
DACORUM BOROUGH COUNCIL

MEETING OF THE COUNCIL

22 FEBRUARY 2017

Present:

MEMBERS:

Councillor Williams (Leader) Councillors, Gbola Adeleke, G Adshead, Anderson, Banks, Mrs Bassadone, Bhinder, Birnie, Brown, Herbert Chapman, Clark, D Collins, E Collins, Douris, Elliot, England, Fantham, Fisher, Griffiths, Guest, Harden, P Hearn, Hicks, Howard, Imarni, Link, Maddern, Mahmood, Marshall, Matthews, McLean, Peter, Ransley, Ritchie, Silwal, G Sutton, R Sutton, Taylor, Timmis, Tindall, C Wyatt-Lowe and W Wyatt-Lowe(42)

OFFICERS:

Chief Executive, Corporate Director (Finance and Operations), Solicitor to the Council and Monitoring Officer, Group Manager (Democratic Services) K Norval (Communications & Consultation Officer), K Johnston and K Mogan (Minutes)

The meeting began at 7.30 pm

15 MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 18 January 2017 were agreed by the Members present and were then signed by the Mayor.

16 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest

17 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There was no public participation

18 ANNOUNCEMENTS

By the Mayor

None.

By the Chief Executive:

The Chief Executive declared that she had received notice of a vacancy at Flamstead Parish Council. The Chief Executive said she will know on Friday whether it will be a contested election or not.

By the Group Leaders:

Councillor Williams gave apologies on behalf of Councillors Bateman, Conway, S Hearn, Mills and Riddick.

Councillor Fisher gave apologies on behalf of Councillor Fethney.

Council Leader and Members of the Cabinet:

Councillor Williams, Leader of the Council and Portfolio Holder for Community Leadership

The Leader had no announcements but was happy to take questions.

Councillor England said he had received an email from a resident asking why William Stephyns name had been removed and the building renamed Jellicoe House by Bank Court. As Stephyns was the first baliff of Hemel Hempstead, he felt it was an appalling decision.

Councillor Williams said the redevelopment was undertaken by Hightown so it would be more appropriate to direct the question to them. It might have been to signal the change from commercial to residential housing.

Councillor Guest asked the Leader about Dacorum Borough Council's support for a new hospital. It is more imperative now as there are plans to release some of the current hospital land for housing. How can the council further publicise the public meeting to be held on 22nd March?

Councillor Williams said it has always been the case that the Trust has been looking at their presence on the site. The Council do not support the centring of services at Watford – it is widely accepted that a new site is needed but we do not feel the site at Watford provides a suitable condition or provision for residents. Regarding the meeting on 22nd March, I will endeavour to see how to use publicity – we can use the website and the screen in the foyer.

Councillor Tindall said the CCG had announced the desire to develop new facilities but this could be delayed if they want to use the current site. Could there be an arrangement with the Council for them to build facilities on the old Market Square?

Councillor Williams said there had been considerable discussions with the Trust and there is the possibility of a one public estate bid involving local health providers, County Council and DBC. There is reluctance to use the Market Square as it is a small site and we don't want to encourage them to provide a small service.

Councillor Tindall asked on the progress on the Berkhamsted Car Park.

Councillor Williams said as it is subject to legal action he would make no further comment.

There were no more questions for the Leader.

Councillor Elliot, Portfolio Holder for Finance and Resources
Finance

The second round of draft budget proposals were presented to joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 7th February and were also presented to Cabinet on 14th February and are being considered by Council tonight after this robust and challenging process.

Revenue & Benefits

CHAIRMAN

Audit Committee recently received reports giving the highest assurance opinion on the controls in place for managing Council Tax and also a very high assurance opinion on the controls for managing NNDR.

Commercial Assets & Property Development

Garages sales continue to realise capital receipt with one sale already completed this month and another due by the end of the month. The Civic Centre site has been secured and we continue to work on the decommissioning of the building.

Work is ongoing on a number of other sites to maximise capital receipt.

Commissioning, Procurement & Compliance

The Facilities Management contract continues to work well as we complete the snagging works in The Forum. The Café in The Forum has commenced trialling weekend opening due to the success of the initial opening period.

The team have supported the Voluntary Sector Commissioning Project and have recently concluded the awards for:

- Information, Advice and Advocacy
- Supporting the Voluntary and Community Sector
- Reducing Social Isolation for people and carers
- Promoting healthy relationships
- Living Stable Lives

Questions & Answers

Councillor C Wyatt-Lowe said she was delighted to see that the Civic Centre was being decommissioned and hoped that the Council would be making the most of the maximum return of the material from the site.

The Portfolio Holder said officers were working with the demolition team to recycle materials.

There were no more questions for the Portfolio Holder.

Councillor Mrs Griffiths, Portfolio Holder for Housing

TPAS accreditation

Following the submission of a self assessment against the 6 themes contained within the standard the Tenant Participation Advisory Service (TPAS) have recently visited our offices to assess our tenant involvement services against their 'engagement' standard. This has involved interviews with people at different levels of the organisation, tenants, members of the Tenant and Leaseholder Committee and partner agencies, such as Osborne.

We are excitedly awaiting news of whether we have been recognised by TPAS as meeting their standard.

They have already asked members of the team to present at their National Practitioners Conference in July – so we are hopeful the outcome will be a positive one. If we achieve this accreditation this will recognise the work we have done over

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recent years to build an open, positive and constructive working relationship with our tenant population.

Water charges

There has recently been a court case where the London Borough of Southwark was taken to court by one of its tenants for failing to administer water charges in line with the Water Re-Sale Order 2006. As a result of this case we are considering how we should best respond. A report will be taken to Housing and Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee in May and then onto Cabinet with proposals for the collection of water charges going forward. A further update will be provided to Council in May.

Year end

Tenants of our 10,200 properties and our 8,000 garages will be receiving a letter at the beginning of March advising them of their new rental charge for 2017/18. This letter will be combined with information about Housing Benefit entitlements where applicable – making it clear to tenants how much they need to pay.

The work we have been doing to de-pool rents and service charges means that there will be more information on the letters than normal – including details of the service charges for each individual flat block (including cleaning costs, lift maintenance, the lift sinking fund, window cleaning costs, electricity usage for communal areas and insurances costs).

A web page has been set up to assist with queries in relation to de-pooling – this can be found at www.dacorum.gov.uk/housing/current-tenant/rent

Strategic

Housing

Strategic Housing have been focussing on developing back office procedures and policies to support key projects, currently due to the onset of severe cold weather focus has been on our No Second Night out Campaign. This has seen communications information via social media and posters across the community raising awareness of how to report rough sleeping and advising of facilities available. The service's new No Second Night Out Policy was approved at OSC on 7 February and will shortly be presented to CMT and Cabinet, this key piece of work underpins our commitment to working towards the NPSS Gold Standard. Additionally increased commitment has been on working across corporate teams such as Legal and Residents Services to tackle ingrained rough sleeping issues, by using enforcement action.

Able house continues on site and is due to complete in April. This will provide 14 new Council homes. (The issue regarding bin lorry access has been resolved with the Councils green safe and clean team with the solution presented to DCC shortly).

Wood House contract has been awarded to Jarvis and they have completed the first stage ground conditions surveys with a full start on site in March.

Stationers Place, Apsley, build contract is also to be awarded to Jarvis with a start on start currently planned for March.

Swing Gate Lane in Berkhamsted will start on site in April with the contract awarded to Osborne homes via a competitive tender process. Martindale school site and the garage site developments are also progressing well.

CHAIRMAN

Property

and

Place

Osborne - Total Asset Management.

The performance figures for January remain high and Osborne have been working with the Council to finalise the planned programmes to the end of the year.

In this financial year the contract has delivered New Windows to 205 homes, 296 front Doors to our elderly persons schemes, 349 Doors to individual homes, 284 Kitchens, 179 Bathrooms, 36 New roofs to blocks of flats and individual homes.

The programme for 2017-18 is due to be finalised and has incorporated some of the repairs trending to establish the roofing programme for the forthcoming year, which is a positive indication that the Total Asset Management approach is beginning to be effective. The Council continue to upgrade the thermal performance our most inefficient properties and plan to install External Wall Insulation at a further 60 homes across the borough in 2017-18".

Osborne have delivered a further 43 community initiatives since the start of the year and have been supporting the Council to obtain TPAS (Tenant Participation Advisory Service) accreditation through the work they have undertaking involving Tenants throughout the contract.

Sun Realm - Gas Servicing and Installation

The servicing and installation contract continues to deliver consistently high levels of compliance, currently 99.95% with four overdue properties. All cases are in the legal process but two are proving challenging due a range of vulnerabilities and mental health issues of the tenants who are involved. Customer satisfaction with the service remains high.

New Lifts

Currently the lift stock condition information is being reviewed to establish the forward programme of replacements. The preliminary work is underway for the manufacture of a new lift at Phyllis Courtnage House, which is due to start on site in April.

Questions & Answers

Councillor Tindall asked the Portfolio Holder if ward councillors could receive a copy of the garage letters being sent to residents.

The Portfolio Holder said she would be happy to send these out. Obviously, they would be blank copies without residents' details on.

There were no more questions for the Portfolio Holder.

Councillor Harden, Portfolio Holder for Residents and Corporate Services

People:

With new procedures in place sickness levels still remain around 25% lower than the previous year

Decommissioning process is well underway in the old Civic Centre, the innovation and improvement team are supporting the removal of furniture process.

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With Get Set go Dacorum ending in the summer the Community Partnership team is currently working closely with the Herts Sports Partnership to place a Sport England bid to increase sport activity within the borough.

Resident services:

A week-long event (13th to 17th Feb) to raise awareness of the pedestrian nature of the Marlowes with specific concentration on preventing cycling and skate boarding in the pedestrian zone of the Marlowes was well received by the community – over 100 adults and young people were advised about the no cycling rule for the pedestrian area of the Marlowes, over 30 people were given verbal warnings and 3 Community Protection Warnings were issued to repeat offenders, including one business. These included motorcyclists who were driving on the pedestrian area to park.

A year-long injunction with a power of arrest was obtained against a person who was using threatening behaviour when begging in the town centre and rough sleeping despite having accommodation. Legal have confirmed that this can be disclosed as the order was made in an open court.

The second group of 12 young people has started the M-ask project at the Old Town Hall.

Verge Hardening programme saw 16 additional parking spaces completed in Sempill Road: Bennetts End during January and there are 5 further areas for additional parking in process which will be completed prior to 31st March 17 (Damask Green: Chaulden, Maddox Road: Adayfield East, Waterside: Kings Langley, Cranford and Coverdale: Highfield).

Questions & Answers

Councillor England said he enjoyed reading the Spring edition of the Dacorum digest but saw a advert for Aylesbury bike tour. Does the Portfolio Holder agree that Dacorum should be promoting events within the borough?

The Portfolio Holder said the Dacorum Digest had various articles and adverts in.

Councillor C Wyatt-Lowe said she was pleased to see the success of Get Set Go Dacorum and would it be possible to see the breakdown of the health and social benefits achieved by the scheme as this could possibly help with further funding.

The Portfolio Holder said that three years ago, the sports community did not think this project would go ahead. The success of the scheme is encouraging and Ben Russell the Get Set Go officer would be able to provide you with information. The Council are working with Hertfordshire Sports to develop a county wide bid.

Councillor Mahmood asked the Portfolio Holder if there were any plans to celebrate Hemel Hempstead's 70th anniversary.

The Portfolio Holder said there was nothing in the budget but will look to the Leader to ask if anything can be done.

The Leader said he would have discussions with the Chief Executive.

There were no more questions for the Portfolio Holder.

Councillor G Sutton, Portfolio Holder for Planning and Regeneration

The land at the former Lucas aerospace site, now owned by Aviva was considered by DCC on 2 February. The revised application proposed 8 new retail units with a total

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floorspace of 12,503 sq m including one foodstore unit (small supermarket type); two food and drink units with drive through facilities; and a new office block. The application, under planning regulations, has to be considered by the secretary of state for Communities and Local Government first – provided it is not ‘called in’ by the sec of state, the Council can then issue the new planning permission. This is an important development offering our residents new shopping facilities and shows strong investment interest in Hemel Hempstead. It is part of the ongoing regeneration and renewal of Maylands Business Park

Work progresses well on site for this new extension to the MBC, offering five new units for small businesses. The ground works and foundations are now complete and we expect steel work to be arriving on site next month and look forward to the framework of the building going up subsequently. The project is due to complete this summer. The MBC is a great success with all units occupied and an active waiting list – the new development will add to the growing success of our centre.

Questions & Answers

Councillor Douris said that at 3.30pm today as the Cabinet member for Hertfordshire Highways, the agreements were signed for the Featherbed Bridge and so the project can continue.

The Portfolio Holder gave his personal thanks to Councillor Douris for ensuring that the agreement is signed. He also gave a special thanks to his friend and previous colleague Brian Ayling who has worked tirelessly to make this a success.

Councillor England thanked the Portfolio Holder for responding to his previous questions at Council via email. How will the downgrading and outsourcing of the tourism service allow Dacorum to compete with other surrounding areas?

The Portfolio Holder said it will allow for wider and greater resources, it is early days yet but I am sure it will be a positive move.

Councillor England asked if the Portfolio Holder would agree that the reduction in resources is not consistent with the continuing level of service?

The Portfolio Holder said the whole service has been outsourced to Visit Britain and can see no negatives.

There were no more questions for the Portfolio Holder.

Councillor Marshall, Portfolio Holder for Environmental, Sustainability and Regulatory Services

The garden waste collections start the beginning of next month as does the garden waste subscription service – subject to Council’s decision tonight on the budget, the charge is £50 for each additional bin collected p.a. Additional bins can be brought at £25 per bin. There have been 90 subscriptions so far.

A41 litter pick by Clean Safe & Green started 6/2/17 on the Central Reservation, piggy backing on Ringway’s work, so DBC does not have to pay for road traffic management system to moderate the traffic. The verges, slip roads and junctions litter pick started this Monday 20th.

As part of the national Great British Spring Clean”, DBC is promoting litter picking by individuals and by groups during this month and March although Cupid Green encourages and actively supports litter picking throughout the year by providing bags & litter pick sticks, arranging to pick up the filled bags and providing advice to keep safe. So far 28 groups have signed up.

Questions

and

Answers

CHAIRMAN

Councillor Adeleke said that fly tipping has been in the national news recently. Can the Portfolio Holder say what the scale of fly tipping offences is in the Borough and what measures are in place to tackle this problem?

The Portfolio Holder said she would respond to the question via email once she had the correct figures. When fly tipping is reported, investigations are started to try and find evidence of who dumped it and a prosecution is mounted. Recent government legislation has allowed councils to issue fixed penalty notices for less serious cases.

Councillor England said he was looking forward to taking part in the Great British Spring Clean. He had recently raised the issue of new litter bins in Adeyfield – when can we expect them to be installed?

The Portfolio Holder said not every bin would be replaced, only those in need of replacement or in locations where a litter bin is needed.

Councillor Birnie said that he had visited Community Action Dacorum's repair shed which is a voluntary organisation. They have run out of space but they inform me that a shed owned by Dacorum Borough Council is next to their site sitting empty. Could there be some sort of arrangement to let them use it?

The Portfolio Holder said she will make enquiries and thanked Councillor Birnie for bringing it to her attention.

Councillor England referred back to his comments about the bins and said the litter bin on Adeyfield Road is falling apart.

The Portfolio Holder asked Councillor England to let her know the exact location and will follow it up.

Councillor Douris referred to the litter pick on the A41 and said that last year about 10 tonnes of rubbish was collected. The signs across the borough are welcome to encourage residents to take responsibility for their rubbish.

The Portfolio Holder thanked Councillor Douris for his comments and said it was important to continue to encourage residents to not drop litter.

There were no more questions for the Portfolio Holder.

19 QUESTIONS

None.

20 BUSINESS FROM THE LAST COUNCIL MEETING

None.

21 CABINET REFERRALS

CABINET REFERRALS

The referrals from Cabinet on 24 January and 14 February 2017 were submitted. It was moved by Councillor Williams, duly seconded and

Resolved

CHAIRMAN

That the following be approved:

24 January 2017

7.1 CA/007/17 BYELAWS FOR SELECTED PARKS AND OPEN SPACES WITHIN DACORUM

Councillor Ransley said she was concerned about the byelaws covering open areas intercepted by public footpaths and right of ways. Councillor Marshall thanked Councillor Ransley for her comments. She said there was a phrase missing that is suggested by government as it does currently imply children cannot ride scooters. The slight amendment would add "if not causing danger and annoyance to others". Councillor Marshall said the more eyes that read the document, the more helpful it is and was happy to hear any suggested amendments.

Decision

- (1) the Draft Byelaw to Council as attached as Appendix A of the Cabinet report for the Parks and Open Spaces in the Borough listed in paragraph 11 of the report and further draft byelaws to be drafted for consideration and consultation to prevent the feeding of wildfowl and wild animals, and permit model powered boats where appropriate.
- (2) authority be delegated to the Assistant Director (Neighbourhood Delivery) in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Environmental, Sustainability and Regulatory Services to carry out the required impact assessment, consultation, agree the 'scheme' noted under paragraph 7 of the Cabinet report and submit the application to the Department of Communities and Local Government.
- (3) authority be delegated to the Assistant Director (Neighbourhood Delivery) to determine which areas within the Parks and Open Spaces listed in paragraph 11 of the Cabinet report shall be permitted or designated for relevant activities
- (4) authority be delegated to the Assistant Director (Neighbourhood Delivery) to authorise officers to issue fixed notices and/or commence prosecution proceedings to enforce breaches of the Byelaws.
- (5) authority be delegated to the Assistant Director (Neighbourhood Delivery) in consultation with the Assistant Director (Finance and Resources) to agree fee levels for any chargeable activity permissible by the Byelaws.
- (6) the revocation of the byelaws listed in paragraph 13 of the Cabinet report.

7.2 CA/008/17 SENIOR OFFICER PAY POLICY

1. That the Pay Policy for 2017/18 as set out in appendix 1 to the report be adopted

14 February 2017

7.3 CA/020/17 HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT BUSINESS PLAN ANNUAL REVIEW 2016/17

1. That the updated Housing Revenue Account Business Plan be approved
2. That the revised development programme budgets as set out in Section 6.3 of the Cabinet report and the budget for the Martindale Development in Appendix 2, in part II of the Cabinet report be approved

CHAIRMAN

7.4 CA/021/17 BUDGET 2017/18

Councillor Elliot introduced the report and moved the motion to debate.

Councillor Tindall said the opposition will not be proposing an alternative budget. He congratulated officers on producing a balanced budget despite pressures from central government. Councillor Tindall said he was concerned about business rates and the impact that could have on local businesses in the town. The Right to Buy policy meant less social housing for those in need. There are 10,000 people on the list and the Right to Buy has gone from 20 houses to 100 houses sold this year and only 30% of this money is returned to the Council – the government receives 70% of it. Essentially, the government is being paid twice as the council already pay them for the stock.

Councillor England said he would like to pick up a point that he raised at scrutiny. He said the council doesn't seem to be responding to the increasing problem of parking in the borough through the verge hardening programme.

Councillor C Wyatt-Lowe thanked officers for delivering a balanced budget. The council continues to invest in housing and communities with innovative and prudent financial policy and through listening to residents. Central government could take a few lessons from Dacorum Borough Council.

Councillor Harden said he was pleased by how succinct and open the Portfolio Holder was in his budget introduction. The Liberal Democrats did not have a go at the Council and had no complaints so would take that as an endorsement of the council.

Councillor Taylor said as the Chairman of Audit Committee and a member of Finance and Resources, he is well aware of the time and effort taken into producing a tight budget months before the members see it so verge hardening must be put into perspective. Councillor Taylor said he commends the report to councillors.

Councillor Marshall argued that the sale of houses demonstrates the prosperity of residents which has been made possible by the Conservative government.

Councillor Anderson said he found it difficult for this council to take criticism on verge hardening as it was created and then doubled. He said he supported the budget and the efforts by officers.

Councillor Mahmood said he worked in the private sector and had been a councillor for 9 years. He has always been impressed with the council's financial running and supports the budget.

Councillor Griffiths made a statement on the Housing Revenue Account: The budget for Dwelling Rents reflects the 1% reduction in social rents announced by the government in July 2015 (reduction of £550k). The budgeted average dwelling rent is proposed to decrease from £104.80 per week in 2016/17 to £104.14 per week in 2017/18. A reduction of £500k has been made to account for an increased level of sales under the right to Buy policy. The 2017/18 budget also includes a correction of £115k to the Supported Housing budget, following a review of the changes implemented as part of the statutory reform to housing rents. The budget for Tenant Service Charges reflects an increase of £235k as a result of the proposed de-pooling of rents and service charges. An increase in the number of Lifeline customers and a price review is also expected to generate an additional £39k. The budget for Repairs and Maintenance has increased by £569K (5.3%) to reflect the Council's asset management strategy of maintaining high quality housing stock that meets the locally determined "Dacorum Standard". The increase allows for inflation, pressures identified during 2016/17 and an allowance for maintenance of new build properties. An additional £500k has been built into the budget for 2017/18 to allow for additional electrical testing to be undertaken on a cyclical basis following the publication of new testing guidelines. The budget for 2017/18 reflects inflationary increases across services. There is an increased recharge of £90k for Commercial Properties owned by the General Fund that are being used for HRA tenancies. An increase of £125k is due to the rise in

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Employer's pension contribution from 16% to 18.5% following a review of the pension provision.

The provision for bad debts has been increased by £50k in line with prior year's out-turn.

The remaining balance of £9m will contribute towards capital expenditure in line with the capital programme.

Councillor Williams echoed Councillor Tindall's congratulations to officers. He was surprised that he didn't want to give congratulations to the conservative council for delivering year on year. The budget is 15% lower of the budget in 1999 with barely any noticeable difference in front line services.

In relation to the Right to Buy, it is not correct that to say that government takes the money, the money received is kept within the borough. However, whether they are sold or not, they are still serving the purpose of housing. Car ownership has been increasing over many years. This council made the decision to invest money into verge hardening. There needs to be a reasonable balance as resources are finite.

This is a balanced budget and the proposed Council Tax increase of just £5 to a Band D property is necessary. I commend this budget to the Council.

In line with standing orders, the names of the Members voting for and against the motion were recorded as follows:

Names of those voting

For: Adeleke, Adshead, Anderson, Banks, Mrs Bassadone, Bhinder, Birnie, Brown, Chapman, Clark, D Collins, E Collins, Douris, Elliot, Fantham, Guest, Mrs Griffiths, Harden, P Hearn, Hicks, Howard, Imarni, Maddern, Mahmood, Marshall, Matthews, Peter, Ritchie, Silwal, G Sutton, R Sutton, Taylor, Timmis, Williams, C Wyatt-Lowe, W Wyatt-Lowe (35)

Against: none

Abstained: Mclean (Mayor), England, Fisher, Link, Ransley, Tindall

The Mayor declared the motion to be carried

Decision

General Fund Revenue Estimate

- a) a Dacorum Borough Council General Fund Council Tax requirement of £10.709m, and of £11.448m for the combined Borough Council and Parish Councils' requirement for 2017/18;
- b) an increase of 2.71% in Council Tax for Dacorum Borough Council;
- c) the base estimates for 2017/18, as shown in Appendix A1, and the indicative budget forecasts for 2017/18 – 2020/21, as shown in Appendix A2;
- d) the forecast balances of Revenue Reserves as shown in Appendix J, and approve paragraphs 10-20 of this report as the updated Reserves Strategy;
- e) increases in Fees and Charges for 2017/18 as set out in Appendices C3, D3, and E3;
- f) the Treasury Management Strategy for 2017/18, attached at Appendix K;
- g) the Treasury Management Principles and Practices for 2017/18, attached at Appendix L;

CHAIRMAN

h) that this budget paper will form part of the Medium Term Financial Strategy.

Capital Programme

- i) the revised Capital Programme for 2016/17, and for 2017/18 to 2021/22, as detailed in Appendix I;
- j) 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)

- k) reduce dwelling rents by 1% in accordance with government legislation, resulting in an average rent of £104.17 per week (based on 52 weeks);
- l) the HRA estimate for 2017/18 as shown in Appendix F.

Terms & Conditions

- m) the continued application of a living wage supplement for all affected employees, in accordance with the rates of the Living Wage Foundation, for 2017/18 (to be reviewed annually thereafter).

Statement by Chief Finance Officer

- n) the statement by the Chief Finance Officer regarding the robustness of the budget estimates and level of reserves as set out in Appendix M.

Resolved:

- 1) It be noted that the Cabinet, at its meeting on 13 December 2016, calculated the following amounts for the year 2017/18 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:-
 - (a) 56,415.4 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;
 - (b) the amounts in Table 1 of this 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;
- 2) the following amounts be now calculated by the Council for the year 2017/18 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"):

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- (a) £145,094,234.20 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;
- (b) £133,645,925.00 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 ;
- (c) £11,448,309.20 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 as its **Council Tax requirement** for the year;
- (d) £202.93 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) £738,973.82 being the aggregate amount of all special items referred to in Section 34(1) of the Act;
- (f) £189.83 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	189.83
Aldbury	222.83
Berkhamsted	211.99
Bovingdon	217.55
Chipperfield	238.16
Flamstead	251.63
Flaunden	219.77
Great Gaddesden	209.14
Kings Langley	235.99
Little Gaddesden	215.44
Markyate	227.12
Nash Mills	212.83
Nettleden	215.15
Northchurch	201.43
Tring Rural	216.24
Tring Town	215.49
Wigginton	208.96

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(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) it be noted that for the year 2017/18 Hertfordshire County Council 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);
- 4) That it be noted that for the year 2016/17 the Hertfordshire Police and Crime Commissioner has proposed 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);
- 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 2017/18 for each part of the area and for each of the categories of dwellings shown;
- 6) It be noted that in setting the Council Tax for 2017/18 the Council is required to have taken account of the report of the Chief Financial Officer on the robustness of the budget.

7.5 CA/022/17 APPOINTMENT OF AUDITORS 2018 AND BEYOND

Decision

1. That the Council opting into the Public Sector Audit Appointment's Sector Led Body for the appointment of the Council's external auditors for the audit of the 2018/19 accounts and beyond be approved.

7.6 CA/023/17 REPORT BY THE INDEPENDENT REMUNERATION PANEL 2016 – MEMBERS ALLOWANCES FOR DACORUM BOROUGH COUNCIL

Decision

1. That the changes to the Members' Allowances Scheme as recommended by the Independent Remuneration Panel in its report be approved

22 RECOMMENDED CHANGES TO DEVELOPMENT CONTROL COMMITTEE

RECOMMENDED CHANGES TO DEVELOPMENT CONTROL COMMITTEE

1. That the suggested changes and their inclusion in the wording of the constitution be delegated to the Solicitor for the Council.
2. That the changes to the DCC dates from May 2017 – May 2018 as set out in Appendix 1 be agreed.

CHAIRMAN

23 OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY REFERRALS

None.

24 CHANGES TO COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

25 CHANGE TO COMMITTEE DATES

The changes to DCC dates from May 2017 – May 2018 as included in agenda item 8 Member Development moved from 14th September to 7th September 2017.

The Meeting ended at 8.50 pm

CHAIRMAN