

Contact Officer: Richard Farnhill Tel. 01484 221713 (860 1713)

KIRKLEES COUNCIL

CABINET

Wednesday 9 February 2011

Present: Councillor Mehboob Khan in the Chair
Councillors Harris, McBride, O'Neill, Pandor, Sheard, K Smith and Walton

Observers: Councillors K Pinnock, Light, Jones, Denham, Kendrick,
Turner, Sokhal, Smithson, D Woodhead and R Iredale

Membership of Cabinet

Apologies for absence were submitted by Councillor Mary Harkin.

Minutes – 18 January 2011

The Minutes of the meeting of Cabinet held on 18 January 2011 were agreed as a correct record.

Interests

The following Councillors declared prejudicial interests in respect of Agenda Item 9 – Council Tax Reduction Scheme, due to them being 65 years of age or over, and left the meeting during consideration of the item:-

Councillors Molly Walton, Peter McBride, John Smithson, David Woodhead, Ann Denham, Barbara Jones and Mohan Sokhal.

Admission of the Public

All items were considered in public session.

The Chair indicated that he had agreed to Agenda Item 10 – Budget Issues 2011/12 and Beyond being considered as an urgent item of business due to the need for recommendations to be made to the meeting of Council on 23 February 2011 in relation to budget issues.

Deputations/Petitions

Cabinet received the following deputations:-

- * Mrs Noble gave a deputation to Cabinet regarding Almondbury Library and asking that facilities be retained.
- * Mrs Rigby gave a deputation to Cabinet in relation to proposals for Adult Social Care.
- * Mick Ryan gave a deputation to Cabinet on behalf of UNISON in relation to proposals for Adult Social Care.

Public Question Time

No questions were asked at the meeting.

Member Question Time

No Member questions were asked at the meeting.

Adult Social Care – New Approach to Service Provision and Review of the Fair Access to Care Services Eligibility Framework

Cabinet considered a report outlining proposals for a new approach to Adult Social Care Services in Kirklees, designed to meet both the challenges presented due to reductions in financial resources and demographic demand trends and the opportunities presented by the growing evidence on the benefits of preventative and early intervention services. The report outlined steps that were proposed to be taken to underpin the new direction of travel and sought consideration of the Council's approach to the fair access to care services framework, providing information on the outcome of the consultation exercise that had taken place with regard to this issue.

During consideration of the item, Cabinet received a presentation from Merran McRae on the proposed approach to proposed Adult Social Care and Cabinet went onto consider detailed information set out within the report on the proposal both in terms of the new approach for Adult Social Care and the proposed Care Access to Services Eligibility Framework.

As well as providing information on the consultation on the proposed amendments to the Council's Fair Access to Care Services Eligibility Framework the report went onto set out information on the financial implications of the proposal in the context of the Council's Medium Term Financial Plan and on the Equality Impact Assessment which had been carried out.

RESOLVED –

(1) That the proposal for a new approach for Adult Social Care and the proposal to maintain current budgets for support to carers and investment in voluntary sector community based services be endorsed, subject to budget decisions to be taken at Council on 23 February 2011.

(2) That in support of the above, approval be given to amend the Council's Fair Access to Care Services (FACS) Eligibility Framework to raise the threshold for access to social care services from "substantial and critical" "critical", with effect from 1 April 2011.

(3) That existing service users needs be reviewed as part of the established programme of reviews and no changes be made to current care packages until this review is completed.

(4) That approval be given to the offer of support on a discretionary basis to those who fall into a higher risk sub category of the substantial band, with an emphasis on preventing their deterioration or escalation to the

critical band and thus more complex and costly care packages, as set out within the considered report.

(5) That it be confirmed that the new approach to Adult Social Care should include:-

- * Developing and Implementing Interim Transition Measures for those whose services would be reduced by this change, accessing non assessed services through the voluntary and community sector and other adult social care providers.
- * Seeking increased investment in community capacity building, commissioning new services in the voluntary sector and utilising development and community grants based on our commissioning intelligence from local people.
- * Developing supportive approaches through positive risk enablement and managing risk pro-actively to enable people to live their lives to full.
- * Redesigning our services to meet the needs of people who are non FACS eligible. In particular, to further develop an early intervention and prevention service as part of the Well Being and Integration Directorate to provide information, advice and support on the range of Adult Social Care Support Services within Kirklees. This service would provide support to both FACS and non FACS eligible people in Kirklees.

Council Tax Reduction Scheme

Cabinet considered a report setting out information on the affordability and continuation of the Council's Council Tax Reduction Scheme for persons aged 65 years and over. The considered report provided information on the costs of the provision of the reduction scheme and the impact this would have on the provision of other services being provided by the Council as a result of reduced resources available to the Council.

The report set out options for consideration on the future continuation of the scheme and provided information on savings that could be achieved by removing the scheme.

RESOLVED – That approval be given to Option 1 as set out in the considered report and that the Council Tax Reduction Scheme for persons aged 65 and over be removed in its entirety in 2011/12, with the costs of the scheme being saved.

Budget Issues 2011/12 and Beyond

(a) Capital Investment Plan 2011/12 to 2015/16

Cabinet considered a report setting out information of a level of capital resources likely to be available over the five year period 2011/12 to 2015/16 and also providing information on the revenue consequences of

finances and different levels of investment. It was noted that Cabinet had to recommend to Council a multi-year plan for capital investment in accordance with Financial Procedure Rules.

A review of the Capital Investment Plan had been undertaken with the aim of ensuring that capital programmes/projects fitted in with Council Priorities, ensuring the security of external funding streams and with a view to generating savings in the Council's Revenue Budget by reducing borrowing and therefore the interest costs incurred by the Council.

It was recommended that Council be asked to approve levels of capital resources to be available for the Plan and to determine Prudential Interests set out in Appendix 2 to the report.

RESOLVED –

(1) That approval be given to the levels of Capital Resources considered to be available for the Plan in order to reduce the rate of increase in revenue borrowing costs.

(2) That the Capital Investment Plan as presented at the meeting be recommended to the Council and that Council be advised to determine prudential indicators in Appendix 2 to the considered report.

(3) That the considered report be referred to Council as advice and background information on which the other Political Groups can base there proposals for Capital Investment.

(b) Treasury Management Strategy

Cabinet received a report seeking consideration of proposals to be considered at the meeting of Council on 23 February 2011 in relation to a Treasury Management Strategy and prudential indicators. The report indicated that the Council had formally adopted CIPFAs code of Practice on Treasury Management and thereby was required to consider an Annual Treasury Management Statement. As part of the Strategy, Council needed to formally approve certain Treasury Management relative Prudential Indicators, as required by the Financial Code of Capital Finance in Local Authorities, an Investment Strategy and a policy for the provision of debt repayment as required by Statutory Regulations.

RESOLVED – That Council be recommended to approve the following:-

- * The Borrowing Strategy Outlined in section 2.4 to the considered report.
- * The Investment Strategy Outlined in section 2.3.6 and Appendix A to the considered report.
- * The policy for provision of the repayment of debt outlined in Appendix C of the considered report.

- * The Treasury Management Indicators on interest rate exposures (paragraph 2.6.3), on the maturity structure of borrowing (2.6.5) and on investment (2.6.6).

(c) Revenue Budget 2011/12 and Beyond

Cabinet considered a report providing information reviewing the Government's announcement on the two year Local Government finance settlement for the 2011/13 period and on the predicted settlement for the following two years, and providing information on the Council's financial position in 2010/1. The report gave early consideration to rollover and the forecast level of balances likely to be available at 31 March 2011 and reviewed the Council's current levels of reserves and balances. The report went on to provide information on the relationship between spending levels and Council Tax increases and sought consideration of the level of budget needed for Treasury Management and central contingencies. Cabinet were also asked to consider levels of reserves and general fund balances and the framework within which budget options to Council should be established with regard to the setting of the Council's budget for 2011/12 and beyond.

RESOLVED –

- (1) That the current forecast of spending in 2011/12 and the resulting changes to the estimated level of general fund balances as at 31 March 2011 be noted.
- (2) That the strategy for the use of balances, as set out at paragraph 3.6.10 to the considered report be reaffirmed.
- (3) That it be acknowledged that for 2011/12 the minimum level of general fund balances, based on the latest corporate risk matrix, should be £5m.
- (4) That estimated balances on all other earmarked reserves should be maintained.
- (5) That approval be given to prudential indicators as set out in section 3.10 of the considered report.
- (6) That Cabinet note the Interim Director of Resources positive assurance statement as set out within the report.
- (7) That Council be asked to indicate whether they wish to make changes to the currently approved Rollover Rules for the 2010/11 Financial Year.
- (8) That Cabinet's draft revenue budget be presented to the Council Meeting on 23 February 2011, and that this report be referred to the Council as advice and background information on which the other Political Groups can base their budget proposals.