

# CABINET DECISION NOTICE

## 9 January 2018



The following decision(s) were taken by Cabinet at its meeting held on **9 January 2018**:-

### 1. **DRAFT BUDGET PROPOSALS FOR 2018/19**

#### **(a) Decision(s)**

- (1) That the Finance and Services Scrutiny Committee be thanked for its input to the budget planning process.
- (2) That in relation to Council tax, Council be recommended to approve an increase of £5 (3.48%) in respect of a Band D property for the financial year commencing on 1 April, 2018.
- (3) That Council be recommended to approve the budget for 2018/19, which included the use of £1.53m of New Homes Bonus to meet the costs of the Connected Knowledge Programme in 2018/19, and the Medium Term Financial Plan as set out in summary form at Appendix A to the Cabinet report.
- (4) That the fees and charges (taken into the final calculations) set out in Appendix E to the Cabinet report be agreed.
- (5) That Council be recommended to approve Aylesbury Special Expenditure totalling £864,700, supported by a precept of £45, which represented a Council Tax freeze for Special Expenses (as set out in Appendix F to the Cabinet report).
- (6) That Council be recommended to affirm the decision made in February, 2017, following negotiations with unions and the staff side, to approve a two year pay award for staff, with 2% being payable across all grades for 2018/2019, (the second year of the agreement), for which provision had been made in the draft budget proposals.

#### **(b) Reason(s) for Decision(s)**

The Council is statutorily required to set a budget for 2018/2019 and plan for expenditure in subsequent years based upon the Medium Term Financial Plan.

#### **(c) Alternative Options Considered**

The development of the initial proposals has involved a number of key elements of choice as set out in previous reports and the latest report submitted to Cabinet, which reflects the Government Grant settlement numbers.

#### **(d) Relevant Scrutiny Committee**

Finance and Services. That Committee's comments were reported to Cabinet by the Committee Chairman and were taken into account in reaching the recommendations

indicated above (as set out in the Cabinet Minutes) and would be actioned. In particular, the Leader of the Council indicated that Cabinet would consider the Committee's request to review the possibility of devolving Special Expenses services to Aylesbury Town Council and would seek reports in due course on the implications of this. Cabinet's final recommendations will now be submitted to Council and as such are not subject to call-in.

**(e) Conflicts of Interest / Dispensation(s)**

None.

**2. CAPITAL PROGRAMME UPDATE 2018/19 TO 2021/22**

**(a) Decision(s)**

That Council be recommended to approve the updated Capital Programme for the period 2018/19 to 2021/22 onwards, as set out in summary form at Appendix A to the Cabinet report.

**(b) Reason(s) for Decision(s)**

The Council is required to set a capital budget for the coming financial year and as part of prudent financial management incorporate a longer term view of capital activity. Regular review of the Capital Programme is essential, especially when a number of major schemes are running in parallel.

**(c) Alternative Options Considered**

None as such. The proposed Capital Programme represents the allocation of anticipated resources in accordance with corporate priorities.

**(d) Relevant Scrutiny Committee**

Finance and Services. That Committee considered the Capital Programme at its meeting on 8 January, 2018. The Committee Chairman attended the meeting to elaborate upon the Committee's deliberations. The Committee was supportive of the proposed programme, particularly the use of residual Right to Buy capital receipts and nominal sums from New Homes Bonus for affordable housing, to fund new affordable housing schemes.

Cabinet's final recommendation will now be submitted to Council and as such is not subject to call-in.

**(e) Conflicts of Interest / Dispensation(s)**

None.

**3. PUBLIC SECTOR EQUALITY DUTY**

**(a) Decision(s)**

That AVDC's Equality Report for 2017 be approved for publication in order to meet the Council's statutory duty.

**(b) Reason(s) for Decision(s)**

This is a statutory requirement.

**(c) Alternative Options Considered**

None.

**(d) Relevant Scrutiny Committee**

Finance and Services. That Committee considered the report at its meeting on 8 January, 2018. The Committee Chairman attended the meeting to elaborate upon the Committee's deliberations. The Cabinet Member for Communities gave an undertaking to include as much of the detail asked for by the Committee in future reports, bearing in mind the need to keep the document concise and easily readable.

**(e) Conflicts of Interest / Dispensation(s)**

None.

**4. BUCKINGHAMSHIRE GROWTH STRATEGY 2017-2050**

**(a) Decision(s)**

(1) That the Buckinghamshire Growth Strategy 2017-2050 be noted.

(2) That the Council's response to the document be as follows:-

- AVDC is disappointed and surprised about how this issue has been approached and is concerned that despite having raised a number of valid issues, the document was still commissioned in the manner presented.
- AVDC believes that the document does not have any formal status and therefore will not be referenced in any of AVDC's planning work.
- AVDC does not believe that the other planning authorities in Bucks recognise the strategy.
- AVDC believes that this document cannot be considered as a real strategy and questions its validity/value, given its broad and unsubstantiated statements.
- AVDC is firmly of the view that the LEP needs to work better at identifying mission critical investments that need to be secured from Government. This document does little to provide any clarity on the priority asks and offers that AVDC would seek to achieve within the context of a central area growth deal.
- AVDC's priority will be to work with the other that are willing to work in partnership across the central area in order to move a growth deal forward and would expect that both LEPs will actively engage with this, rather than pursue separate growth conversations which it is understood the Government would like to avoid.

**(b) Reason(s) for Decision(s)**

In response to the invitation to comment. The Chief Executive of the Bucks/Thames Valley LEP attended the meeting and gave a brief presentation on the strategy. Cabinet Members tested him rigorously on the assumptions made in the strategy.

**(c) Alternative Options Considered**

Not to comment. However, Cabinet felt it essential to express a view within the context of the actions being pursued by this Authority to seek a sustainable and robust growth strategy for the Vale.

**(d) Relevant Scrutiny Committee**

Economy and Business Development.

**(e) Conflicts of Interest / Dispensation(s)**

None.

**5. AYLESBURY VALE ESTATES (AVE) BUSINESS PLAN**

**(a) Decision(s)**

That the draft Business Plan for Aylesbury Vale Estates (AVE) for 2017/18 be approved.

**(b) Reason(s) for Decision(s)**

The Council's consent to the annual Business Plan is a requirement of the AVE agreement.

**(c) Alternative Options Considered**

Not to approve the Plan. However, Cabinet was satisfied with the Plan. Representatives of the Asset Management Agents were present at the meeting to respond to questions from Cabinet Members.

**(d) Relevant Scrutiny Committee**

Economy and Business Development. That Committee had been given an opportunity to consider the draft Business Plan at its meeting on 22 November, 2017 and had commended it for approval.

**(e) Conflicts of Interest / Dispensation(s)**

Councillor Mrs Ward as a Director on the AVE Board. Councillor Mrs Ward took no part in the discussion or voted on the item.

**6. VALE COMMERCE**

**(a) Decision(s)**

That the decision of the Vale Commerce Board to move the company into a state of

dormancy and transfer the assets and appropriate IP brands, website etc. back to the Shareholder, and transfer all assets and appropriate IP such as the brands and website back to the Shareholder be acknowledged.

**(b) Reason(s) for Decision(s)**

To meet the requirements of the Shareholder Agreement under the Reserved Matters.

**(c) Alternative Options Considered**

The option to continue to run Vale Commerce has been considered but discounted noting that at the time of setting up the company the Council's own commercial function was in its infancy. The core Council's capability in this area has grown immeasurably since 2015. Given the current maturity of the Council's commercial approach the Vale Commerce concept has been superseded by the delivery opportunities now available to the Council as a whole including the success with My Account.

**(d) Relevant Scrutiny Committee**

Finance and Services.

**(e) Conflicts of Interest / Dispensation(s)**

Councillor Mrs J Blake, as a company director, who did not vote on this item.

**CALL-IN TIMESCALES**

Any requests for call-in must be received by the Democratic Services Manager by 5pm on Thursday 18 January, 2018. The request must be made by the Chairman of the relevant Scrutiny Committee or any 3 Members of that Scrutiny Committee.

Contact Officer: Bill Ashton (01296) 585040