



DEMOCRATIC AND ELECTORAL SERVICES

Dealt with by:	Democratic Services	Switchboard:	01895 837200
Your Ref:		Fax:	01895 837277
My Ref:		e-mail:	democraticservices@southbucks.gov.uk
Date:	05 February 2014	Direct Line:	01895 837225/837227

Dear Councillor

CABINET - SUPPLEMENTARY AGENDA

The next meeting of the Cabinet will be held as follows:

DATE: MONDAY, 10TH FEBRUARY, 2014
TIME: 6.00 PM
VENUE: ROOM 6, CAPSWOOD, OXFORD ROAD, DENHAM

Only apologies for absence received prior to the meeting will be recorded.

Yours faithfully

Jim Burness

Director of Resources

To: The Cabinet

Mr Busby (Leader)
Mrs Cranmer
Mr Naylor
Mr D Smith
Mrs Woolveridge

Mr Reed (Deputy Leader)



Declarations of Interest

Any Member attending the meeting is reminded of the requirement to declare if he/she has a personal interest in any item of business, as defined in the Code of Conduct. If that interest is a prejudicial interest as defined in the Code the Member should also withdraw from the meeting.

SUPPLEMENTARY AGENDA

(Pages)

4. **Budget and Council Tax Report**

Appendix - Extract from Minutes of the meeting of Overview and Scrutiny Committee held on 3 February 2014

(1 - 2)

The next meeting is due to take place on Tuesday, 8 April 2014

This page is intentionally left blank

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Meeting - 3 February 2014

Present: Dr. Pope (Chairman)
Mr Harding, Mr Anthony, Mr Chhokar, Mrs Plant and The Earl of Stockton

Also Present: Mr Griffin

Apologies for absence: Mrs Burrows

EXTRACT FROM DRAFT MINUTES OF OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE HELD ON 3 FEBRUARY 2014.**16. CONSULTATION OF 2014/15 BUDGET PROPOSALS**

The Cabinet on 10 February 2014 would be receiving a report on the Council's Budget Proposals and Council Tax for 2014/2015 and, in accordance with the Council's Constitution, the Committee was invited to comment on the proposals.

The Committee's attention was drawn to the following key points:

- The proposed budget requirement is £8,068k, which will lead to a nil increase in the District's element of the council tax.
- By freezing the council tax the authority will receive a grant of £47k, which is equivalent to a 1% increase in council tax. This will be payable for the next two years.
- The Council will receive a total New Homes Bonus grant in 2014/15 of £1,082k.
- Reserves are planned to be used to:
 - Continue to support Local Development Document (LDD) programme. £30k
 - Continue to support the joint working programme. £62k
- There will be an addition to the General Reserve of £141k. This repays to the General Fund balance the funding applied to support the 2013/14 budget.
- A schedule of savings was included in the draft budgets considered by the Policy Advisory Groups. The following two adjustments were made to the savings proposals following the meetings of the PAGs:
 - Rephasing of £24k additional car parking income from 2014/15 to 2015/16.
 - Deferring savings in Planning Enforcement, £30k, until the outcome of the service review of Planning that will be undertaken in 2014/15.
- The budget reflects the proposed change to the level of employers' contributions to the Bucks Pension Fund in the light of the recent revaluation of the Fund.
- Investment income is planned to be £550k, which is £225k less than the current year. This reflects a view of a continuing low level of interest rates during 2014/15, and declining cash reserves.
- The recommended minimum level of revenue reserves for 2014/15, taking into account budget risks is £750k.

- The Treasury Management Strategy is based on the authority maintaining its debt free status, and retaining around £18m of unapplied capital receipts in 2014/15.

The Committee were also made aware of the key risks and the main issues facing the authority in the medium term.

Members asked a number of questions and sought clarification and explanation of certain issues surrounding the revenue budget and use of reserves.

Whilst discussing Section B of the Cabinet report on Investment Income, a view was raised that the approach being taken by the Council to deliver investment income for 2014/15 was too cautious. In response, the Committee were advised that the level of investment income for 2014/15 reflected the view that the low level of interest rates would continue in 2014/15, which was the current forward guidance from the Bank of England, and the declining level of cash balances as a result of the significant capital expenditure on waste services.

With regards to income levels in the proposed 2014/15 revenue budget, a view was expressed that the amount of income, which was to be raised by the Council, was too low. In response to this concern, the Committee were advised that the Council provided a number of statutory services, for which it could not charge, or where charges were set by the Government, therefore the level of income which the authority could raise was limited. However the Council would look for opportunities to increase income by expanding service volumes (e,g, car parking, building control).

Following the discussion, the Committee agreed that Cabinet be informed that, apart from the comments over the approach to investments and level of income to be raised by the Council, it had no other comments to make on the 2014/15 budget proposals.

The meeting terminated at 8.15 pm