

South Bucks District Council

Cabinet Decision Notice

Notice is given that the following decisions have been taken by Cabinet on Wednesday, 6 February 2019

5.1 Revenue Budget and Council Tax 2019/20

Cabinet received a report which provided information affecting the Council's revenue budget for 2019/20 in order for the Cabinet to make recommendations to Council on 27 February 2019 regarding the Council's budget and council tax for 2019/20.

RECOMMEND to Full Council that

1. the Revenue budget for 2019/20 as summarised in the table in paragraph 4.11 be approved.
2. the following use of earmarked reserves for 2019/20 be agreed.

- Local Development Plan	£315k
- Economic Development Reserve	£45k
- National Infrastructure Reserve	£5k
3. the contribution of £300k to the Local Development Plan Reserve from the General Fund to support expenditure on the Plan in 2020/21 be agreed.
4. the creation of a new earmarked reserve of £1,552k for unitary implementation costs be agreed. Part of this reserve will be drawn down in 2019/20 after approval by the Shadow Authority.
5. a budget requirement of £7,642k, which will result in a District council tax of £163.00 for a Band D property be approved.
6. the level of fees and charges for 2019/20 as set out in Appendix C be confirmed.
7. the advice of the Director of Resources as set out in Appendix A be noted.
8. the comments in the report on the Council's financial position in respect of the years following 2019/20 and the updated medium

term financial position be noted.

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 £163.00 (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 £4.74). However it was not considered realistic to consider a local referendum due to the cost of holding a referendum, and the risk assessments made when reviewing alternative options, including considering voter support.

(d) CONFLICTS OF INTERESTS/DISPENSATIONS:

None

6.1 Capital Strategy and Capital Programme 2019/20 to 2023/24

The Cabinet considered a report on the Capital Strategy and proposed Capital Programme for 2019/20-2023/24.

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 2019/20 - 2023/24 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

6.2 Treasury Management Strategy 2019/20

The Cabinet received a report on the Treasury Management Strategy for 2019/20 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 2019/20 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 2019/20

(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 recommendations 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, counter party risks, and liquidity issues related to the level of available cash balances.

(d) CONFLICTS OF INTERESTS/DISPENSATIONS:

None

6.3 Farnham Park Charity Budget 2019/20

(a) DECISION:

Cabinet considered the draft budgets for the Charitable Trusts activities for 2019/20, including the proposed fees & charges in the confidential appendix.

RECOMMENDED to Full Council that the overall operating budget shown in para 3.9. and the fees and charges in Appendix A of the report be approved.

(b) REASON FOR DECISION:

The Cabinet was required to recommend to Council as a corporate trustee budget for the operation of the Charity which was divided into two areas; the golf and the playing fields.

(c) ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED:

The main deficit was as a result of the costs of operating the Playing Fields which was a major challenge facing the Charity which was added to by the fact that all the buildings on the site were approaching the end of their useful life. In the short term there were no options to reduce the deficit, but consideration was being given to options for the playing fields to improve usage and reduce the net cost. Any increases in green fees proposed were made in reference to other local golf courses, as usage was price sensitive.

(d) CONFLICTS OF INTERESTS/DISPENSATIONS:

None

7.1 Performance Report Quarter 2 2018/19

Cabinet received a report which outlined the annual performance of Council services against pre-agreed performance indicators and service objectives for Quarter 2 of 2018-19.

RESOLVED that Cabinet note the performance reports.

(b) REASON FOR DECISION:

Management Team, Cabinet and Overview and Scrutiny Committee received regular updates detailing progress towards service plan objectives, performance targets and strategic risks, in line with the Performance and Improvement Framework.

(c) ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED:

N/A

(d) CONFLICTS OF INTERESTS/DISPENSATIONS:

None

8.1 **Exemption to Contracts Procedure Rules - Instructing Viability Consultants**

(a) DECISION:

Cabinet were asked to note that Management Team had agreed an Exemption to the Contract Procedure Rules.

RESOLVED that it be noted that Management Team has agreed an Exemption to the Contracts Procedure Rules, to permit JLL to be instructed to advise the Council on the viability assessment submitted by the applicant relating to the proposed redevelopment at Wilton Park, Beaconsfield, HP9 2RL.

(b) REASON FOR DECISION:

In order to comply with the Contract Procedure Rules exemptions authorised by Management Team must be reported to the next appropriate Cabinet meeting. An outline planning permission had been submitted to the Council for the redevelopment of the Wilton Park site. It was important that the applicant's financial viability appraisal was expertly reviewed in order for this matter to be fully considered by the Planning Committee.

(c) ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED:

N/A

(d) CONFLICTS OF INTERESTS/DISPENSATIONS:

None

9.1 Car Parking Strategy

Cabinet considered a proposed five year car parking strategy for the District of South Bucks and agreed to commence public consultation and to authorise the Head of Environment in consultation with the Portfolio Holder to agree the final strategy having regard to any comments received during the consultation.

RESOLVED

1. That adoption of the proposed five year car park strategy appended to the report setting out the Council's aim and objectives, along with associated parking operations for the District be supported subject to undertaking public consultation.
2. That the Head of Environment be authorised to commence public consultation.
3. That the Head of Environment in consultation with the Portfolio Holder be authorised to agree the final strategy after considering the comments received from the consultation including making any modifications as considered appropriate.

(b) REASON FOR DECISION:

An effective parking strategy would help to further a wide range of objectives such as, economic vitality of South Bucks Towns and Villages.

(c) ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED:

The options submitted for consideration were:

- 5.1 To take the decision to not have a car park strategy.
- 5.2 To approve the strategy in its existing format and approve the recommendations listed in this report.
- 5.3 To approve the strategy in principle, but in a different format, so detail in respect of tariffs etc. were included in the one document. The downside to this option was that as changes occur, the strategy would become dated and regularly require updating.

(d) CONFLICTS OF INTERESTS/DISPENSATIONS:

None

9.2 Review of remaining recycling centres

Cabinet considered the future provision of recycling centres (bring sites), which the authorities provide. This report was considered by the Environment PAG on 20 November 2018 and the Portfolio Holder, having considered the advice of the PAG, agreed to recommend that the remaining eight recycling centres (bring sites) in the South Bucks District be closed with notice to the public in advance.

RESOLVED

That the remaining eight recycling centres be closed and the future direction of service be agreed.

(b) REASON FOR DECISION:

The removal of the eight recycling centres located in South Bucks District was recommended for a number of reasons which were outlined in the report which included areas such as the mis-use of the centres by businesses and residents resulting in contamination and poor quality material. In addition the benefits delivered by the recycling centres in terms of useful recycling and convenience for residents were now not proportionate to the costs of collection and sorting of material.

(c) ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED:

The options were to do nothing where any savings and service efficiencies would not be realised or to close the remaining recycling centres which would minimise service cost increase for the new joint waste contract.

(d) CONFLICTS OF INTERESTS/DISPENSATIONS:

None

9.3 Charging for refuse and recycling containers in the South Bucks District

(a) DECISION:

Cabinet considered the introduction of charges for refuse and recycling containers to residents in certain specified circumstances to align South Bucks District Council's

policy with services delivered in the Chiltern and Wycombe Districts. The Portfolio Holder agreed to recommend the following recommendations to Cabinet having discussed this with the PAG on 20 November 2018.

RESOLVED

1. That charges to residents for waste containers be introduced where they are lost, stolen, damaged by a resident or not present when a resident moves into a property.
2. That the charges levied are in line with those already set for residents in the Chiltern and Wycombe Districts.

(b) REASON FOR DECISION:

The introduction of charging was recommended to reduce the pressure on budgetary expenditure, but also to encourage residents to take greater responsibility for their containers, and to encourage residents to properly look for missing containers. Increasingly, more local authorities were altering their charging criteria for waste and recycling containers and were only providing them free when damaged by the collection crews.

(c) ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED:

The options were to continue providing all containers directly to residents for free or charge as per table 2.9 in the report.

(d) CONFLICTS OF INTERESTS/DISPENSATIONS:

None

Date Published:	13 February 2019	Call in Deadline Midnight on 20 February 2019	
Date to be implemented 21 February 2019			
*recommendations to Full Council are not subject the call in procedure			