



Committee and Date

Cabinet

8 March 2021

CABINET

Minutes of the meeting held on 8 February 2021

In the Council Chamber, Shirehall, Abbey Foregate, Shrewsbury, SY2 6ND

1.00 - 2.24 pm

Responsible Officer: Amanda Holyoak

Email: amanda.holyoak@shropshire.gov.uk Tel: 01743 257714

Present

Councillor Peter Nutting (Chairman)

Councillors Steve Charmley (Deputy Leader), Gwilym Butler, Dean Carroll, Lee Chapman, Steve Davenport, Robert Macey, David Minnery, Lezley Picton and Ed Potter

At the outset of the meeting a minute's silence was observed in memory of Julie Fildes, Committee Officer who had sadly recently passed away.

206 Apologies for Absence

There were no apologies.

207 Disclosable Pecuniary Interests

There were none.

208 Minutes

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the meeting held on 18 January 2021 be confirmed as a correct record.

209 Public Question Time

The Director of Legal and Democratic Services confirmed that all preamble, statements of fact and opinions submitted with questions had been circulated and read by Cabinet Members but that she would only be reading out the questions submitted.

Questions were submitted by the following members of the public:

Jon Newson

David Kilby

Nick Saxby

The full questions and answers provided are attached to the signed minutes and available from the webpage for the meeting: <https://shropshire.gov.uk/committee-services/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=130&MId=4148&Ver=4>

210 Member Question Time

Questions were received from the following Members of the Council

David Vasmer
Roger Evans

The questions submitted and the answers provided to them are available from the web page for the meeting: <https://shropshire.gov.uk/committee-services/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=130&MId=4148&Ver=4>

211 Scrutiny Items

There were no scrutiny items.

212 Special Guardianship Allowances Policy

The Portfolio Holder for Children's Services introduced the report and answered question on the Special Guardianship Allowances Policy.

RESOLVED

- 2.1 That Cabinet approve the draft policy entitled "Financial Support for Children Subject to Special Guardianship Orders" as attached at Appendix A from 1st April 2021.
- 2.2 That Cabinet agree to the backdated payment to Special Guardians who now care for children who were previously looked after.

213 Determination of Admission Arrangements 2022 - 2023

The Director of Children's Services presented and explained the purpose of the report.

RESOLVED:

That Cabinet approves the proposal to amend the local authority's admission arrangements, namely:

To decrease the Published Admission Number of Stiperstones CE Primary School from 8 to 7.

To amend the designated catchment area of Bowbrook Primary school as set out in the attached plan at Appendix B

That Cabinet approves the admission arrangements for 2022/23 without further amendment to those determined in February 2020.

That Cabinet agrees to the publication of the arrangements in accordance with the School Admissions Code 2014.

214 Financial Strategy 2021/22 - 2025/26 Final

Before inviting the Portfolio Holder for Finance and Corporate Support to introduce the report, the Leader made a statement about the assumption made in the report of the Executive Director of Resources (Section 151 Officer) for a 4.99% council tax increase, made up of a general 1.99% increase and a social care precept of 3%.

He said the government had provided a provision that some of the social care precept increase could be deferred until the following year and in view of the difficult year faced by Shropshire residents, Cabinet proposed to recommend use of 2% of the social care precept in 2021 – 22 and to review using the further 1% precept in a year's time.

He explained the impact this would have on the budget and how this would be addressed. Cabinet was asking officers to review the plans and bring back to council for approval on 25 February 2021 a revised financial strategy based on 3.99% council tax increase. The Portfolio Holder for Finance and Corporate Support then presented the report, answered questions and moved the recommendations with an additional paragraph G to this effect.

RESOLVED:

A. To agree and recommend to Council the 2021/22 budget of £555.960m outlined in the Budget Book at Appendix 2, including the savings proposals outlined in section 4.5 of the Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) at Appendix 1.

B. To note the changes required to the 2021/22 budget as a result of the Provisional Local Government Settlement and revised business rates and collection fund estimates.

C. To note the revised funding gap for the years 2022/23 to 2025/26.

D. To approve the recommended level of general balances to support the 2021/22 revenue budget of between £12.174m and £16.598m, noting that the projected balance is presently below this for 2021/22.

E. To note the projected recommended level of general reserves for the following four years at £53m in 2022/23, £40m in 2023/24, £37m in 2024/25 and £35m in 2025/26.

F. To note the continued use of the Policy for Flexibility around the use of Capital receipts.

G. That the figures in recommendations A - F above and those within the Financial Strategy report presented for approval to Council on 25 February 2021 be revised and presented on the basis of a Council tax increase of 3.99% for 2021 – 2022.

215 Capital Strategy 2021/22 - 2025/26

The Portfolio Holder for Finance and Corporate Support presented the report on the Capital Strategy 2021/22 – 2025/26

RESOLVED:

- A. To agree the adoption of the Capital Strategy 2021/22 - 2025/26 attached as Appendix 1.
- B. To note the prioritised schemes identified at Section and the associated impact on the revenue budget.
- C. To agree the revised Capital Programme as set out in the report and detailed at Section 6 and Appendix B to the Capital Strategy.

216 Fees and Charges 2021/22

The Portfolio Holder for Corporate Support introduced the report and referred to the impact of the pandemic on the Council's income. In seconding the recommendations in the report the Leader said consideration would be given to measures to alleviate the impact of the pandemic on the economy once lockdown was over.

RESOLVED:

- 2.1 To note the breakdown of the total income for 2020/21 and 2021/22 and in particular that the proposed 2021/22 charges for discretionary services represent only £41.023m of the £79.242m of income derived from Fees and Charges.
- 2.2 To approve the charges for 2021/22 as detailed in Appendix 3 to be implemented 1 April 2021, recognising that managers have proposed varying policies for 2021/22.
- 2.3 To note that as previously agreed, any changes to fees and charges proposed by Shropshire Community Leisure Trust Ltd. in relation to the outsourced leisure facilities will only be referred to cabinet and council for approval if the proposed increases exceed Consumer Price Index (CPI) for the preceding November.
- 2.4 Subject to restrictions or exemptions identified in the Welfare Reform and Work Bill it is recommended to Council that:
 - I. Social Housing rents for 2021/22 are increased by 1.5% from 5th April 2021.
 - II. Affordable rents for 2021/22 are increased by 1.5% from 5th April 2021.
 - III. Shared Ownership rents continue to be set at 2.75% of the outstanding capital value of the home at the time of sale and thereafter increased each April in accordance with the terms specified in the lease agreements.
 - IV. Service charges continue to be set on the basis of actual cost.

217 **Estimated Collection fund Outturn for 2020/2021**

The Portfolio Holder for Finance and Corporate Support introduced the report.

RESOLVED:

2.1 To note the overall Collection Fund estimated deficit of £43.579m for the year ending 31st March 2021, comprised of an estimated deficit of £0.659m for Council Tax and an estimated deficit of £42.920m for Non-Domestic Rates (NDR).

2.2 To note the estimated deficit incorporates the three year of phasing of the in year deficit.

2.3 To note the estimated deficit for NDR will be partially offset by the receipt of s31 grants for extra reliefs awarded as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic.

2.4 To note the distribution of the Collection Fund estimated deficit for Council Tax and deficit for NDR to the major / relevant precepting authorities and the Secretary of State.

2.5 To note Shropshire Council's share of the overall estimated deficit of £21.383m, comprised of an estimated deficit of £0.542m for Council Tax and an estimated deficit of £20.841m for NDR.

2.6 To note the inclusion of Shropshire Council's share of the overall estimated deficit in the 2021/22 budget.

218 **Treasury Management Update Quarter 3 2020/21**

The Portfolio Holder for Finance and Corporate Support introduced the report. Both he and the Leader congratulated officers for once again outperforming the benchmark set.

RESOLVED:

To accept the position as set out in the report.

219 **Treasury Strategy 2021/22**

The Portfolio Holder for Finance and Corporate Support introduced the report

RESOLVED:

To recommend that Council:-

- a) Approve, with any comments, the Treasury Strategy for 2021/22.
- b) Approve, with any comments, the Prudential Indicators, set out in Appendix 1, in accordance with the Local Government Act 2003.
- c) Approve, with any comments, the Investment Strategy, set out in Appendix 2 in accordance with the MHCLG Guidance on Local Government Investments.
- d) Approve, with any comments, the Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP) Policy Statement, set out in Appendix 3.
- e) Authorise the Section 151 Officer to exercise the borrowing powers contained in Section 3 of the Local Government Act 2003 and to manage the Council's debt portfolio in accordance with the Treasury Strategy.
- f) Authorise the Section 151 Officer to use other Foreign Banks which meet Link's creditworthiness policy as required.

To recommend to Audit Committee

- g) Audit Committee are asked to consider and endorse, with appropriate comment, the Treasury Strategy 2021/22.

Recommendations to the Council

- h) Approve, with any comments, the Treasury Strategy for 2021/22.
- i) Approve, with any comments, the Prudential Indicators, set out in Appendix 1, in accordance with the Local Government Act 2003.
- j) Approve, with any comments, the Investment Strategy, set out in Appendix 2 in accordance with the MHCLG Guidance on Local Government Investments.
- k) Approve, with any comments, the Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP) Policy Statement, set out in Appendix 3.
- l) Authorise the Section 151 Officer to exercise the borrowing powers contained in Section 3 of the Local Government Act 2003 and to manage the Council's debt portfolio in accordance with the Treasury Strategy.
- m) Authorise the Section 151 Officer to use other Foreign Banks which meet Link's creditworthiness policy as required.

220 Updated Vision for Direct Payments/New Direct Payments Policy

The Portfolio Holder for Adult Social Services and Climate Change introduced the report, and was pleased to highlight that the new, more accessible policy had been

co-produced alongside those who were experts through experience including carers, service users and advocacy services.

RESOLVED:

To approve the Policy

221 Shropshire Schools Funding Formula 2021 - 2022

The Portfolio Holder for Children’s Services introduced the report.

RESOLVED

To accept the recommendation of Shropshire Schools Forum on the funding formula for Shropshire schools for the financial year 2021- 22 for maintained schools, and the academic year 2021-22 for academies

Signed (Chairman)

Date: