

GATESHEAD METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

CABINET MEETING

Tuesday, 21 February 2023

PRESENT: Councillor M Gannon

Councillors: C Donovan, J Adams, M Brain, A Douglas,
L Green, G Haley, J McElroy, M McNestry and B Oliphant

Also in Attendance: Councillor R Beadle and S Green

C112 **MINUTES**

The minutes of the last meeting of the Cabinet held on 24 January 2023 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

C113 **2023/24 ENERGY TARIFFS FOR GATESHEAD HEIGHTS**

Consideration has been given to the energy tariffs for HEIGHTs project residents for 2023/24 and, in particular, the heat tariffs for all HEIGHTs residents and the electricity tariffs for HEIGHTs residents at Barford and Stretford Court.

The alternative option to those being recommended, but which was discounted, was to set lower tariffs but this would not recover all running costs of the scheme and the current operating costs would increase further.

- RESOLVED -
- (i) That the heat and electricity tariffs proposed in the report and the communication of these to the HEIGHTs residents be approved and these be applied for the period 1 April 2023 to 31 March 2024.
 - (ii) That the Strategic Director, Economy, Innovation and Growth be given delegated authority to revise these tariffs in line with the Energy Price Guarantee every quarter through 2023/24, following consultation with the Cabinet Member for the Environment and Transport without further Cabinet approval.

The above decisions have been made for the following reasons:

- (A) To comply with heat and electricity supply agreements in place with customers.
- (B) To ensure the HEIGHTs scheme recovers its operating and construction costs over its lifetime.
- (C) To ensure HEIGHTs customers continue to pay fair and market reflective prices for their heating and electricity, and as soon as possible, after changes to the Energy Price Guarantee.

C114

HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT (HRA) BUDGET AND HOUSING CAPITAL PROGRAMME

RESOLVED - That Council be recommended to approve:

- (i) The Housing Revenue Account as set out in Appendix 2 of the report.
- (ii) The 7% rent increase from 3 April 2023 as detailed in Appendix 3 of the report.
- (iii) The re-letting of social rent properties at formula rent comparison as detailed in Appendix 4 of the report.
- (iv) The HRA services charges as detailed in Appendix 5 of the report.
- (v) The Housing Capital Programme for the five years 2023/24 to 2027/28 as set in Appendix 6 of the report.

The above decisions have been made for the following reasons:

- (A) To set a Housing Revenue Account for 2023/24 that is not in debit as required under the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 (Part VI).
- (B) To realise the Council's policies and objectives in relation to the Housing Strategy to maintain and enhance provision in Gateshead.
- (C) To assist in the delivery of the Council's vision for Gateshead as set out in Making Gateshead a Place where Everyone Thrives.

C115

CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2023/24 TO 2027/28

Consideration has been given to the proposed Capital Programme 2023/24 to 2027/28.

- RESOLVED -
- (i) That Council be recommended to approve the Capital Programme for 2023/24.
 - (ii) That Council be recommended to approve the provisional programmes for 2024/25 to 2027/28.
 - (iii) That Cabinet be asked to note the provisional capital financing required for the programme as set out in Appendix 3 to the report and to give delegated authority to the Strategic Director, Resources and Digital to enter into prudential borrowing which is consistent with the requirements of the Capital Programme and Council's Treasury Management Strategy.

The above decisions have been made for the following reasons:

- (A) To continue to provide investment within the Borough to deliver Council priorities.
- (B) To assist with the medium and long term financial sustainability of the Council.

C116

FEES AND CHARGES 2023/24

Consideration has been given the level of fees and charges across all Council services for 2023/24.

RESOLVED - That the Council be recommended to:

- (i) Approve the fees and charges as set out in Appendix 2 of the report.
- (ii) Authorise the Strategic Director, Resources and Digital to make any necessary adjustments to correct any errors in the schedule of fees and charges.

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 delivery of the Council's budget and the strategic approach Making Gateshead a Place where Everyone Thrives.

C117

BUDGET AND COUNCIL TAX LEVEL 2023/24

Consideration has been given to recommending to Council the proposed Budget and Council Tax Level for 2023/24 and the prudential indicators and Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP) Statement as set out in the report.

RESOLVED - That the following recommendations be made to the Council:

- (1) That Gateshead's Band D council tax for 2023/24 is increased by 4.99% (including a 2% adult social care Government charge) to £2,070.54.
- (2) The revenue estimates of £289,902,826 million for 2023/24 are approved.
- (3) The budgeted use of £25.883 million Earmarked Reserves in 2023/24 be approved (comprising of £2.362 million budgeted use of strategic, £13.521 million budgeted use of pandemic, £10 million budget sustainability).
- (4) That the proposed budgets including the indicative schools funding presented in appendix 2 be agreed.
- (5) That the outcome of initial budget consultation outlined in appendix 4 be noted.
- (6) To note the conclusions of the Strategic Director, Resources and Digital in respect of the robustness of budget estimates and adequacy of reserves outlined in appendix 5.
- (7) That the prudential and treasury indicators set out in appendix 7 to this report be agreed.

- (8) That the method of calculating the Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP) for 2023/24 as set out in appendix 8 be approved.
- (9) That it be noted that at its meeting on 24 January 2023, Cabinet agreed the following amounts for the year 2023/24 in accordance with regulations made under Section 31B (3) of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 as amended by the Localism Act 2011:
- (a) **53,354.9** 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) **1,197.4** 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.
- (10) That the following amounts be now calculated by the Council for the year 2023/24 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) **£659,090,336** 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) **(£548,604,415)** 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) **£110,485,921** 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) **£2,070.7736** being the amount at (c) above, all divided by the amount at (9)(a) above, calculated by the Council in accordance with Section 31B (l) of the Act, as the basic amount of its Council Tax for the year including Lamesley Parish Council;
 - (e) **£12,467.00** being the aggregate amount of all special items (Lamesley Parish Council) referred to in Section 34(1) of the Act;
 - (f) **£2,070.5399** being the amount at (d) less the result given by dividing the amount at (e) above by the

amount at (9)(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 **£2,080.9516** 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 (9)(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	6.94	1,380.36
B	8.10	1,610.42
C	9.25	1,840.48
D	10.41	2,070.54
E	12.72	2,530.66
F	15.04	2,990.78
G	17.35	3,450.90
H	20.82	4,141.08

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.

- (11) That it be noted that for the year 2023/24, 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	112.56	61.57
B	131.32	71.83
C	150.08	82.09

D	168.84	92.35
E	206.36	112.87
F	243.88	133.39
G	281.40	153.92
H	337.68	184.70

- (13) That, having calculated the aggregate in each case of the amounts at (10) (h) and (11) 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 2023/24 for each of the categories of dwellings shown below:

Valuation Band	Lamesley Parish £	All other parts of the Council's area £
A	1,561.43	1,554.49
B	1,821.67	1,813.57
C	2,081.90	2,072.65
D	2,342.14	2,331.73
E	2,862.61	2,849.89
F	3,383.09	3,368.05
G	3,903.57	3,886.22
H	4,684.28	4,663.46

- (13) 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 2023/24 is not excessive in accordance with the principles determined under section 52ZC the Act.

The above decisions have been made to fulfil the Council's statutory duty to set the Budget and Council Tax for 2023/24.

C118 **RESPONSE TO CONSULTATION - LEVELLING UP AND REGENERATION BILL - REFORMS TO NATIONAL PLANNING POLICY**

Consideration has been given to the response to the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities in respect of the Levelling Up and Regeneration Bill – Reforms to National Planning Policy consultation proposals.

RESOLVED - That the consultation response set out in the report be endorsed.

The above decision has been made for the following reason:

- To enable the Council to contribute a response to the consultation.

C119 **PRIMARY COMMUNITY CONTROLLED SCHOOL ADMISSIONS ARRANGEMENTS AND CO-ORDINATED ADMISSION SCHEMES FOR PRIMARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOLS FOR 2024/25**

Consideration has been given to the following:

- The proposed Community and Voluntary Primary Schools Admission Policy

2024.

- The proposed Co-ordinated and Voluntary Controlled Schools Admission Policy 2024.
- The proposed Planned Admission Numbers for Community Schools for 2024/25.

- RESOLVED -
- (i) That the Community and Voluntary Controlled Primary Admissions Policy set out in Appendix 2 of the report be adopted for September 2024.
 - (ii) That the approved admissions policies for September 2023 be used as a basis of consultation, if necessary, with schools and others for formulating the relevant admissions policies from September 2024/25 onwards.
 - (iii) That the two co-ordinated admissions schemes for Secondary, Infant Junior and Primary Schools as set out in Appendix 3 of the report be adopted for September 2024.
 - (iv) That the Planned Admission Numbers as set out in Appendix 3 of the report for all Community Primary Schools be adopted by the governing bodies of each school.

The above decisions have been made to enable the Council to comply with statutory legislation as it relates to school admissions policies, admission arrangements and co-ordinated admission arrangements.

C120

NOMINATION OF LOCAL AUTHORITY SCHOOL GOVERNORS

Consideration has been given to the nomination of local authority school governors to Kells Lane and Greenside Primary Schools in accordance with The School Governance (Constitution) (England) Regulations.

RESOLVED - That the nominations set out below be approved for a period of four years in accordance with the Schools' Instrument of Government:

School	Nomination	Date from
Kells Lane Primary School	Cllr Denise Robson	08.03.23
Greenside Primary School	Cllr Hugh Kelly	18.07.23

The above decision has been made to ensure the School Governing Bodies have full membership.

C121

COMMUNITY ASSET TRANSFER - MARLEY HILL CHANGING ROOM AND FOOTBALL PITCH

Consideration has been given to the Community Asset Transfer of Marley Hill changing room and football pitch at Church Street, Marley Hill by grant of a 25 year lease.

RESOLVED - That, subject to the necessary consents being obtained, the Community Asset Transfer of the Marley Hill changing room and football pitch to Whickham Fellside Youth Football Club by way of a

grant of a 25 year lease be approved in the Council's capacity as Trustee as set out in the report.

The above decision has been made for the following reasons:

- (A) To manage the Trust's assets in line with the objects of the Trust and in line with the Council's Corporate Asset Strategy and Management Plan.
- (B) To realise savings for the Trust.

C122 **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 paragraph 3 of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972.

C123 **SURPLUS DECLARATION AND DISPOSAL OF LAND AT CHARLTON WALK, TEAMS**

Consideration has been given to a proposal to declare land at Charlton Walk, Teams surplus to the Council's requirements and the disposal of land at the same location.

The alternative option to that being recommended, but which was discounted, was to retain the land for future disposal.

- RESOLVED -
- (i) That the surplus declaration of land at Charlton Walk, Teams on the basis set out in the report be approved.
 - (ii) That the sale of the subject land at Charlton Walk, Teams on the basis set out in the report be approved.

The above decisions have been made for the following reasons:

- (A) To manage resources and rationalise the Council's assets in line with the Corporate Asset Strategy and Management Plan.
- (B) To encourage the building of sufficient new homes using land sustainably and prioritising the use of brownfield land.

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: 21 February 2023

Chair.....