

## MEETING OF THE CABINET – 12<sup>th</sup> FEBRUARY, 2014

### NOTICE OF DECISIONS

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Cabinet, at its meeting held on 12<sup>th</sup> February, 2014, made the decisions indicated in respect of the items listed:

<u>Item</u>	<u>Decision</u>
Annual Audit Letter 2012/13	That the views of the Auditor be noted
Revenue Budget Strategy 2014/15 and Setting the Council Tax	(1) That the Council be recommended to approve the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The budget for 2014/15, and service allocations as set out in the report submitted to the meeting.</li><li>• That the statutory amounts required to be calculated for the Council's spending, contingencies and contributions to reserves; income and use of reserves; transfers to and from its collection fund; and council tax requirement, as referred to in Section 67(2)(b) be now calculated by the Council for the year 2014/15 in accordance with Sections 31A, 31B and 34 to 36 of the Local Government and Finance Act 1992 as shown in Appendix 9 of the report submitted to the meeting.</li><li>• That, having calculated the aggregate in each case of the amounts in Appendix 9, the Council, in accordance with Section 30(2) of the Local Government Finance Act, 1992, agrees the following levels of Council Tax for Dudley Council services for 2014/15.</li></ul>

#### Valuation Bands

<b>A</b>	<b>B</b>	<b>C</b>	<b>D</b>	<b>E</b>	<b>F</b>	<b>G</b>	<b>H</b>
<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
750.24	875.28	1000.32	<b>1125.36</b>	1375.44	1625.52	1875.60	2250.72

- plus the amounts to be notified for the Police, and Fire and Rescue precepts.

- The revision of 2013/14 budgets to reflect the variances set out in paragraph 15 of the report submitted to the meeting.

- That the Chief Executive, in consultation with the Director of Public Health and Cabinet Member for Health and Wellbeing, be authorised to determine allocation of the available public health grant funding for 2014/15.
  - The Medium Term Financial Strategy as set out in the report.
- (2) That the Treasurer be authorised, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Finance and the Opposition Spokesperson for Finance to approve any changes to the budget proposals resulting from the Final Local Government Settlement and the setting of the ITA Levy prior to Council on 3<sup>rd</sup> March, as set out in paragraphs 30 and 37 of the report submitted to the meeting.
  - (3) That the Council be recommended to determine that a referendum relating to Council Tax increases is not required in accordance with Chapter 4ZA of Part 1 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992.
  - (4) That the Cabinet Members, Chief Executive and Directors be authorised to take all necessary steps to implement the proposals contained in this report, in accordance with the Council's Financial Management Regime.
  - (5) That the Chief Executive and Directors be reminded to exercise strict budgetary control in accordance with the Financial Management Regime and care and caution in managing the 2014/15 budget, particularly in the context of commitments into later years and the impact that any overspending in 2014/15 will have on the availability of resources to meet future budgetary demands.
  - (6) That the Chief Executive and Directors in consultation with the Leader, Deputy Leader and relevant Cabinet Members be authorised to explore the areas set out in paragraph 55 of the report submitted to the meeting and report back with specific proposals to Cabinet in July, 2014.
  - (7) That the arrangements for Local Government Pension Scheme employer contributions set out in paragraph 31 of the report submitted to the meeting, including the implications for the Council's budgets for 2017/18 – 2019/20, be noted and that the Treasurer, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Finance and the Opposition Spokesperson for Finance, be authorised to continue discussions with the Pension Fund and bring final proposals for approval by full Council on 3<sup>rd</sup> March.

- (8) That Directors be authorised to offer, through Human Resources, the opportunity of volunteering for redundancy to employees whose service is undergoing a restructure involving the saving of posts.
- (9) That the continued use of the delegated approvals process for any voluntary or compulsory redundancies be authorised.
- (10) That the Council be recommended to approve the Pay Policy Statement 2014 as set out in Appendix 11 to the report submitted to the meeting.

Deployment of Resources - Housing Revenue Account (HRA) and Public Sector Housing Capital

That the Cabinet:

- (1) approves a rent increase for HRA dwellings on 7th April 2014 with an average increase of £1.22 (1.5%) and a maximum increase of £2.17 as set out in paragraph 3 of the report submitted the meeting;
- (2) approves an increase of 3.2% in service charges as set out in paragraphs 5 and 7 of the report submitted to the meeting;
- (3) approves an increase of 12% in heating and lighting charges for sheltered housing from an average weekly charge of £13.11 to an average weekly charge of £14.43, other than at The Gables and Netherton Lodge where charges will remain at their current rates, as set out in paragraph 6 of the report submitted to the meeting;
- (4) approves an increase from £2.10 to £2.20 for laundry tokens as set out in paragraph 8 of the report submitted to the meeting;
- (5) approves the increase of 1.5% to the current charge for pitch licences at Oak Lane as outlined in paragraph 9 of the report submitted to the meeting
- (6) approves an increase of 1.5% in water charges at Oak Lane to £6.25 per week as set out in paragraph 9 of the report submitted to the meeting;
- (7) approves maintaining the leaseholders' administration fee at current levels as outlined in paragraph 10 of the report submitted to the meeting;
- (8) approves maintaining charges for private Telecare clients at current levels as outlined in paragraph 11 of the report submitted to the meeting;

- (9) approves an increase of 11.8% for garage plot rent and access agreements, and the dates proposed for future increases as set out in paragraphs 13 and 15 of the report submitted to the meeting;
- (10) approves an increase in garage rents as detailed in paragraph 14 and the dates proposed for future increases as set out in paragraph 15 of the report submitted to the meeting;
- (11) recommends that the Council approve the revised HRA budget for 2013/14 and the HRA budget for 2014/15 outlined in Appendix 1 of the report submitted to the meeting;
- (12) recommends that the Council approve the public sector housing revised capital budget for 2013/14 and the capital budget for 2014/15 to 2018/19 attached as Appendix 2 to the report submitted to the meeting;
- (13) recommends that the Council authorise the Director of Adult, Community and Housing Services and the Director of Corporate Resources to bid for and enter into funding arrangements for additional resources to supplement investment in the public sector housing stock as outlined in paragraphs 25 and 26 of the report submitted to the meeting;
- (14) recommends that the Council authorise the Director of Adult, Community and Housing Services, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Housing and Community Safety, to manage and allocate resources to the capital programme as outlined in paragraph 27 of the report submitted to the meeting;
- (15) recommends that the Council confirm that all capital receipts arising from the sale of HRA assets (other than those specifically committed to support private sector housing) continue to be used for the improvement of council homes, as set out in paragraph 27 of the report submitted to the meeting;
- (16) authorises the Director of Adult, Community and Housing Services to procure and enter into contracts for the delivery of the capital programme, as outlined in paragraph 28 of the report submitted to the meeting;
- (17) receives the HRA medium term financial strategy and thirty year business plan attached as Appendix 4 to the report submitted to the meeting.

Capital Programme  
Monitoring

- (1) That the result of the Post Completion Review of relevant capital projects, as set out in Appendix C of the report submitted to the meeting, be noted.
- (2) That the Council be recommended:
  - That current progress with the 2013/14 Capital Programme, as set out in Appendix A be noted as set out in the report submitted to the meeting, and that budgets be amended to reflect the reported variance.
  - That the Disabled Facilities Grant allocation for 2014/15 be noted and the associated expenditure funded from this and other available Housing capital resources be included in the Capital Programme, as set out in paragraph 7 of the report submitted to the meeting.
  - That the revised funding for the Tiled House Lane Residential Home project be approved, and the Capital Programme amended accordingly, as set out in paragraph 8 of the report submitted to the meeting.
  - That it be noted that the programme to be funded from Adult Personal Social Services Capacity Grant this year includes £17,000 of expenditure on fire safety compliance work at Halesowen Library, and also that the Director of Adult, Community and Housing Services be authorised to allocate such funding for similar purposes, as appropriate within the overall objectives of the grant allocations, as set out in paragraph 9 of the report submitted to the meeting.
  - That the revised project for provision of an MOT Testing Facility be approved, as set out in paragraph 10 of the report submitted to the meeting.
  - That the project to renew all Pay and Display machines be approved and included in the Capital Programme, as set out in paragraph 11 of the report submitted to the meeting.
  - That the Better Bus Area project be approved and included in the Capital Programme, as set out in paragraph 12 of the report submitted to the meeting.

- That the Schools Basic Need allocations for 2015/16 and 2016/17 be noted and the associated expenditure included in the Capital Programme, as set out in paragraph 13 of the report submitted to the meeting.
- That the Schools Capital Maintenance allocation for 2015/16 be noted and the associated expenditure included in the Capital Programme, as set out in paragraph 14 of the report submitted to the meeting.
- That the Schools Devolved Capital allocation for 2015/16 be noted and the associated expenditure included in the Capital Programme, as set out in paragraph 15 of the report submitted to the meeting.
- That the Universal Infant Free School Meals allocation be noted and the associated expenditure included in the Capital Programme, as set out in paragraph 16 of the report submitted to the meeting.
- That the Prudential Indicators as required to be determined by the CIPFA Prudential Code for Capital Finance in Local Authorities and the Local Government Act 2003, as set out in Appendix D of the report submitted to the meeting, be agreed.
- That the Minimum Revenue Provision Policy for 2013/14 be approved as set out in paragraph 21 of the report submitted to the meeting.

Dudley Business  
Investment Zone.

That the Council be recommended:-

- That the approval be given to create a Dudley Business Investment Zone at the Waterfront area of Brierley Hill from the start of the 2014/15 financial year.
- That the Cabinet Member for Regeneration be authorised to determine the composition of the Management Board.
- That the Directors of the Urban Environment and Corporate Resources, in consultation with the Cabinet Members for Regeneration and Finance, be authorised to:
  - o Negotiate and enter into the required legal agreements for the Dudley Business Investment Zone.

- o Create appropriate delegations for the financial administration of the Dudley Business Investment Zone.
- o Update and amend the draft management framework.
- o Amend the Council's discretionary rate relief policy to allow the reduction in business rates for businesses within the designated area for the Dudley Business Investment Zone, as detailed above.

Adoption of the Members and Officers Code of Conduct – Planning Matters.

That the Council be recommended that the proposed amended Members and Officers Code of Conduct - Planning Matters be approved.

High Street Innovation Fund and Empty Shops Grant.

- (1) That the allocation of the Empty Shops Grant and High Street Innovation Fund on the basis outlined in paragraphs 14 to 16 of the report submitted to the meeting, be approved.
- (2) That the Director of the Urban Environment, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Regeneration, be authorised to prepare eligibility criteria for the allocation of Empty Shops Grant and High Street Innovation Fund and issue grants to eligible applicants up to the limit of the Department of Communities and Local Government grant allocations
- (3) That the Director of Corporate Resources be authorised to determine applications for funding from the High Street Innovation Fund and the remainder of the Empty Shops Grant, based on recommendations from Community Forums, in the same manner as the existing Community Forums Area Grants process.

Providing Social Housing for Local People – Statutory Guidance on Social Housing Allocations for Local Authorities In England.

- (1) That Cabinet agree to include a residency requirement as part of the qualification criteria requiring the applicant (or member of the applicant's household) to have lived in the Dudley Borough, subject to exemptions, for a period of two years, this being implemented initially for a period of twelve months to enable full evaluation and assess the overall impact

- (2) That the Cabinet Member for Housing and Community Safety and Director of Adult, Community and Housing Services be authorised to consider the guidance and ensure that the allocations policy is in line with the requirements of this statutory guidance.

The details of each of the above items are set out in the reports submitted to the meeting of the Cabinet. Copies of the public reports may be obtained from Democratic Services in the Directorate of Corporate Resources (contact 01384 815236 or e-mail [richard.sanders@dudley.gov.uk](mailto:richard.sanders@dudley.gov.uk) or on the Committee Management Information System on the Council's Website [www.dudley.gov.uk](http://www.dudley.gov.uk) and follow the links to Council Decisions/Committee Information.

Except where matters have been referred to the Council, the decisions will come into force, and may then be implemented, on the expiry of five working days of 13<sup>th</sup> February, 2014, unless a Scrutiny Committee objects to a decision and calls it in.

PHILIP TART

DIRECTOR OF CORPORATE RESOURCES

The Council House  
Priory Road, Dudley, West Midlands

Dated: 13<sup>th</sup> February, 2014  
(Display until 21<sup>st</sup> February, 2014)