

# Public Document Pack



## **SUMMONS**

### **MEETING OF THE COUNCIL**

**Wednesday 20 February 2019**

### **DBC Council Chamber - The Forum**

You are hereby summoned to a meeting of the Dacorum Borough Council in the County of Hertfordshire to be held in the DBC Council Chamber - The Forum on Wednesday 20 February 2019 at 7.30 pm to transact the business set out below.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Sally Marshall'.

**SALLY MARSHALL  
CHIEF EXECUTIVE**

**TO ALL MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL**

**Contact: Jim Doyle**

**ext 2222**

## **AGENDA**

**7. CABINET REFERRALS** (Pages 3 - 8)

To consider the following referrals from Cabinet:

Report to follow after Cabinet meeting of 12/02/19

## **7 CABINET REFERRALS**

**12 February 2019**

### **7.1 CA/018/19 BUDGET 2019/20**

#### **Decision**

#### **RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND that:**

#### **General Fund Revenue Estimate**

- a) set a Dacorum Borough Council General Fund Council Tax requirement of £11.532m, and a provisional amount of £12.348m for the combined Borough Council and Parish Councils' requirement for 2019/20;
- b) approve an increase of 2.99% in Council Tax for Dacorum Borough Council;
- c) approve the base estimates for 2019/20, as shown in Appendix A1, and the indicative budget forecasts for 2019/20 – 2022/23, as shown in Appendix A2;
- d) approve the forecast balances of Revenue Reserves as shown in Appendix J, and approve section 10 of this report as the updated Reserves Strategy;
- e) approve increases in Fees and Charges for 2019/20 as set out in Appendices C3, D3, and E3;
- f) approve and adopt the Treasury Management Strategy for 2019/20, attached at Appendix K;
- g) approve and adopt the Treasury Management Principles and Practices for 2019/20, attached at Appendix L;
- h) approve and adopt the Capital Strategy for 2019/20, attached at Appendix M;
- i) note that this budget paper, if approved by Council, will form part of the Medium Term Financial Strategy.

#### **Capital Programme**

- j) approve the revised Capital Programme and Capital Strategy for 2018/19, and for 2019/20 to 2022/23, as detailed in Appendix I and Appendix M respectively;
- k) approve the financing proposals in Appendix I subject to an annual review of the financing options by the Corporate Director (Finance & Operations), in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Finance and Resources, during the preparation of the Statement of Accounts.

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

- l) reduce dwelling rents by 1% in accordance with government legislation, resulting in an average rent of £100.08 per week (based on 52 weeks);
- m) approve the HRA estimate for 2019/20 as shown in Appendix F.

## **Corporate objectives**

All of the Council's corporate objectives are reflected in the Budget proposals.

## **Monitoring Officer/S.151 Officer comments**

### **Monitoring Officer**

Under the Council's Constitution it is the responsibility of Cabinet to draw up firm proposals for the Budget, having regard to the responses to the consultation, and to present those proposals to full Council for approval. Once full Council has approved the Budget it is the responsibility of Cabinet to implement it.

### **S.151 Officer**

Comments contained in body of report. Chief Finance Officer Statement contained in Appendix N of the report.

## **Advice**

J Deane introduced the report and said there had been no material changes since the last Joint Budget OSC. There have been a couple of minor changes, in Appendix E3 the waste collection service should be £55 not £50 and the purchase of additional green bins remains at £25, not £26 as stated. This budget includes savings of £900,000 and there is a £450,000 decrease in income due to the recycling downturn which makes a total savings of £1.3 million. Savings become difficult when services are becoming leaner but DBC are making these savings whilst protecting front line services. Council tax will increase by 2.99% which the vast majorities of local authorities are also doing but this still represents value for money as residents get all council services for just £3.87 per week. The council have reduced its rent in line with the government policy. There are risks but satisfied that the processes and controls are robust. Risks for the current year - there is a £100,000 forecast over budget but confident that it can be reined in. J Deane said he was satisfied that the budget can be delivered robustly and on a sustainable basis.

Councillor Griffiths said that this budget had been through two meetings of Overview and Scrutiny Committees and the only changes from the Housing & Community meeting was an increase in staffing for private sector housing. This was also presented as an additional item and there were no challenges and the committee were in agreement.

Councillor Marshall said the members of the Strategic Planning and Environment OSC were content and overall, supportive of the budget.

Councillor Williams said it was becoming increasingly challenging to produce a balanced budget whilst maintaining front line services. He passed his thanks to everyone for putting it together. He referred to page 107 and asked about the £378 million borrowing figure.

J Deane said it was a combination of the HRA borrowing remains and the general fund.

N Howcutt said it sets key principles and is an indicator of the maximum level of debt that is sustainable. This can be reviewed every year.

Councillor Williams asked if this was an internal measure of control and do DBC have some flexibility?

J Deane confirmed that the authority was DBC's.

Councillor Tindall referred to the graph for 2023-24 and this cap has been exceeded by £16 million. Does this mean that somewhere between now and 2023, we have got to reduce capital borrowing by £16 million to stay within the guidelines?

J Deane said a reassessment would be made to enable more borrowing. A lot of these targets are statutory requirements but don't reflect reality. This figure can change dependant on the financial position at the time.

### **Voting**

None.

## **7.2 CA/019/19 PERIOD 9 BUDGET MONITORING REPORT**

### **Decision**

1. Consider the budget monitoring position for each of the above accounts;

### **RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND**

**2. the approval of the revised capital programme to move £11.8m slippage identified at Quarter 3 into financial year 2019/20 as detailed in Appendix C;**

**3. the approval of the one-off supplementary budgets required to deliver several service changes as set out below. Details for these supplementary budgets are set out in the body of the report and have a net nil impact on the General Fund Working Balance:**

- **£40k to fund pension costs of staff transferring to the third party contractor under TUPE, funded from the Management of Change reserve.**
- **A one-off increase to the Adventure Playground service employees budget of £16k to support costs of restructuring the service, funded from the Management of Change reserve.**
- **An increase in the parks and open spaces budget of £25k to meet one-off health and safety costs, funded from the Dacorum Development reserve.**
- **An increase in the waste services consultancy budget of £30k, funded from the Invest to Save reserve.**
- **£25k to support one-off costs of feasibility in Strategic Planning, funded from the Planning & Regeneration Project Reserve.**
- **Increase to the homeless hostels premises budget of £75k to support health and safety work, funded from the Dacorum Development Reserve.**
- **As part of the Forum building developments to facilitate the CCG moving into the Forum, there is a requirement for £10k for additional IT licensing budget and £10k for Facilities Management budget, to support one-off improvement works to The Forum, to be funded from the Invest to Save reserve.**

**4. the approval of supplementary capital budgets.**

- **2018/19 Capital budget of £15k for Tring Community Centre door upgrade**
- **2018/29 Capital budget of £195k to continue the improvement works to The Forum**

5. Agree the Council's flexible use of capital receipts strategy at Appendix D of this report.

- Note the set up costs of £600k falling under this strategy and agree these be funded from capital receipts.

### **Corporate objectives**

Delivering an efficient and modern council.

### **Monitoring Officer/S.151 Officer comments**

#### **Monitoring Officer**

No Comments to add to the report.

#### **S.151 Officer**

Comments included within the body of this report

### **Advice**

N Howcutt introduced the report and said the overall position is a £113,000 pressure but this is an improvement on the last quarter. Good fiscal management will continue to bring a balanced budget.

### **Voting**

None.

## **7.3 CA/021/19 SENIOR OFFICER PAY 2019/20**

### **Decision**

### **RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND**

1. **That Council to adopt the Pay Policy for 2019/20 as set out in appendix 1 to this report.**
2. That any amendments to the Pay Policy throughout the financial year 2019/2020 which are required as a result of legislative changes can be approved by the Chief Executive in conjunction with the Council's Monitoring Officer be agreed.

### **Corporate objectives**

The Council's policies in respect of pay and terms and conditions support all five of the Council's strategic objectives as part of ensuring that services to the community can be delivered to the required standards and with due regard to economy, efficiency and effectiveness

### **Monitoring Officer/S.151 Officer comments**

**Monitoring Officer**

The Pay Policy at Appendix 1 meets the Council statutory requirements under S.38 Localism Act 2011.

**S.151 Officer**

No further comments to add to the report.

**Advice**

Councillor Harden introduced the report. There are a few changes from last year; more junior posts are receiving a higher percentage increase and the new pay scales are in Appendix A. Redundancy payments have been changed to reflect the agreements reached with the trade unions. The gender pay gap now shows that women are on average, earning higher than men. There has also been a slight increase in election fees to reflect the increased cost of living.

**Voting**

None.

**7.4 CA/022/19 GROWTH AND INFRASTRUCTURE STRATEGY****Decision****RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND**

1. That Council approves the draft strategy as set out in Appendix 1 to this report, and the draft executive summary at Appendix 2.
2. That non-substantive editing changes be delegated to the Corporate Director – Housing and Regeneration, in consultation with the Leader of the Council.

**Corporate objectives**

The proposed Growth and Infrastructure Strategy helps support all 5 corporate objectives:

- *Safe and clean environment*
- *Community Capacity*
- *Affordable housing*
- *Dacorum delivers*
- *Regeneration*

**Monitoring Officer/S.151 Officer comments****Monitoring Officer**

The Strategy is not a statutory document but it sets a vision for future growth in the borough. The statutory Local Plan is still the overriding document for determining volume and location of growth in the borough but this document helps to set out how the Council aims to manage that growth.

**Deputy S.151 Officer**

No further comments to add to the body of the report and outlined strategy.

**Advice**

Councillor Williams introduced the report and said this strategy would be looking at the growth and infrastructure requirements up to 2050. This will fit in with the South West Herts joint working which is looking at infrastructure requirements across the county.

J Doe said the report included an executive summary and the full document which sets out the main issues. This provides the framework to bring forward further action plans to deliver necessary infrastructure.

**Voting**

None