

## Notes of Key Decisions/ Action Points

**Meeting:** Council

**Date:** 26 February 2014

<u>Agenda Item</u>	<u>Decision</u>
<b>Item 1</b> Minutes	The minutes of the meeting held on 15 January 2014 were agreed by the Members present and were then signed by the Mayor
<b>Item 2</b> Declarations of Interest	Councillor Collins declared a Personal Interest as he is a DBC representative of the Chiltern Conservation Board.
<b>Item 3</b> Public Participation	None.
<b>Item 4</b> Announcements	<p>1. By the Mayor:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The Mayor announced the death of Former Mayor and Ex Councillor Frank Seely. A minutes silence was held in his memory.</li><li>• The Mayor made a statement supporting those affected at Oatridge Gardens by the sinkhole in Hemel Hempstead.</li></ul> <p>2. By the Chief Executive:</p> <p>None</p> <p>3. By the Group Leaders:</p> <p>Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors Ayling, Doole, Elliot, Macdonald, Wixted and Flint. Councillor C Wyatt-Lowe gave apologies that she would be late.</p> <p>4. By the Leader and Members of the Cabinet:</p> <p>(Full details are in the minutes under Announcements of the Leader and Cabinet).</p>
<b>Item 5</b> Questions	None.
<b>Item 6</b> Business from last Council	None.
<b>Item 7</b>  Referrals from Cabinet 21 January and 11 February 2014	<p><u>Resolved</u></p> <p>That the following be approved: <b><u>21 January 2014</u></b></p> <p><b>7.1 <u>SENIOR OFFICER PAY POLICY (CA/008/14)</u></b></p> <p><b>Adoption of the new pay policy for 2014/15.</b></p>

**7.2 DACORUM BOROUGH COUNCIL ICT STRATEGY 2014/15 – 16/17 CA/011/14**

Adoption of the strategy for the financial years 2014/15 to 2016/17.

**7.3 REPORT BY THE INDEPENDENT REMUNERATION PANEL 2013 – MEMBERS’ ALLOWANCES FOR DACORUM BOROUGH COUNCIL CA/012/14**

Adoption of no changes to the Members’ Allowances Scheme for 2014/15, except that the hourly rate for ‘Child Care’ be increased to be in line with the national minimum wage (currently £6.31 per hour), thus it will be automatically updated.

**11 February 2014**

**7.4 DACORUM LOCAL PLANNING FRAMEWORK – APPROVAL OF LOCAL DEVELOPMENT SCHEME (2014-17)CA/022/14**

1. The adoption of the Local Development Scheme (2014-17) as set out in Appendix 1 to the report ; and
2. The delegation of authority to the Assistant Director (Planning, Development and Regeneration) to make any necessary minor and non-consequential changes to the Local Development Scheme prior to final publication.

**7.5 BUDGET VARIATION FOR DECANT COSTS (CA/029/14)**

The proposed outline timetable and costs for the decant project as set out in the report as part of the budget report 2014/15.

**7.6 BUDGET 2014/15 (CA/030/14)**

1. That Council:

**General Fund Revenue Estimate**

- a) set a Dacorum Borough Council General Fund Council Tax requirement of £9.506m and of £10.099m for the combined Borough Council and Parish Councils’ requirement for 2014/15 (inclusive of parish precepts of £593k);
- b) agree an increase of 1.75% in Council Tax for Dacorum Borough Council;
- c) set a garage rent increase of £0.45 per week based on a chargeable 48 week year;
- d) approve the revised revenue estimates for 2013/14 and original base estimates for 2014/15, as shown in Appendix A of the report;

- e) approve and adopt the Treasury Management Strategy and Annual Investment Strategy for 2014/15 provided at Appendix N of the report;
- f) approve increases in Fees and Charges for 2014/15 (in accordance with the Council's Fees and Charges Strategy) and as set out in Appendix L of the report;
- g) approve the forecast balances of Revenue Reserves as shown in Appendix G of the report, subject to the following amendments from Cabinet: the reserve for Rent Aid to be maintained at £15k; the reserve for Rent Guarantee to be maintained at £15k; the reserve for PSQ to be reduced by £30k.
- h) note that this budget paper, when approved by Council, will form part of the Medium Term Financial Strategy as set out in Appendix M of the report.

#### **Capital Programme**

- i) approve the revised Capital Programme for 2013/14 and Programme for 2014/15 to 2018/19 detailed in Appendix J of the report, subject to the following amendment from Cabinet: that a contingency fund of £1.2 million be included in the estimated General Fund Programme for 2016/17 and the estimate for borrowing for 2016/17 be increased by £1.2 million.
- j) authorise the funding proposals subject to an annual review of the financing options by the Corporate Director (Finance & Operations), in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Finance & Resources, during the preparation of the Statement of Accounts to optimise the use of Council resources.

#### **Housing Revenue Account (HRA)**

- k) set dwelling rent increases in accordance with Government guideline rent increase and rent convergence principles, resulting in an average increase of 5.23% which makes the average rent £101.83 per week (based on 52 weeks);
- l) approve the HRA revised estimate for 2013/14 and base estimate for 2014/15 as shown in Appendix H of the report.

#### **Terms & Conditions**

- m) approve the introduction of a living wage supplement for all affected employees, in accordance with the Living Wage, for 2014/15; to be reviewed annually thereafter.

	<p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>Statement by Chief Finance Officer</u></b></p> <p><b>n) approve the statement by the Chief Finance Officer regarding the robustness of the budget estimates and level of reserves as set out in Appendix O of the report.</b></p>
<p>Council Tax Declaration 2014/15</p>	<p>That Council note and agrees the following:</p> <p>1) that the Cabinet, at its meeting on 17 December 2013, calculated the following amounts for the year 2014/15 in accordance with regulations made under Section 31B (3) of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 (as amended), as inserted by Section 74 of the Localism Act 2011:-</p> <p>(a) 53,809.2 being the figure calculated by the Council in accordance with regulation 3 of The Local Authorities (Calculation of Council Tax Base) (England) Regulations 2012 as its Council Tax base for the year;</p> <p>(b) the amounts in Table 1 of the report (Tax Base for each part of the Council's area to which one or more special items relate) being the amounts calculated by the Cabinet in accordance with regulation 6 The Local Authorities (Calculation of Council Tax Base) (England) Regulations 2012 as the amounts of its Council Tax base for the year for dwellings in such parts;</p> <p>2) the amounts be now calculated by the Council for the year 2014/15 in accordance with Sections 31A and 31B and Sections 34 and 36 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 (as amended) (referred to as "the Act"):</p> <p>(a) £146,129,931.63 being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 31A (2) of the Act, taking account of all precepts, and including the amount which the Council estimates as Council Tax deficit which will be transferred in the year from its General Fund to its Collection Fund;</p> <p>(b) £135,996,530.98 being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 31A (3) of the Act, including the aggregate of the sums which the Council estimates will be payable for the year into its General Fund in respect of redistributed Non-Domestic Rates and Revenue Support Grant ;</p> <p>(c) £10,133,400.65 being the amount by which the aggregate at 2)(a) above exceeds the aggregate at 2)(b) above, calculated by the Council in accordance with Section 31A(4) of the Act</p>

as its **Council Tax requirement** for the year;

(d) £188.32

being the amount at 2)(c) above, divided by 1)(a) 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;

(e) £628,005.47

being the aggregate amount of all special items referred to in Section 34(1) of the Act;

(f) £176.65

being the amount at 2)(d) above, less the result given by dividing the amount at 2)(e) above by the amount at 1)(a) 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 in those parts of its area to which no special item relates;

**(g) Part of the Council's Area**

**Band D  
Equivalent  
Combined  
£**

Hemel Hempstead	176.65
Aldbury	187.78
Berkhamsted	195.83
Bovingdon	202.56
Chipperfield	212.62
Flamstead	230.21
Flauden	206.59
Great Gaddesden	195.42
Kings Langley	217.36
Little Gaddesden	202.26
Markyate	207.99
Nash Mills	199.81
Nettleden	198.78
Northchurch	187.60
Tring Rural	205.12
Tring Town	200.84
Wigginton	189.80

(Band D charge for Parish and District combined), being the amounts given by adding to the amount at 2)(f) above, the amounts of the special item or items relating to dwellings in those parts of the Council's area mentioned above divided in each case by the amount at 1)(b) above, calculated by the Council in accordance with Section 34(3) of the Act, as the basic amounts of its Council Tax for the year for dwellings in parts of its area to which special items relate;

3)

that for the year 2014/15 Hertfordshire County Council have stated the amounts in precepts issued to the Council in accordance with Section 40 of the Local Government Finance Act

	<p>1992 for each of the categories of dwellings as set out in table 3(a);</p> <p>4) that for the year 2014/15 Hertfordshire Police Authority have stated the amounts in precepts issued to the Council in accordance with Section 40 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 for each of the categories of dwellings as set out in table 3(a);</p> <p>5) That having calculated the aggregate in each case of the amounts at 2)(g), 3) and 4) above the Council in accordance with Section 30(2) of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, hereby set the amounts set out in Table 3b of the report as the amounts of Council Tax for the year 2014/15 for each part of the area and for each of the categories of dwellings shown;</p> <p>6) that in setting the Council Tax for 2014/15 the Council is required to have taken account of the report of the Chief Financial Officer on the robustness of the budget.</p> <p><b>An amendment with additions to the expenditure budget (to be funded from the General Fund Balances) was moved by Cllr Rance and seconded by Cllr Harris.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• £40k for the replacement of Street Name Plates - <b>Agreed</b></li> <li>• £100k for the Verge Hardening programme - <b>Defeated.</b></li> </ul> <p><b>Full details of the amendment and key points of the discussion and voting will be included in the full minutes.</b></p>
<p><b>Item 8</b> Overview &amp; Scrutiny Committee Referrals</p>	<p>None</p>
<p><b>Item 9</b> Changes To Committee Dates</p>	<p><u>Resolved:</u></p> <p>That the following change to the 2013/14 Committee timetable be made:</p> <p><u>Housing &amp; Community Overview and Scrutiny Committee</u></p> <p>Additional meeting of the Housing &amp; Community OSC on the 24 April 2014.</p>
<p><b>Item 10</b> Changes in Membership</p>	<p><u>Resolved:</u></p> <p>That the following changes be agreed:</p> <p><b>Development Control Committee</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Replace Councillor Adshead with Councillor Elliot as a Substitute Member</li> </ul> <p><b>Member Development Steering Group</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Remove Councillor Wixted</li> <li>• Add Councillors Adshead, Douris and G Sutton</li> </ul>

	<p><b>Strategic Planning and Regeneration Overview and Scrutiny Committee</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Add Councillor Bateman as a Substitute Member</li></ul>
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The meeting ended at 9.03 pm