

# South Bucks District Council

## Cabinet Decision

Notice is given that the following decisions have been taken by Cabinet on Wednesday, 7 February 2018

### 5 Revenue Budget & Council Tax 2018/19

#### (a) DECISION:

Cabinet received a report which provided information affecting the Council's revenue budget for 2018/19 in order for the Cabinet to make recommendations to Council on 27 February regarding the Council's budget and council tax for 2018/19.

**RECOMMEND** to Full Council that the

- 1) the Revenue budget for 2018/19 as summarised in the table in paragraph 4.13 be approved.
- 2) the following use of earmarked reserves for 2018/19 be agreed.  
Local Development Plan, £393k  
Economic Development Reserve, £42k
- 3) a budget requirement of £7,398k, which will result in a District council tax of £158.00 for a Band D property be approved.
- 4) the level of fees and charges for 2018/19 as set out in Appendix C be confirmed.
- 5) the advice of the Director of Resources as set out in Appendix A be noted.
- 6) the comments in the report on the Council's financial position in respect of the years following 2018/19 and the updated Medium Term Forecast be noted.
- 7) the revenue and capital budgets for 2018/19 for the Farnham Park Trust as summarised in Appendix D be agreed.

And **RESOLVED** that this report be made available to all Members of the Council in advance of the Council Tax setting meeting on 27th February, and a final report be produced for the Council meeting incorporating the information from preceptors, and the final decisions of the Cabinet on the budget.

**(b) REASON FOR DECISION:**

The Cabinet was required to recommend to Council a budget as the basis of setting the District element of the council tax.

**(c) ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED:**

The report sets out the position based on increasing the district element of the council tax to £158.00 (a £5 rise). There was the option of not increasing the Council Tax, or increasing at a lower level. This would result in less resource being available and the funding gap increasing in future years. There was also the option of increasing the Council Tax by more than the referendum threshold of £5 or 3% (which for SBDC would be £4.59). However it was not considered realistic to consider a local referendum due to the cost of organising a referendum, and the risk of voters not supporting any additional increase in Council Tax.

**(d) CONFLICTS OF INTERESTS/DISPENSATIONS:**

None.

**6 Capital Strategy and Capital Programme 2018/19 to 2022/23**

**(a) DECISION:**

The Cabinet considered a report on the Capital Strategy and proposed Capital Programme for 2018/19-2022/23.

After indicating their support for the Capital Strategy and proposed Capital Programme as set out in Appendix A, the Cabinet

**RECOMMENDED** to Full Council that the Capital Strategy including the Capital Programme for 2018/19-2022/23 as set out in appendix A be approved.

**(b) REASON FOR DECISION:**

As part of the Council's budget process the Capital Programme was reviewed in order to assess, as part of the overall financial strategy of the Authority, what the scale and composition of the programme should be and the consequential funding implications for the financial strategy.

**(c) ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED:**

The Cabinet considered the various elements of the Capital Strategy and proposed Capital Programme.

**(d) CONFLICTS OF INTERESTS/DISPENSATIONS:**

None.

7a **Treasury Management Strategy 2018/19**

**(a) DECISION:**

The Cabinet received a report on the Treasury Management Strategy for 2018/2019 and related policies and were asked to consider whether to recommend to Council that the strategy and associated policies be adopted.

**RECOMMENDED** to Full Council that the Treasury Management Strategy 2018/19 and associated policies as listed below, be approved:

- Appendix 1A - Annual Investment Strategy Policies
- Appendix 1B - Prudential Indicators including the borrowing limits
- Appendix 1C - the MRP method to be used in 2018/19

**(b) REASON FOR DECISION:**

The Council was required to formally review its treasury management policies each year as part of determining what level of returns would be achieved from investments. The format of the treasury management policies was defined by the Code of Practice adopted by the Council, and was required to be approved by the Council on recommendation from the Cabinet.

**(c) ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED:**

The Cabinet considered the various elements of the Treasury Management Strategy and the judgements and risk assessments made when finalising the Strategy around likely returns, counterparty risks, and liquidity issues related to the level of available cash balances.

**(d) CONFLICTS OF INTERESTS/DISPENSATIONS:**

None.

10 **National Infrastructure Commission, the Oxford - Milton Keynes - Cambridge Corridor**

**(a) DECISION:**

The Cabinet considered a report which set out the proposal to establish a Growth Board for the Central Area which would contribute to the wider economic ambitions for the Oxford – Milton Keynes – Cambridge corridor. Cabinet were also asked to consider whether the Council should play an active role in the Growth Board.

Having considered the recommendations in the report, the Cabinet

**RESOLVED** that

- 1) a Central Area Growth Board in the form of a Joint Committee be established and that it be agreed to work with partners with the aim of accelerating and increasing growth and securing investment in infrastructure across the area;
- 2) that the draft Terms of Reference for the Central Area Growth Board, attached as Appendix 1, be agreed and the Director of Services be authorised in consultation with the Leader to agree any final wording;
- 3) that pursuant to s101 (5) and 102 of the Local Government Act 1972, s9EB of the Local Government Act 2000 and (where applicable) to the Local Authorities (Arrangement for the Discharge of Functions) (England) Regulations 2012, the Council agrees to participate in the Central Area Growth Board Joint Committee and to delegate its executive functions in so far as they relate to accelerating and increasing growth and securing investment in infrastructure across the Central Area;
- 4) that the Leader, or another member of the Cabinet nominated by the Leader, be the representative for the Council at future meetings of the Growth Board; and
- 5) that the current position with regards to the whole corridor (Oxford – Milton Keynes – Cambridge) and the Bucks Growth Strategy be noted.

**(b) REASON FOR DECISION:**

To place the Council at the heart of the decision-making and influence regarding future growth strategies for the area and to enable the Councils to have an influence on future proposals to Government for investment in essential infrastructure.

**(c) ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED:**

To not participate in the Central Area Growth Board. Cabinet decided against this option because only through participation in the Growth Board would the Council have control over future growth requirements in the area and crucially would be able to act with partners to lever investment into essential infrastructure.

**(d) CONFLICTS OF INTERESTS/DISPENSATIONS:**

None.

12a **Littleworth Common Ownership Update**

**(a) DECISION:**

The Cabinet received a report which sought approval to acquire land at Littleworth Common.

**RESOLVED** that the Council takes a transfer of the freehold ownership of Littleworth Common shown edged black on the plan attached to the report and that final agreement of the transfer terms be delegated to the Head of Environment in consultation with the Head of Legal and Democratic Services.

**(b) REASON FOR DECISION:**

To progress the transfer of the land to the Council would give clarity to the ownership situation, enable external funding and ensure the continued protection of the site for residents to enjoy and for the habitats to remain in a favourable condition.

**(c) ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED:**

The option to do nothing and leave the Council as managers of the site with its current liabilities and restrictions on obtaining external funding was considered.

**(d) CONFLICTS OF INTERESTS/DISPENSATIONS:**

None.

12b **South Bucks Car Parks Review**

**(a) DECISION:**

The Cabinet received a report which asked Members to consider options for amending the off street parking in order to maximise the availability of parking space and improve parking in the District.

**RESOLVED**

- 1) to proceed with the following:

Beaconsfield

- a) Amend the 8 hour tariff across all Beaconsfield car parks to 9 hours.

Gerrards Cross:

- b) Introduce a 9hr tariff on Packhorse Road and Station Road car parks.

All Car Parks (proposed for 2018/19)

- c) Introduce new car park charges as outlined in Appendix A.
  - d) Restrict season tickets to residents, local businesses and local workers.
  - e) Increase season ticket prices for Burnham and Farnham Common to maintain daily charge versus season ticket cost ratio.
  - f) Amend season ticket refunds so the higher charge is applicable and return full calendar months only.
- 2) that the Head of Environment be authorised to publish the necessary statutory Notice of proposed Amendments to the Off Street Parking Places Order;
  - 3) that, if no valid objections are received in response to publication of the Notice, the Director of Services be authorised to make and publicise the necessary Amendment Order.
  - 4) that if valid objections are received in response to publication of the Notice, the Director of Services be authorised to deal with any such objections after consultation with the Portfolio Holder and to make and publicise the necessary Amendment Order with or without modifications as considered appropriate.

**(b) REASON FOR DECISION:**

To enable the car parks to continue to be effectively managed and to provide investment for future car park development.

**(c) ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED:**

The various options for charging were considered.

**(d) CONFLICTS OF INTERESTS/DISPENSATIONS:**

None

15a **Statement of Community Involvement**

**(a) DECISION:**

The Cabinet received a report regarding the Statement of Community Involvement (SCI). Members were aware that the Government signalled its intent to legislate to require local plans to be regularly reviewed in last years White Paper 'Fixing our broken housing market'. The purpose of this report was to explain the implications of the Government's intentions connected with the above for statements of community involvement and implications for the Council's SCI.

The report also explained that the SCI was not part of the existing delegation by Cabinet to the Joint Committee on issues relating to the Local Plan. As such the report recommended that powers related to the SCI and other joint planning policy related matters be added to the delegated powers to Joint Committee as part of Shared Service and decision making arrangements.

**RESOLVED** that

- 1) the production of a joint Statement of Community Involvement as part of the Chiltern and South Bucks Planning and Economic Development Shared Service arrangements be agreed;
- 2) authority be delegated to the Director of Services (in the absence of a permanent Head of Planning and Economic Development), in agreement with the Cabinet Member for Planning and Economic Development to prepare and publish a joint Statement of Community Involvement for Chiltern and South Bucks District Councils based on the issues set out in the report; and
- 3) the Local Development Scheme be amended by the insertion of a timetable specifically covering the update and review of the Statement of Community Involvement and that authority be delegated to the Director of Services, in the absence of a permanent Head of Planning and Economic Development, to determine and amend as necessary the timetable.

And further

**RECOMMENDED** to Full Council that the powers delegated to the Joint Committee by the Inter Authority Agreement be extended to include updates to the Statement of Community Involvement (after Recommendation 1 above has been implemented), Community Infrastructure Levy and other Planning Policy matters considered relevant to the Joint Committee under the Shared Service arrangements.

**(b) REASON FOR DECISION:**

The Council has agreed to produce a joint local plan and to operate a Shared Service for all planning matters and therefore although an SCI should be a council based document there was no logic in having two identical SCI documents for a shared service area. A revision to the SCI was needed to be included in a revised Local Development Scheme Timetable. The agreed delegation would enable the Council to efficiently and effectively respond to the changing requirements for the SCI over the next few months and thereafter through the Joint Committee.

**(c) ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED:**

Given the imminent change to the regulations the Councils would have to update their respective SCI documents. The other option open to the Councils would be to produce two largely similar SCI documents one for each council. Given the legal requirement to have an up-to-date SCI document in place there were no other alternative options.

**(d) CONFLICTS OF INTERESTS/DISPENSATIONS:**

None.

15b **Community Infrastructure Levy Timetable**

**(a) DECISION:**

The Cabinet received a report which recommended a revised timetable for the introduction of a Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL), following announcements in the Housing White Paper and the Autumn Budget.

**RESOLVED** that a timetable as part of the Local Development Scheme for the preparation of the necessary Community Infrastructure Levy Documents, as set out in Appendix 1 to this report, be published.

**(b) REASON FOR DECISION:**

Following the Councils decision to pursue CIL in Chiltern and South Bucks Districts in December 2016, work was temporarily halted due to uncertainties regarding the continuation of the CIL system nationally. However, the Governments Autumn Budget clarified that there was no intention to replace CIL with an alternative system, and that the Government was instead seeking to make alterations to the current CIL regime. Therefore work was now able to resume on the implementation of CIL in Chiltern and South Bucks Districts. A revised timetable as part of the Local Development Scheme was required to be published on the Councils websites in this respect. The new timetable (Appendix 1) seeks to maximise efficiencies between the development of CIL in the two Districts with the production of the joint Local Plan.

**(c) ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED:**

The Cabinet considered the option to introduce CIL after the adoption of the Local Plan however this would result in additional staff and budget costs and a delay which could result in significant loss of income that would have otherwise been generated with an earlier introduction of CIL.

**(d) CONFLICTS OF INTERESTS/DISPENSATIONS:**

None.

22a **Memorandum of Understanding with Heathrow Airport Ltd**

**(a) DECISION:**

The Cabinet received a report which asked Members to consider whether to delegate authority to the Chief Executive, in consultation with the Head of Legal Services to agree the terms of the proposed Memorandum of Understanding between the Council and Heathrow Airport Ltd.

**RESOLVED** that authority be delegated to the Chief Executive, in consultation with the Head of Legal Services to agree the terms of the proposed Memorandum of Understanding between the Council and Heathrow Airport Ltd and such variations as may be required to reflect changes in circumstances as referred to in the report.

**(b) REASON FOR DECISION:**

To clearly set out the areas for cooperation between South Bucks District Council and Heathrow Airport Ltd.

**(c) ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED:**

To not sign up to the Memorandum of Understanding.

**(d) CONFLICTS OF INTERESTS/DISPENSATIONS:**

None.

<b>Date Published:</b>	9 February 2018	<b>Call in Deadline Midnight on:</b>	16 February 2018
<b>Date to be implemented:</b> 17 February 2018			
<b>*recommendations to Full Council are not subject the call in procedure</b>			