-ordination
Councillor A.C. Harman, Deputy Leader and Towards a Sustainable Future programme (TaSF)
Councillor M.M. Attewell, Community Wellbeing
Councillor C.B. Barnard, Planning and Economic Development
Councillor A.J. Mitchell, Corporate Management
Councillor J.M. Pinkerton OBE, Housing
Councillor H.R.D. Williams, Finance and Customer Service

Apologies:

Councillor N.J. Gething, Environment and Compliance

Councillors in attendance:

Councillor M.P.C. Francis

Councillor O. Rybinski

2335 Minutes

The minutes of the Cabinet meeting held on 25 January 2017 were agreed as a correct record.

2336 Disclosures of Interest

There were none.

2337 *Detailed Revenue Budget 2017 - 2018 - Key Decision

Cabinet considered an updated report on the detailed revenue budget 2017-2018. The budget showed a very positive picture in that for the first time in a decade a balanced budget had been put forward without the use of reserves, with investment being made in retaining staff, addressing resourcing issues and maintaining the Council's assets.

Resolved to recommend Council that:

1. the growth and savings items as set out in the report's appendices be approved;
2. the Council tax base for the whole council area for 2017-18.[Item T in the formula in Section 31b(3) of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, as amended (the "act")] should be 38.908.60 band D equivalent dwellings and the Council tax requirement for the Council's own purpose for 2017-2018 is £192.44 Per Band D equivalent dwelling;

3. a 2.7 % or (£5) increase in the Spelthorne Borough Council element of the Council tax for 2017-18 be approved. Moreover:
- a) the revenue estimates as set out in Appendix 1 be approved.
 - b) no Money, as set out in this report is appropriated from General Reserves in support of Spelthorne's local Council tax for 2017/18.
 - c) the council tax base for the year 2017/18 is 38,908.60 band D equivalent dwellings calculated in accordance with regulation 3 of the Local Authorities (Calculation of Council tax base) Regulations 1992, as amended, made under Section 35(5) of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, be agreed;

That the following sums be now calculated by the Council for the year 2017/18 in accordance with Section 31 to 36 of the Local Government Act 1992.

| | | |
|---|------------|---|
| A | 71,540,160 | Being the aggregate of the amount which the council estimates for the items set out in Section 31A(2) of the Act taking into account all precepts issued to it by Parish Councils. |
| B | 64,052,589 | Being the aggregate of the amount which the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 31A(3) of the Act |
| C | 7,487,571 | Being the amount at 3(c) above (Item R), all divided by Item T (2 above) calculated by the Council in accordance with Section 31B(1) of the Act, as the basic amount of its Council tax for the year (including Parish precepts) |
| D | 192.44 | Being the amount at 3(c) above (item R), all divided by item T(2 above) calculated by the Council in accordance with Section 31B(1) of the act, as the basic amount of its Council Tax for the year (including Parish precepts) |
| E | 0 | Being the aggregate amount of all special items (Parish precepts) referred to in Section 34(1) of the Act. |
| F | 192.44 | Being the amount at 3(d) above less the result given by dividing the amount at 3 (e) above by Item T(2 above), calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 34(2) of the Act, as the basic amount of its Council Tax for the year for dwellings on those parts of its area to which no Parish precept relates. |

That the following amounts be calculated for the year 2017/18 in accordance with Sections 31 to 36 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 as amended by the Localism Act 2011.

| A | B | C | D | E | F | G | H |
|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| £ | £ | £ | £ | £ | £ | £ | £ |
| 128.29 | 149.68 | 171.06 | 192.44 | 235.20 | 277.97 | 320.73 | 384.88 |

Being the amounts given by multiplying the amount at (e) above by the number which in the proportion set out in Section 5(1) of the Act, is applicable to dwellings listed in a particular valuation band divided by the sum which in that proportion is applicable to dwellings listed in valuation band 'D', calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 36(1) of the Act, as the amounts to be taken into account for the year in respect of categories of dwellings listed in different band.

4. that the Council agrees to continue the Council's Local Council Tax Support Scheme with the same rules and regulations as was agreed for the 2014/15 scheme;
5. that the Council agrees to continue the complete disregard of war pension /armed forces pension income from benefit calculations; and
6. that it be noted that for the year 2017/18 Surrey County Council and Surrey Police and Crime Commissioner have stated the following amounts in precepts issued to Spelthorne Borough Council in accordance with Section 40 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 for each of the categories of dwellings shown below:

Precepts issued to the Council

| Band | A | B | C | D | E | F | G | H |
|-----------------------|--------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| | £ | £ | £ | £ | £ | £ | £ | £ |
| Surrey County Council | 887.70 | 1035.65 | 1183.60 | 1331.55 | 1627.45 | 1923.35 | 2219.25 | 2663.10 |
| Surrey Police | 149.71 | 174.67 | 199.62 | 224.57 | 274.47 | 324.38 | 374.28 | 449.14 |

Reason for decision

The Authority is required to set a balanced budget and a Council tax rate for the financial year 2017/18.

2338 *Draft Capital Programme 2017-18 to 2020-21- Key Decision

Cabinet considered a report on the Capital Programme 2017-2018 to 2020-2021, in the light of the available resources and corporate priorities. The report covered progress on current schemes and included future schemes for consideration. The report also provided information on the availability of resources to continue moving forward with the proposed capital schemes within the Programme.

All bids to go on the Capital Programme had been critically assessed and reviewed by Management Team and Cabinet to ensure they met the new criteria of Capital expenditure.

Resolved to recommend that Council approves:

1. the Capital Programme for 2017/18 to 2020/21 and
2. the Prudential Indicators for 2017/18 to 2020/21.

Reason for decision

To allow the authority to spend its capital resources for the financial year 2017/18.

2339 Economic Strategy 2017-2022 - Key Decision

Cabinet considered a report on the adoption of an Economic Strategy for the period 2017-2022.

The Strategy had been designed to stimulate more investment, jobs and visitors to Spelthorne to further the overall economic wellbeing and prosperity of the Borough and its residents in accordance with the Council's Corporate Plan.

Resolved to adopt the Economic Strategy 2017-2022.

Reason for decision

The previous Economic Strategy ran from December 2013 – 2016 and needed to be replaced with a current and relevant strategy.

2340 Revenue Monitoring

Cabinet considered a report on revenue expenditure covering the period April to December 2016.

RESOLVED that Cabinet notes the current level of revenue spend.

2341 Capital Monitoring

Cabinet considered a report on capital expenditure covering the period April to December 2016.

RESOLVED that Cabinet notes the current level of capital spend.

2342 *Pay Policy Statement 2017-2018

Cabinet considered a report on a Pay Policy Statement for 2017-2018.

The Pay Policy Statement set out the Council's policies on a range of issues relating to the pay of its workforce, particularly its senior staff and the lowest paid employees, including:

- Remuneration of its Chief Officers
- Remuneration of its lowest paid employees
- The relationship between the remuneration of its Chief Officers and the remuneration of those employees who are not Chief Officers
- The publication of and access to information relating to remuneration of Chief Officers.

Resolved to recommend that Council approves:

1. the Pay Policy Statement 2017-2018 and
2. amendments to the Pensions Policy Statement

Reason for decision

Local authorities are required to publish an annual Pay Policy Statement to increase transparency regarding the use of public funds to pay council staff. This requirement was set out in the Localism Act 2011 with guidance on items to be included issued by the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government.

2343 Annual Grants 2017-2018

Cabinet considered a report on the proposed grants to organisations in the voluntary and community sectors for 2017-18 and other support for charities and community organisations.

Resolved to:

1. agree the grants awards for 2017-2018 to the organisations set out in the report;
2. delegate authority to the Leader, in consultation with either the Deputy Leader or the Chief Executive or the Deputy Chief Executive (for Finance) to award Windfall Grants; and
3. to note all other support to the voluntary and charity sector.

Reason for decision

The agreement to award grants for 2017-18 will:

- enable a number of charities to continue operating in the borough for the year ahead;
- maintain service levels where charities provide complementary activities to Council frontline services; and
- enable new charities and community groups to begin working in the borough, or expand their operations.

2344 Changes to Outside Body representatives

Cabinet considered a report proposing changes to the representation on certain outside bodies where that appointment was relevant to the portfolio, following the part reshuffle of Cabinet portfolios announced on 25 January 2017.

It was proposed that the following councillors be appointed as representatives on each of these bodies according to their new portfolios:

1. South East Employers (SEE) - Cllr. Barnard will replace Cllr. Gething
2. Spelthorne Safer, Stronger Partnership Board - Cllr. Gething will replace Cllr. Mitchell
3. Local Plan Working Party - Cllr. Barnard will replace Cllr. Gething
4. Surrey Waste Partnership - Cllr. Gething will replace Cllr. Mitchell.

Resolved to agree the following changes of representation on outside bodies:

1. South East Employers (SEE) - Cllr. Barnard will replace Cllr. Gething
2. Spelthorne Safer, Stronger Partnership Board - Cllr. Gething will replace Cllr. Mitchell
3. Local Plan Working Party - Cllr. Barnard will replace Cllr. Gething
4. Surrey Waste Partnership - Cllr. Gething will replace Cllr. Mitchell.

2345 Grant of a new lease

Cabinet considered a report seeking an in principle agreement to the grant of a new lease for the facility at the Pavilion, Ashford Recreation Ground, Clockhouse Lane, Ashford.

Dramatize, a community organisation who run theatrical workshops at the Pavilion for those with learning difficulties, had asked for a 15 year lease rather than a 3 year lease, due to the level of investment that they were planning to put into the building.

Alternative options considered and rejected by the Cabinet:

- Option 2
To enter into a lease but for a shorter period of time.
- Option 3
To enter into a lease but require a higher rent.
- Option 4
Not to enter into a new lease and require Dramatize to find and relocate to new premises.

Resolved to:

1. approve in principle a new lease for the facility at the Pavilion, Ashford Recreation Ground, Clockhouse Lane, Ashford for a period of 15 years and on the terms set out in option 1 of the main report.

2. delegate authority to the Group Head Regeneration and Growth in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Planning, Economic Development and Fixed Assets to finalise details of the lease terms and to enter into the lease and associated licences for works.

Reason for decision

Renewal of this lease will enable a well-used community group to continue using the facility (and to extend it at their own cost). It will also bring in an on-going income stream for the Council next 15 years

2346 Leader's announcements

The following are the latest service updates from various Council departments:

The Council secured the conviction of Firoz Mohammed of Feltham, a former taxi driver who grossly overcharged six vulnerable adults and invalidated his insurance by carrying too many passengers. The defendant charged the six adults between £10 and £15 each for a journey that started at Staines railway station and ended in Shepperton, and which should have cost around £35 in total. Mr Mohammed was found guilty of all 14 charges. He was given six points on his licence and fined £180 for having no insurance, £650 for breaching taxi licensing bye-laws, a victim surcharge of £20 and costs of £1,000. He also had his Spelthorne hackney carriage licence revoked.

Four of the Council's car parks have been given Disabled Parking Accreditation. Elmsleigh surface and multi-storey, Tothill and Riverside were all recognised for being user-friendly for disabled drivers and providing good access, clear signage and accessible payment machines.

A Spelthorne Licensing Officer took part in an enforcement day with an officer from Surrey Police's Roads Policing Unit on Wednesday 15 February. A vehicle licensed within the TFL area was reported for illegal parking, and a Spelthorne-licensed driver was given penalty points for the same offence.

One driver was reported for offences under smoke-free legislation and another given a police notice for a broken number plate. Several drivers were given warnings for minor breaches of taxi licensing bye-laws. Following the success of the day, evening and late night enforcement dates are planned.

Three defendants appeared at Southwark Crown Court on 20 December 2016 charged with conspiracy to commit Housing Benefit fraud and making false representations. Between 2008 and 2013, the defendants, Fadi Ajjaoui and Abo Zeinah, formerly of Staines, and Ali Zeine, formerly of Sunbury, made fraudulent Housing Benefit claims totalling over £100,000 by providing false details. All three pleaded guilty in Court. Fadi Ajjaoui was sentenced to twelve months in prison, suspended for 18 months, Ali Zeine was given an 18 month community order and Abo Zeinah was ordered to carry out 200 hours of unpaid work.

The Council has welcomed the Government's announcement of a 16-week consultation on their draft National Policy Statement (NPS) regarding Heathrow expansion. Residents can find out more about the proposals at one of the DFT consultation events being held on Monday 20 February at the Hythe Centre in Staines and Tuesday 28 February at Stanwell Moor Village Hall. The deadline for responding to the consultation is 11.45pm on 25 May.

Landlords are being reminded about the new Spelthorne Rent Assure scheme which allows them to let their properties through the Council. Rents are guaranteed to reflect the local rate and are paid monthly in advance directly to the landlord. Other benefits include a six week security bond and free inventory. Adverts in the local press and social media updates are planned for February.

Work has started on the spring Bulletin which will be delivered to residents from 18 March. It includes articles on Kempton Park, changes to the recycling service and improvements at Sunbury Cross.

The Leader of the Council has expressed his strong opposition to the proposals put forward by the Jockey Club and Redrow Homes for the redevelopment of Kempton Park. In an open letter the Leader stressed that the 'call for sites' is a statutory part of the Local Plan development and that the Council is not bound by any particular proposals from developers.

Slough and Spelthorne Councils have announced the formation of a "Working with Heathrow" group, designed to maximise the huge employment, apprenticeship and investment opportunities which could arise from a new runway at Heathrow Airport.

Cllr Ian Harvey and Kwasi Kwarteng MP welcomed the news that Surrey County Council has agreed to keep Staines fire station open until the new Fordbridge station is up and running. The Leader has said he will continue to lobby for a second fire engine with a retained crew to be stationed at the Fordbridge site.

The Council recently announced the purchase of a business property, Elmbrook House, in Sunbury-on-Thames for just over £7m. Situated next to Sunbury railway station, the newly refurbished property is occupied by

insurance provider, Complete Cover Group. The company recently relocated from Hampton and their 10 year lease on Elmbrook House will provide the Council with a secure income stream during that period.

2347 Urgent items

There were none.

NOTES:-

- (1) Members of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee are reminded that under Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rule 16, the "call-in" procedure shall not apply to recommendations the Cabinet makes to the Council. The matters on which recommendations have been made to the Council, if any, are identified with an asterisk [*] in the above Minutes.**
- (2) Members of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee are entitled to call in decisions taken by the Cabinet for scrutiny before they are implemented, other than any recommendations covered under (1) above.**
- (3) Within five working days of the date on which a decision of the Cabinet or a Cabinet Member is published, not less than three members [one of whom must be the Chairman] of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee are able to "call in" a decision;**
- (4) To avoid delay in considering an item "called in", an extraordinary meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee will be convened within seven days of a "call in" being received if an ordinary meeting is not scheduled in that period;**
- (5) When calling in a Cabinet decision for review the members doing so should in their notice of "call in":-**
 - Outline their reasons for requiring a review;**
 - Indicate any further information they consider the Overview and Scrutiny Committee needs to have before it in order to conduct a review in addition to the written report made by officers to the Cabinet;**
 - Indicate whether, where the decision was taken collectively by the Cabinet, they wish the Leader or his nominee (who should normally be the Cabinet Member) or where the decision was taken by a Cabinet Member, the member of the Cabinet making the decision, to attend the committee meeting; and**

- ***Indicate whether the officer making the report to the Cabinet or the Cabinet Member taking the decision or his/her representative should attend the meeting.***
- (6) ***The deadline of five working days for "call in" by Members of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee in relation to the above decisions by the Cabinet is the close of business on 3 March 2017.***