

COUNCIL MEETING**25 January 2018****7.00 pm – 9.35 pm****3****Council Chamber, Ebley Mill, Stroud****Minutes****Membership:**

Martin Baxendale	P	Nick Hurst	P	Skeena Rathor	P
Dorcas Binns	P	Julie Job	P	Sue Reed	P
Catherine Braun	P	Haydn Jones	P	Mark Reeves	P
Chris Brine	P	John Jones	P	Steve Robinson	P
George Butcher	P	Norman Kay	P	Mattie Ross	P
Miranda Clifton	P	Darren Loftus	P	Tom Skinner	P
Nigel Cooper	P	Stephen Lydon	P	Nigel Studdert-Kennedy	P
Doina Cornell	P	John Marjoram	P	Haydn Sutton	P
Gordon Craig	P	Phil McAsey	A	Brian Tipper	P
Rachel Curley	P	Karen McKeown	P	Chas Townley	P
Stephen Davies	P	Jenny Miles*	P	Jessica Tomblin	P
Paul Denney	P	Dave Mossman	P	Ken Tucker	P
Jim Dewey	P	Gill Oxley	P	Martin Whiteside	A
Jonathan Edmunds	P	Keith Pearson	A	Tim Williams	A
Chas Fellows	A	Simon Pickering	P	Tom Williams	P
Colin Fryer	P	Gary Powell**	P	Penny Wride	P
Alison Hayward	P	Nigel Prenter	P	Debbie Young	P

**Chair * Vice-Chair P = Present A = Absent

Officers Present:

Chief Executive	Accountancy Manager (Acting Section 151 Officer)
Head of Legal Services and Monitoring Officer	Democratic Services Officer

CL.030 APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Fellows, McAsey, Pearson, Whiteside and Tim Williams.

CL.031 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

In the interests of openness, Councillor Wride declared an interest (as trustee of the Citizens Advice Bureau in Stroud) and took no part in the voting in relation to minute no. CL.034.

Councillor Pickering declared a pecuniary interest in minute no. CL.034(c) (as his wife works for the Citizens Advice Bureau in Stroud) and left the Council Chamber at the beginning of this item.

The Chair welcomed Councillor Loftus who had been elected in November for the Chalford Ward. His appointment by his Group Leader to Housing and Community Services and Licensing Committees in accordance with the Constitution was also noted.

CL.032 MEMBERSHIP OF STRATEGY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE

Councillors Pickering, Cooper, Studdert-Kennedy and Ross thanked Councillor Lydon for all the hard work he had done as Leader and Chair of this committee. Councillor Lydon responded, thanking everyone for their kind words.

(a) To appoint a Chair of the Committee

Councillor Cornell was nominated as Chair by Councillor Lydon and seconded by Councillor Pickering.

RESOLVED Councillor Cornell is appointed Chair of Strategy and Resources Committee.

(b) To appoint a Vice-Chair of the Committee

Councillor Robinson was nominated as Vice-Chair by Councillor Cornell and seconded by Councillor Fryer.

RESOLVED Councillor Robinson is appointed Vice-Chair of Strategy and Resources Committee.

(c) To appoint a Committee Member

The appointment of Councillor Lydon to the Committee, by his Group Leader, was confirmed.

RESOLVED That the appointment of Councillor Lydon as committee member of Strategy and Resources Committee be noted.

CL.033 RECOMMENDATION FROM AUDIT AND STANDARDS COMMITTEE – 28 NOVEMBER 2017

Half Year Treasury Management Activity Report 2017/18

The Chair of the Audit and Standards Committee outlined the report which had been debated and agreed at the above meeting.

RESOLVED i) **That the Treasury Management Activity Half-year Report for 2017/2018 be approved; and**
 ii) **To make the amendment to investment duration to 2 years for up to £3million with government supported banks, as set out in paragraph 17 of the report to the committee on 28 November 2017.**

**CL.034 RECOMMENDATIONS FROM STRATEGY AND RESOURCES
COMMITTEE – 18 JANUARY 2018**

The Chair of Strategy and Resources Committee outlined the following reports:

- (a) Housing Revenue Account Budget 2018/19 and Medium Term Finance Plan 2018/19

Councillor Ross proposed to accept the recommendation; this was seconded by Councillor Townley. As this was a budget item the votes are recorded; [please see voting records report](#).

- RESOLVED**
- i) **The revised HRA budget for 2017/18 and original budget for 2018/19 are approved; and**
 - ii) **The movement to and from balances and capital reserves as detailed in Appendices B and C are approved; and**
 - iii) **That from 1 April 2018:**
 - a) **Social rents and affordable rents are decreased by 1% (equivalent to 81pence at the average rent level), as calculated in accordance with legislation**
 - b) **Garage rents are increased by 3%**
 - c) **Landlord sheltered housing service charges are increased by 3%**
 - d) **Other landlord service charges are increased by 3%; and**
 - iv) **That the HRA Capital Programme for 2017/18 to 2021/22, as detailed in Appendix C of the report to the committee on 18 January 2018 (Agenda Item 8a), are included in the Council's Capital Programme.**

- (b) General Fund Revenue Estimates – Revised 2017/18 and Original 2018/19

Councillor Cornell proposed the recommendation which was seconded by Councillor Robinson.

Concern was expressed that the civic timetable indicated this cycle of committees was a budget cycle, although Community Services and Licensing Committee and Environment Committee had not received any budgets.

- RESOLVED** **The estimates set out in the report be considered and approved for inclusion in the General Fund Revenue Budget 2018/19 and Medium Term Financial Plan report to Council.**

As this was a budget item the votes are recorded; [please see voting records report](#).

- (c) The General Fund Budget 2018/19, Capital Programme and Medium Term Financial Plan

Councillor Cornell proposed the recommendation which was seconded by Councillor Robinson.

Concern was expressed over the possibility of introducing car parking charges across the Council's car parks in other market towns in the District. It was noted that the Community Services and Licensing Committee would discuss this at a future meeting.

Councillor Skinner proposed and presented to Councillors at the meeting, the following amendment, to parts (iv) and (v) of the motion, which was seconded by Councillor Cooper.

- (iv) to approve the updated Medium Term Financial Plan as set out in Appendix B, subject to the budget saving from plans to reduce the revenue budget allocation for Subscription Rooms by £227,000 to be included in the MTFP from 2019/20 (subject to the recommendations of the second Subscription Rooms Task and Finish Group);
- (v) to approve the Capital Programme, as set out in Appendix C and the Capital Financing Statement as shown in Appendix D subject to the following amendments:

- Delete paragraph 5.9 (proposed new car parking fees and charges) from the budget proposals; and
- That the proposal to retain a capital budget of £2 million (previously allocated Housing Initiatives/Homes for Rent) as per paragraph 6.8 "for other delivery options" be deleted and instead £2 million be used to invest in:

(A) 5 schemes to put more power in the hands of the local community, residents of Stroud District, ward councillors and Parish and Town Councils as well as significant investment to support the most vulnerable people in our District as follow:

- (i) £1,000,000 to be set aside to develop ideas to help reduce homelessness across Stroud District and consider the long-term revenue implications for each proposal;
- (ii) £200,000 incentive scheme to encourage Town and Parish Councils to install electric car and mobility scooter charging points in their area. Investment to match fund investment from the Town /Parish Council and, following installation, the charging points should be income generating, alleviating the need to charge shoppers for parking;
- (iii) £204,000 to support an Environment and Community Improvement scheme (a discretionary ward budget of £2,000 for each councillor in alternate years; the grants are intended to support capital costs only and the projects must demonstrate a community and/or environment benefit);
- (iv) £120,000 to match-fund any fundraising done to support Stroud Citizens' Advice, capped at £30,000 per year;
- (v) £100,000 to match fund investment from Town and Parish Councils to invest in new 'smart-bins' across the district;

And

(B) As the current overall budget proposal for a "Housing Initiative" is £2,000,000 and the above 5 measures total £1,624,000, the remaining £426,000, together with the £227,000 budget reduction from the Subscription Rooms totalling £603,000, be retained in the General Fund to help future proof the Council against future risks, uncertainties and budget pressures.

(NB. no changes to the rest of the paragraph 6.8 which provides "ICT Investment, previously included in the capital programme, has been increased significantly to £1.8m reflecting the scale of ICT infrastructure renewal required to ensure the council can deliver more efficient and customer-focussed services in future years. A capital budget of £120k is proposed to enable the resurfacing of the top deck of the London Road Multi-Storey Car Park.")'

At this point in the meeting Councillor Pickering left the Council Chamber in view of his declared interest.

Member questions were answered and the motion debated.

On being put to the vote, there were 18 votes in favour and 26 votes against the motion; the amendment was not carried.

The original motion was put to the vote. There were 26 votes in favour and 18 votes against. As this was a budget item the votes are recorded; [please see voting records report](#).

- RESOLVED**
- i) To approve the service revenue estimates as set out in Appendix A**
 - ii) To approve the ICT and Invest to Save contingency for 2018/19 and subsequent years as set out in paragraph 4.5 as part of a balanced budget**
 - iii) To increase the council tax by 2.99% to £201.50 at Band D, an increase of less than 12p per week for the services provided by Stroud District Council;**
 - iv) to approve the updated Medium Term Financial Plan as set out in Appendix B;**
 - v) to approve the Capital Programme, as set out in Appendix C and the Capital Financing Statement as shown in Appendix D**
 - vi) to approve the changes to the reserves as set out in paragraph 5.16 of the report and Appendix E.**

(d) The Fair Pay and Senior Pay Policy Statement 2018/19

Councillor Cornell outlined the report and proposed the recommendation which was seconded by Councillor Marjoram.

Member questions were answered and the recommendation debated.

RESOLVED To approve the statement.

The meeting closed at 9.35 pm.

Chair of Council