

CABINET

15th January 2013

Present: Councillor Simon Geraghty in the Chair

Councillors Bayliss (Vice-Chairman),
L. Hodgson, Knight, Riaz and Roberts

Also in Attendance:

Councillors P. Denham, Hodges and Mrs. L. Smith

72 Declarations of Interest

Update Draft Budget 2013/14
(Minute 75)

Councillor Bayliss - As a member of Warndon Parish Council

73 Public Participation

None.

74 Minutes

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the meeting held on 11th December 2012 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

75 Update Draft Budget 2013/14

The Cabinet received a report which gave an update on the Draft Budget 2013/14. The Cabinet were asked to note the updated report on the Draft Budget 2013/14, approve the calculation of the Council Tax Base for 2013/14 for Worcester City Council and our two Parish Councils, and recommend Council adopt the Annual Pay Policy Statement 2013/14, the Treasury Management Annual Strategy 2013/14 and Prudential Indicators for 2013/14.

The Council's Draft Budget 2013/14 was presented to Cabinet in December 2012 and was currently out for consultation. Feedback from consultation and the Performance Management and Budget Scrutiny process would be considered prior to finalisation of the Budget papers in February 2013.

The Portfolio Holder for Delivering Value for Money presented the main elements of the report. Particular reference was made to the Local Government Finance Settlement for 2013/14 and 2014/15 which was 19% reduction over the two financial years. The reductions had been phased in with a more significant reduction in 2014/15 of over 14% compared to 5% in 2013/14. It was noted that the impact of this would be a funding shortfall of c£250k in 2014/15 compared to the mid-point grant reduction assumed in the Medium Term Financial Strategy.

The Portfolio Holder informed Cabinet that the Council was now considering its future options regarding managing the £250k funding gap that now arose in 2014/15. It was clear that the settlement reinforced the need to radically transform what we delivered and how it was delivered. The Council needed to consider the full range of options for service delivery and take forward its commitment to commissioning quality service that delivered value for money.

Other Members present sought clarification on various issues from Cabinet to which the Portfolio Holder and other Cabinet Members gave a response. The main areas of clarification were regarding Parish Council reimbursements, capital programme funding and clarification on the meaning of debt and deficit.

The Leader of the Council acknowledged that 2014/15 would be a tough but the Council had a good track record and looked forward to the recommendations of the Performance Management and Budget Scrutiny Committee when they met to discuss their findings.

RESOLVED: That the Cabinet:-

- 1. note this update report on the Draft Budget 2013/14;**
- 2. approve, in accordance with the Local Authorities (Calculation of Tax Base) Regulations 1992, the Local Authorities (Calculation of Council Tax Base) (Amendment) (England) Regulations 2003 and the Local Authorities (Calculation of Council Tax Base) Regulations 2012, the Council Tax Base calculation for the year 2013/14 will be 28,982 for Worcester City Council (Appendix 1);**
- 3. protect the funding of our two Parish Councils for 2013/14 and approve a grant payment of £3,797 to Warndon Parish Council and £1,374 to St Peters' Parish Council for the 2013/14 financial year; and**
- 4. recommend Council adopt the Annual Pay Policy Statement (Appendix 2), the Treasury Management Annual Strategy 2013/14 (Appendix 3) and the Prudential Indicators for 2013/14 (Appendix 4).**

76 Corporate Risk Register and Management Action Plan

The Cabinet received a report detailing the Corporate Risk Register and Management Action Plan 2012/13. The Cabinet were asked to consider and approve the Corporate Risk Register and Management Action Plan which was attached to the report and to note the proposal to conduct training and awareness workshop for Members and appropriate Officers in January 2013.

Following Cabinet approval in January 2012 of the risk management framework and outline proposals to refresh the organisation's approach to risk, work had been undertaken to review the corporate risks faced by the Council and to consider the action required to mitigate these risks.

The Portfolio Holder for Delivering Value for Money presented the main elements of the report and made particular reference to the Risk Management Strategy whereby risk management played a pivotal role in achieving the Council's vision and objectives. To ensure this was achieved it was proposed that Zurich Municipal who facilitated an earlier risk review would develop and run training/risk awareness sessions for senior management, operational/business managers and Members.

The Corporate Risk Register, as agreed in the Risk Management Strategy, would be monitored by management on a quarterly basis, with Cabinet asked to review the register on a six monthly basis, Audit Committee would also receive a risk management report on a six monthly basis. The Corporate Risk Register was designed to be a live document therefore new risks would be added to the register as appropriate.

Other Members present sought clarification on various issues from Cabinet to which the Portfolio Holder and other Cabinet Members gave a response. The main areas of clarification were regarding the involvement of Performance Management and Budget Scrutiny Committee in looking at any issues as well as Audit Committee and the retention of historic records.

The Portfolio Holder and Leader of the Council gave thanks to those involved in getting the information together particularly the Audit Committee for the work they had carried out. The Leader of the Council also encouraged attendance at the training/risk awareness sessions.

RESOLVED: That the Cabinet:-

- 1. approve the Corporate Risk Register and Management Action Plan; and**
- 2. approve proposals to roll out risk awareness training with Members and senior officers.**

77 Any Other Business

None.

Duration of the meeting: 7.00pm to 7.40pm

Chairman at the meeting on
12th February 2013