

# **GATESHEAD METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL**

## **CABINET MEETING**

**Tuesday, 21 February 2017**

**PRESENT:** Councillor M Gannon

Councillors: C Donovan, M Brain, A Douglas, M Foy,  
L Green, G Haley, J McElroy, M McNestry and L Twist

### **C182 MINUTES**

The minutes of the last meeting held on 7 February were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

### **C183 LIBRARY SERVICE REVIEW - OUTCOME OF THE REVIEW**

Consideration has been given to the implementation of the library service review, which follows an extensive public consultation.

The alternative options to that being recommended, but which were discounted included the following:

Option 1 – the library network would consist of:

Gateshead Central Library

Area Libraries: Blaydon, Birtley, Leam Lane and Whickham

Local Libraries – Chopwell, Wrekenton

Readers at Home Service – a borough wide service commissioned through RVS for Gateshead residents unable to access a local library.

New Mobile library – providing a range of library activities and interventions targeted at priority groups and communities.

Online services – a range of online services including the lending of e-books

This would include a plan for the development of volunteer managed libraries at Crawcrook, Felling, Pelaw and Rowlands Gill libraries. In addition the mobile library would stop operating as it does at present.

Option 3 – the network would consist of:

Gateshead Central Library

Area Libraries: Blaydon, Birtley, Leam Lane

Local Libraries – Chopwell, Pelaw, Rowlands Gill and Wrekenton

Readers at Home Service – a borough wide service commissioned through RVS for Gateshead residents unable to access a local library.

New Mobile library – providing a range of library activities and interventions targeted at priority groups and communities.

Online services – a range of online services including the lending of e-books

This would include a plan for the development of volunteer managed libraries at Crawcrook, Felling, and Whickham libraries. In addition the mobile library would stop operating as it does at present.

- RESOLVED - (i) That implementation of Option 2 as described below, which will result in a statutory network of eight Council operated libraries be approved:

Option 2 – the network to consist of:

Gateshead Central Library

Area Libraries: Blaydon, Birtley, Leam Lane

Local Libraries – Chopwell, Crawcrook, Pelaw and Wrekenton

Readers at Home Service – a borough wide service commissioned through RVS for Gateshead residents unable to access a local library.

New Mobile library – providing a range of library activities and interventions targeted at priority groups and communities.

Online services – a range of online services including the lending of e-books

- (ii) That the development of volunteer managed libraries at Felling, Rowlands Gill and Whickham libraries be supported and a further report on this matter be submitted if the transfer to volunteer operation is not viable.

The above decisions have been made for the following reasons:

- (A) To ensure a sustainable library service in Gateshead.  
(B) To deliver the Council's agreed vision for the library service.

## **C184 TENDERS FOR GOODS AND SERVICES**

Consideration has been given to tenders received for goods and services.

- RESOLVED - (i) That the tender from Carer's Federation Ltd be accepted for the contract for Independent NHS Complaints for a 24 month period commencing 1 April 2017 with the option to extend for a further 2 x 12 month periods.
- (ii) That the tender from Original Bakehouse Ltd be accepted for the contract for the Provision and Distribution of Bread and Bakery Products for a 24 month period commencing 7 March 2017 with the option to extend for a further 2 x 12 month periods.

The above decisions have been made because a comprehensive evaluation of the tenders received has been undertaken and the recommended tenders are the most economically advantageous tenders submitted.

## **C185 BUDGET AND COUNCIL TAX LEVEL 2017/18**

Consideration has been given to recommending to Council the proposed Budget and Council Tax Level for 2017/18 and the prudential indicators and Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP) Statement as set out in the report.

- RESOLVED - (i) That the following recommendations be made to the Council:

- (1) That Gateshead's Band D council tax for 2017/18 is increased by 4.99% (including a 3% adult social care Government charge) to £1,606.41.
- (2) That the revenue estimates of £198.883m for 2016/17 be approved.
- (3) That the indicative schools funding presented in appendix 2 to the report be agreed.
- (4) That the recommendations of the Strategic Director, Corporate Resources in respect of the robustness of estimates and adequacy of reserves identified in appendix 5 to the report be noted.
- (5) That the Prudential and Treasury Indicators set out in appendix 6 to this report be agreed.
- (6) That the method of calculating the Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP) for 2016/17 as set out in appendix 7 to the report be approved.
- (7) That the Budget proposals following the outcome of consultation as set out in appendix 2 to the report be noted.
- (8) That it be noted that at its meeting on 19 January 2016, Cabinet calculated the following amounts for the year 2016/17 in accordance with regulations made under Section 31B(3) of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 as amended by the Localism Act 2011:-
  - (a) **50,480.1** being the amount 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) **1,186.8** for Lamesley Parish being the amount calculated by the Council, in accordance with regulation 6 of the Regulations, as the amount of its Council Tax base for the year for dwellings in those parts of its area to which special items relate.
- (9) That the following amounts be now calculated by the Council for the year 2017/18 in accordance with Sections 31A, 31B and 34 to 36 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, as amended by the Localism Act 2011 ('the Act'): -
  - (a) **£565,059,612** being the aggregate total of the expenditure amounts, which the Council estimates for the items, set out in Section 31A(2) of the Act taking into account the precept issued by Lamesley Parish Council.

- (b) **(£483,230,191)** being the aggregate total of the income amounts, which the Council estimate for the items, set out in Section 31A(3) of the Act.
- (c) **£81,829,421** being the amount by which the aggregate at (a) above exceeds the aggregate at (b) above, calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 31A(4) of the Act, as its Council Tax requirement for the year including Lamesley Parish Council.
- (d) **£1,606.6028** being the amount at (c) above, all divided by the amount at (8)(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 including Lamesley Parish Council.
- (e) **£9,769.00** being the aggregate amount of all special items (Lamesley Parish Council) referred to in Section 34(1) of the Act.
- (f) **£1,606.4110** being the amount at (d) less the result given by dividing the amount at (e) above by the amount at (8)(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 (Lamesley Parish Council) relates.
- (g) Part of the Council's area: Lamesley Parish  
**£1,614.6424** being the amounts given by adding to the amount at (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 (8)(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 those parts of its area to which one or more special items (Lamesley Parish Council) relate.

(h)

Valuation Band	Lamesley Parish £	All other parts of the Council's area £
A	5.49	1,070.94
B	6.40	1,249.43
C	7.32	1,427.92
D	8.23	1,606.41
E	10.06	1,963.39
F	11.89	2,320.37
G	13.72	2,677.35
H	16.46	3,212.82

being the amounts given by multiplying the amounts at (f) and (g) above by the number which, in the proportion set out in Section 5(1) of the Act, is applicable to dwellings listed in a particular valuation band divided by the number which in that

proportion is applicable to dwellings listed in valuation band D, calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 36(1) of the Act, as the amounts to be taken into account for the year in respect of categories of dwellings listed in different valuation bands.

- (10) That it be noted that for the year 2017/18, the Police and Crime Commissioner for Northumbria, and Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue Authority have stated the following 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 shown below: -

Valuation Band	Police and Crime Commissioner for Northumbria £	Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue Authority £
A	65.55	51.75
B	76.48	60.37
C	87.40	69.00
D	98.33	77.62
E	120.18	94.87
F	142.03	112.12
G	163.88	129.37
H	196.66	155.24

- (11) That, having calculated the aggregate in each case of the amounts at (9)(h) and (10) above, the Council in accordance with Section 30(2) of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, hereby sets the following amounts as the amounts of Council Tax for the year 2017/18 for each of the categories of dwellings shown below: -

Valuation Band	Lamesley Parish £	All other parts of the Council's area £
A	1,193.73	1,188.24
B	1,392.68	1,386.28
C	1,591.64	1,584.32
D	1,790.59	1,782.36
E	2,188.50	2,178.44
F	2,586.41	2,574.52
G	2,984.32	2,970.60
H	3,581.18	3,564.72

- (12) That under section 52ZB of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 (as amended by the Localism Act 2011), the Council's relevant basic amount of council tax for 2017/18 is not excessive in accordance with the principles determined under section 52ZC of the Act.
- (ii) That consideration be given, in conjunction with the Local Government Association if appropriate, to what legal recourse may be available to the Council in relation to the government's continued delay in laying before Parliament the final Local Government Settlement, which could have consequences for

councils in carrying out their obligations to set a balanced budget and Council Tax level within the legal notice requirements.

The above decisions have been made to fulfil the Council's statutory duty to set the Budget and Council Tax for 2017/18.

## **C186 CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2017/18 TO 2021/22**

Consideration has been given to recommending the Council to approve the proposed capital programme for the next five years to continue to provide significant levels of strategic investment to deliver priority outcomes within the Council Plan and to help deliver the Council's Medium Term Financial Strategy in order to maintain financial sustainability.

RESOLVED - That the Council be recommended to:

- (i) Approve the capital programme for 2017/18, and the provisional programmes for 2018/19 to 2021/22, as set out in Appendix 2 to the report, subject to external funding approvals being received.
- (ii) Note the provisional capital financing for the programme, as set out in appendix 3 to the report, and delegate authority to the Strategic Director, Corporate Resources to enter into prudential borrowing which is consistent with the requirements of the capital programme and the Council's Treasury Management Strategy.
- (iii) Note the position in relation to the additional flexibility regarding the application of capital receipts to fund the revenue costs of transformational projects outlined in appendix 4 to the report and agree to receive further updates to confirm specific investment plans as part of the capital programme monitoring reports during the year.

The above decisions have been made for the following reasons:

- (A) To continue to provide significant strategic investment to deliver priority outcomes within the Council Plan.
- (B) To realise the Council's policies and objectives in relation to maximising resources available within its capital programme.
- (C) To assist with the medium and longer term financial sustainability of the Council.

## **C187 FEES AND CHARGES 2017/18**

Consideration has been given to recommending the Council to approve the level of fees and charges for 2017/18 and to approve a delegation to allow for the approval of commercially sensitive traded fees and charges.

RESOLVED - That the Council be recommended to:

- (i) Approve the fees and charges for 2017/18 as set out in appendix 2 to the report.

- (ii) Authorise the Strategic Director, Corporate Resources to make any necessary adjustments to correct any errors in the schedule of Fees and Charges.
- (iii) Approve a delegation to the Strategic Director, Corporate Resources following consultation with the Leader and Deputy Leader of the Council to approve any traded fees and charges designated as commercially sensitive.

The above decisions have been made for the following reasons:

- (A) To ensure that Fees and Charges are set in accordance with Council priorities.
- (B) To support the delivery of the Council's budget and the achievement of Council Plan outcomes.

**C188 CHANGE PROGRAMME PROCESS REPORT - QUARTER THREE**

Consideration has been given to the activity and direction of travel of the Change Programme since October 2016.

RESOLVED - That the progress being made across the Change Programme be noted.

The above decision has been made to ensure the Cabinet is able to monitor the progress of the Change Programme and give direction in a timely manner.

**C189 SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS AND DISABILITIES FOR ADDITIONALLY RESOURCED MAINSTREAM SCHOOLS (ARMS)**

Consideration has been given to consultation on a proposed new model of provision for Additionally Resourced Mainstream Schools (ARMS).

- RESOLVED -
- (i) That consultation be approved with current ARMS, special and mainstream schools on moving away from the current ARMS model and move towards establishing satellite provision from special schools, (based on type of need) which would be hosted in mainstream schools on the basis of a service level agreement.
  - (ii) That further financial modelling be undertaken in the light of proposed changes to High Needs Block funding.
  - (iii) That that Governors of Rowlands Gill Primary School be requested to consider whether they would wish to reflect on their request to close their ARMS provision and become a host school as part of a 'pilot' scheme on a model to evaluate.
  - (iv) That it be noted Primary schools will also be invited to host the model and Rowlands Gill will be asked to continue on the proposed new model basis for a further academic year.
  - (v) That Governors of Eslington Primary School be requested to consider forming a partnership with a mainstream primary

school to offer satellite provision for primary aged children with Social, Emotional and Mental Health difficulties.

- (vi) That consideration be given to any alternative models that may come forward during the consultation process.
- (vii) That a further report be submitted to Cabinet in the early Summer Term 2017 on the outcome of the consultations.

The above decision has been made to meet the Council's statutory duty to promote high educational standards and to make effective use of resources.

## **C190 REVIEW OF ENVIRONMENT SERVICES**

Consideration has been given to the outcome of a review of the Council's environment services.

- RESOLVED -
- (i) That the review and analysis of the evidence of impact as well as the views of councillors and residents on changes and standards for environment services be noted.
  - (ii) That the following recommendations be approved:
    - That standards for grass cutting and street cleansing are maintained recognising the role of a quality environment to health and wellbeing; in supporting economic growth; and for realising the Council's Place ambition.
    - For a feasibility study to be completed on the Council's tree stock to inform potential capital investment for a one off arboricultural programme to reduce complaints, potential incidents, claims and improve access.
    - Step up behavioural change, communication and awareness raising.
    - To place greater emphasis on environmental enforcement – a separate report to be brought in due course.
    - Explore opportunities for greater community involvement and ownership where this is appropriate.
  - (iii) That further briefings be arranged for Councillors together with a Members' Seminar in due course as the above recommendations are progressed.

The above decisions have been made for the following reasons:

- (A) To ensure that the Council is able to meet statutory duties and responsibilities.
- (B) To support delivery of environment services at a level that helps to maintain standards but which contribute to the Council Plan priorities including the contribution to economic growth through



Gateshead being an attractive place, and with greater community ownership and pride in the local area.

**C191 COMMUNITY ASSET TRANSFER - DUNSTON ACTIVITY CENTRE**

Consideration has been given to a newly formed charity proceeding with a Community Asset Transfer of Dunston Activity Centre.

RESOLVED - That the Service Director, Legal, Democratic and Property Services be authorised to proceed with a 35 year lease to the charity Dunston Activity Centre pursuant to the Council's Community Asset Transfer policy.

The above decisions have been made to manage resources and rationalise the Council's assets in line with the Corporate Asset Strategy and Management Plan.

**C192 PROPERTY TRANSACTION - SURRENDER AND NEW LEASE OF SITES 2 AND 3 NEWTOWN INDUSTRIAL ESTATE, BIRTLEY**

Consideration has been given to accepting the surrender of the current leases of Site 2 and Site 3 Newtown Industrial Estate, Birtley from R Beal and Company Limited ("the Tenant") and the re-grant of a 125 year lease to the Tenant.

RESOLVED - (i) That the surrender of the current leases of Site 2 and Site 3 Newtown Industrial Estate, Birtley from R Beal and Company Limited ("the Tenant") and the re-grant of a 125 year lease to the Tenant be approved.

(ii) That the Strategic Director, Corporate Services and Governance be authorised to agree the detailed terms

The above decisions have been made to manage resources in accordance with the provisions of the Corporate Asset Strategy and Management Plan.

**C193 PROPERTY TRANSACTION - SURRENDER AND NEW LEASE OF SITE 4 SALTMEADOWS ROAD, GATESHEAD**

Consideration has been given to accepting the surrender of the current lease of Site 4, Saltmeadows Road from J P Madden and D McLeod and (ii) for the grant of a new lease to Deal Direct Blinds for a term of 125 years.

RESOLVED - (i) That the surrender of the current lease of Site 4, Saltmeadows Road from J P Madden and D McLeod and (ii) for the grant of a new lease to Deal Direct Blinds for a term of 125 years be approved.

(ii) That the Strategic Director, Corporate Services and Governance be authorised to agree the detailed terms.

The above decisions have been made to manage resources in accordance with the provisions of the Corporate Asset Strategy and Management Plan.

**C194 EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC**

RESOLVED - That the press and public be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the remaining business in accordance with paragraphs 2 and 3 of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972.

**C195 LEISURE SERVICE REVIEW AND IMPLEMENTATION OF CHANGES IN THE SERVICE – GO GATESHEAD SPORT AND LEISURE**

Consideration has been given to the outcome of consultation and a proposed new structure for the GO Gateshead Sport and Leisure Service as set out in appendix 2 to the report.

- RESOLVED -
- (i) That the new structure for the GO Gateshead Sport and Leisure Service as set out in appendix 2 to the report be approved.
  - (ii) That a further report be submitted to Cabinet in September 2017 on the effectiveness of the new structure.

The above decisions have been made to ensure that the Service is fit for purpose and has the skills, knowledge and experience to deliver the vision for leisure.

Copies of all reports and appendices referred to in these minutes are available online and in the minute file. Please note access restrictions apply for exempt business as defined by the Access to Information Act.

The decisions referred to in these minutes will come into force and be implemented after the expiry of 3 working days after the publication date of the minutes identified below unless the matters are 'called in'.

Publication date: 22 February 2017

**Chair.....**