

Chair - Councillor A T A Godfrey

Present (for all or part of the meeting):-

Councillors:

R P Cooke	-	Resources Portfolio
I D Fordham	-	Environment Portfolio
J Hood	-	Community Portfolio
G P K Pardesi	-	Leisure Portfolio
A F Reid	-	Economic Development and Planning Portfolio
A N Pearce	-	Climate Change Portfolio

Also present - Councillors J M Pert and M J Winnington

Officers in attendance:

T Clegg	-	Chief Executive
C Forrester	-	Deputy Chief Executive (Resources)
J Dean	-	Democratic Services Officer

Prior to commencing the meeting the Leader of the Council wished all present a very Happy New Year.

CAB45 Minutes

Minutes of the meeting held on 7 December 2023 as published on 8 December 2023 were agreed as a correct record.

CAB46 Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor R Kenney.

CAB47 General Fund Revenue Budget and Capital Programme 2023-26

Considered a report proposing to the Council the General Fund Revenue Budget for 2024-25, the updated Capital Programme 2024-27 and indicative budgets for 2025-26 to 2025-26 and seeking approval of the introduction of new car parking charges as per Appendix 8 of the report.

The Cabinet Member, Resources Portfolio introduced the report by first acknowledging the efforts of the Deputy Chief Executive (Resources) and his Team in preparing the report under a challenging timeframe.

Continuing, Councillor Cooke outlined the detail as contained within paragraphs 1, 3 and 5 of the report, together with the associated appendices, highlighting those salient points for Members attention.

Councillor Cooke confirmed that the report demonstrated that the Council was in a strong financial position and continued to push ahead with its ambitious plans to regenerate the Borough's town centres. Councillor Cooke was pleased to announce the creation of 3 new reserves arising from increased investment windfalls, which would be used to the benefit of all residents of the Borough.

Councillor Cooke concluded his comments by recommending that the proposals as set out in paragraph 2 of the report be approved.

Councillor I D Fordham praised the positive budget which gave confidence that the Cabinet could deliver on its priorities, especially that of town centre regeneration. In echoing Councillor Cooke, Councillor Fordham paid tribute to the Officers of the Finance Department in producing the report.

Councillor A N Pearce welcomed the additional budget set aside to tackle climate change which would allow progress to be made in this priority area of work.

The Leader of the Council was pleased to endorse the budget as put forward by the Cabinet Member and reaffirmed the Cabinet's commitment to deliver on its priorities during this exciting time for the Borough.

The Cabinet subsequently voted on the recommendation, which was declared to be carried.

RESOLVED:- that the proposal of the Cabinet Member, Resources Portfolio, be approved as follows:

that the following be recommended to Council:

- (a) the Budget Requirement for the General Fund Revenue Budget for 2024-25 be set at £17.460 million;
- (b) the indicative General Fund Revenue Budgets be set at £17.660 million for 2025-26 and £17.390 million for 2026-27;
- (c) the General Fund working balance be set at a minimum of £1.0 million;
- (d) the detailed capital programme as set out in appendix 2 of the report be approved;
- (e) the Council Tax for 2024-25 be increased by 2.99% to £173.56;
- (f) the Council's Tax Base be set at 49,302.73 (as determined by the Head of Finance);

- (g) it be noted that the inflation parameter for fees and charges for 2024-25 was generally set at 6%.
- (h) the new car parking charges contained in appendix 8 of the report be approved.

THIS ITEM IS NOT SUBJECT TO CALL IN AND WILL BE REFERRED TO RESOURCES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE ON 9 JANUARY 2024.

CHAIR