

MINUTES

CABINET

15 DECEMBER 2020

Councillors: Williams (Leader)
Griffiths (Deputy
Leader)
Elliot
G Sutton
Anderson
Banks

Officers:	Claire Hamilton	Chief Executive
	James Deane	Corporate Director - Finance and Operations
	Mark Gaynor	Corporate Director - Housing & Regeneration
	Nigel Howcutt	Assistant Director - Finance and Resources
	Farida Hussain	Group Manager (Legal & Corporate Services)
	Katie Mogan	Corporate and Democratic Support Lead Officer
	Linda Roberts	Assistant Director - Performance, People and Innovation

The meeting began at 6.30 pm

CA/105/20 MINUTES

Minutes of the meeting held on 24 November 2020 were agreed by Members present and signed by the Chair.

CA/106/20 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

There were no apologies for absence.

CA/107/20 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest

CA/108/20 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There was no public participation.

CA/109/20 REFERRALS TO CABINET

There were no referrals to Cabinet.

CA/110/20 CABINET FORWARD PLAN

The forward plan was noted.

CA/111/20 COUNCIL TAX BASE

Decision

1. That Cabinet approves the Collection Fund surplus estimate of £43,362.84 as at 31 March 2021. The Dacorum Borough Council share of this surplus is £5,268.18.
2. That Cabinet approve the distribution profile for the surplus identified at 1.) as required by the Collection Fund: Surplus and Deficit (Coronavirus)(England) Regulations 2020. This is contained at section 2.8 of the Cabinet report.
3. That Cabinet approves the calculation of the Council's tax base for the year 2021/22 incorporating an estimated collection rate of 99.4%.
4. That, in accordance with the Local Authorities (Calculation of Tax Base) Regulations 2012, the amount calculated by the Council as its tax base for the year 2021/22 shall be 58,693.7 and its constituent elements shall be:

Part of Area - Parished and Non Parished	100% Tax base	99.4% Tax base
Hemel Hempstead	31,519.5	31,330.4
Aldbury	479.4	476.5
Berkhamsted	8,611.6	8,559.9
Bovingdon	2,132.3	2,119.5
Chipperfield	867.5	862.3
Flamstead	647.5	643.6
Flauden	178.8	177.7
Great Gaddesden	456.0	453.3
Kings Langley	2,316.0	2,302.1
Little Gaddesden	640.4	636.6
Markyate	1,358.6	1,350.4
Nash Mills	1,244.2	1,236.7
Nettleden with Potten End	802.7	797.9
Northchurch	1,301.5	1,293.7
Tring Rural	690.6	686.5
Tring Town	5,120.6	5,089.9
Wigginton	680.8	676.7
Total	59,048.0	58,693.7

Deputy Monitoring Officer

No comments to add to the report.

Section 151 Officer

This is a Section 151 officer report.

Advice

Councillor Elliot introduced the report to members which recommends that Cabinet approve the collection fund surplus for 2020/21 and setting of the council tax base for 2021/22. These are both statutory requirements as part of the council budget setting process. Under item 1, the collection fund surplus arises from a timing difference between collecting council tax and paying out to the other council tax preceptors in the county. The report shows the surplus at £43,362 to be split between the Hertfordshire preceptors as outlined in the statute. Item 2, annually the council is required to use a prescribed formula to estimate the number of band D equivalent properties in the borough and so the council tax base for 2021/22 is calculated to be £58,693 band D equivalent households.

Councillor Griffiths referred to paragraph 2.3 of the report in reference to the surplus estimated as at 31 March 2021. She asked for clarification if this was based on what it was in 2020 or what the cut-off date was for this estimate.

N Howcutt said there were two elements. The surplus of deficit is calculated a year in arrears as the budget is set and the payments to the preceptors are estimated and at the end of the financial year, it is calculated and that is what the surplus is. The payment in 2021/22 relates to the previous financial year because we have to wait for all the payments to be made. The second element is the council tax base and the baseline for that is at 30 November 2020 and is put into a formula and this gives the projected council tax base for the subsequent financial year. One is forward looking and one is backward looking.

Councillor Griffiths queried the low figure for new builds despite the increase in new homes being built.

N Howcutt said the surplus is not reflective of the new builds. The small surplus means our estimates were accurate.

Councillor Williams said Councillor Griffiths was referring to the financial implication section of the report which shows the council tax base growth seems relatively small to the development happening in the borough.

N Howcutt said the estimates show lower growth for next year mainly due to the delays caused by the Covid-19 pandemic. We are projecting the same growth next year but we will be starting from a lower baseline.

Recommendations agreed.

CA/112/20 TREASURY MANAGEMENT MID-YEAR UPDATE

Decision

RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND:

The acceptance of the Cabinet report on mid-year treasury management performance and prudential indicators for 2020/21.

Monitoring Officer

No comments to add to the report.

Deputy S.151 Officer

This is a Deputy Section 151 Officer Report.

Advice

Councillor Elliot introduced the report and said it was a statutory report on the performance of treasury management which is presented twice a year. He confirmed that all treasury management strategies have been followed in 20/21 and there are no proposed changes to the existing treasury management policy. The return of investment and quarterly revenue monitoring returns are behind expectations due to the impact of covid on cash balances and interest rates being significantly lower. The council's cash is safe but like most other businesses, we are not earning much interest.

There were no questions.

Recommendations agreed.

CA/113/20 EQUALITY, DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION STRATEGY

Decision

- 1 That the draft Equalities, Diversity and Inclusion Strategy and Action Plan (as set out in the report) be approved

RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND:

- 2 That the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance definition of antisemitism be adopted as set out in the report and the illustrative examples that are presented alongside.

- 3. That the new post for a Diversity and Community Inclusion Officer be included as part of the 2021/22 budget as set out in section 5 of this report.**

Councillor Williams introduced the report and said that approval of a strategy does not normally need to be approved by Full Council but he felt it was important to be recommended to Council due to the adoption of the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance definition of anti-Semitism. He felt the weight of the full Council's endorsement would send the right messages.

M Gaynor added that the new strategy takes into account legislative changes and the additional responsibilities and expectations from government. The strategy also takes into account the rapidly changing demographics of the borough and get a better understanding of the entire community. The report also includes staff resources to deliver the strategy.

Councillor Griffiths said she thought it was important that this went to Full Council and get the endorsements of all councillors. She welcomed the fact that this strategy would bring the council into line with legislation and have someone to implement it.

Councillor Tindall thanked the Cabinet for how this matter has been dealt with and said it will receive full endorsement from his group at council.

Councillor Williams asked for clarification on recommendation three as there was nothing that contradicts the budget process.

N Howcutt said this will be approved as part of the budget process in 2021/22.

Recommendations agreed.

CA/114/20 GARAGE PROGRAMME UPDATE

Decision

That progress made to date be noted.

Deputy Monitoring Officer comments

There are no legal implications arising from this report.

Deputy S151 Officer comments

There are no financial implications arising from this report.

Advice

L Roberts advised that this was the same report that was presented to the Overview and Scrutiny committees last week.

Councillor Williams added that he listened to the report that was presented at scrutiny and he highlighted that this was a working progress and he was having discussions with the Chief Executive about the way forward to give the programme a clearer focus.

Councillor Griffiths noted the update report and that the next report the committee see will show how this can be taken forward.

L Roberts explained that there had been a delay of 3 -4 months due to covid which is why the project is a little behind where we expected it to be.

Councillor Williams said the department now have a better understanding of what stock we have and what condition it is in alongside the low and high demand areas. We now need to address how we devise policies to take them forward.

Recommendations agreed.

CA/115/20 COMMITTEE TIMETABLE 2021/22

Decision

RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND:

The approval of the Meeting Timetable for 2021/22 as set out in Appendix A to the Cabinet report.

Deputy Monitoring Officer:

No comments to add to the report.

Deputy S.151 Officer

No comments to add to the report.

Advice

Councillor Williams introduced the report to members.

There were no questions.

Recommendations agreed.

The Meeting ended at 6.50 pm