

CAB121: COUNCIL BUDGET 2016/17 AND MEDIUM-TERM FINANCIAL PLAN 2016/17 - 2019/20

(a) It was agreed:

- (i) That the Scrutiny (Policy and Performance) Committee's endorsement of Cabinet decision CAB 102, made at its meeting held on 9 February 2016 (Minute No 98), be acknowledged.
- (ii) That the Scrutiny (Policy and Performance) Committee's recommendation (b) be approved as follows, subject to a sentence being added on updates to the Dover Joint Transportation Board:

That the following be included within the MTFP 2016/17-2019/20 at paragraph 249 – Joint Plans with Partners:

‘Sandwich Town

We are participating as a key stakeholder in the Kent County Council-led Working Group tasked with developing a traffic plan for Sandwich, and overseeing its implementation. Sandwich is recognised by English Heritage as one of the country's most important heritage assets. Funded by Sandwich Town Council (STC), KCC are implementing in the short term measures to restrict HGV access to the town and conservation zone. In addition, a KCC-commissioned and STC-funded holistic traffic review by consultants is now underway and will report in July 2016 with recommendations which will form the basis of a bid to the Heritage Lottery Fund amongst others. The aim of all this work is to protect the heritage of Sandwich, improve the visitor experience, enhance the tourism sector and increase employment. Regular updates are being reported to the Dover Joint Transportation Board.’

- (ii) That, subject to Council approving the 2016/17 budget, the grants to organisations, as set out at Annex 11 of the report, be approved as follows:

Grants to Concessionary Rentals - £35,105

Various grants towards rentals/lease charges

Financial Assistance Payments to Other Outside Bodies:

Your Leisure - £265,000

Pegasus Playscheme - £1,500

Provision of a play scheme for children with disabilities

Kent County Council - £3,000

Contribution to Sports Partnership

Gazen Salts Nature Reserve - £4,500

To assist in managing and maintaining the reserve

Sandwich Town Cricket Club - £10,000

To assist the Club in defraying its expenditure in managing, maintaining and improving the recreation grounds at The Butts and Gazen Salts

Dover Rugby Club - £12,000

For ground maintenance at Crabble Athletic Ground, covered by savings made in the landscape maintenance contract

Victoria Bowls - £1,000

Contribution to running expenses of the club

Dover Citizens' Advice Bureau - £100,500

£97,000 core funding grant, plus £3,500 service charge contribution

Neighbourhood Forums - £22,500

Joint contribution with Kent County Council for neighbourhood projects

Home Improvement Agency - £7,800

'In Touch' Housing Improvement Agency funding

Deal Town Council - £5,000

Astor Theatre

Action with Communities in Rural Kent - £3,500

Contribution to rural housing

- (iii) That the various Cabinet recommendations produced at the end of the sections within the Budget and Medium-Term Financial Plan (MTFP), and summarised in Annex 14 to Appendix 1 of the report, be approved as follows:
- (A) Continue the practice of delegating authority to the Director of Finance, Housing and Community to approve revenue budget carry forwards within the guidelines set out.
 - (B) Delegate to the Director of Finance, Housing and Community, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Corporate Resources and Performance, the setting of the level of the on-going Housing Revenue Account (HRA) minimum balance, the transfer of balances to the Housing Initiatives Reserve (HIR), the use of prudential borrowing and adjustment of the resources of the HIR accordingly.
 - (C) Delegate to the Director of Finance, Housing and Community, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Corporate Resources and Performance, the approval of offers, tenders or bids for the purchase of properties on the open market or at auction, in order to respond to market opportunities.
 - (D) Continue the practice of delegating authority to the Director of Finance, Housing and Community, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Corporate Resources and Performance, to apply capital receipts, revenue resources, grants, Section 106 monies, etc. to finance the approved Capital and Special Revenue Projects programmes.
 - (E) Continue the practice of delegating authority to the Director of Finance, Housing and Community, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Corporate Resources and Performance, to authorise projects up to £50,000 that have been included in the Capital and Special Revenue Projects programmes; authorise projects funded from the Capital Contingency; authorise virements between

regeneration projects and draw down Growth Point reserves in order to apply them to regeneration projects.

- (F) Delegate to the Director of Finance, Housing and Community, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Corporate Resources and Performance, the amendment of the level and period of investment in property funds.

(b) It was agreed to recommend to Council:

- (i) That the General Fund Revenue Budget, the Capital and Special Projects programmes, the Housing Revenue Account budget, the Council Tax Resolution and the content of the MTFP be approved.
- (ii) That it be noted that it is the view of the Director of Finance, Housing and Community (Section 151 Officer) that the budget has been prepared in an appropriate and prudent manner and that, based upon the information available at the time of producing the report, the 2016/17 estimates are robust and the resources are adequate for the Council's current spending plans in 2016/17.
- (iii) That the various Council recommendations at the end of the sections within the attached budget and MTFP, and summarised in Annex 14 to Appendix 1 of the report, be approved as follows:
 - (A) Approve the General Fund Revenue Budget for 2016/17 and the projected outturn for 2015/16.
 - (B) Approve the policies and protocols regarding the General Fund balances and earmarked reserves, and transfers between reserves as set out in Annex 6.
 - (C) Approve the 2015/16 Projected Outturn and the 2016/17 HRA budget at Annex 7 of the report.
 - (D) Delegate to Cabinet the approval of individual projects to be financed by the HIR.
 - (E) Approve the Capital and Special Projects programmes.
 - (F) Approve that capital resources required to finance new projects are secured before new projects commence.
 - (G) Approve the Treasury Management Strategy, including the Prudential Indicators and Minimum Revenue Provision statement.
 - (H) Approve the Council Tax Resolution as set out at Annex 10A of the report.
 - (I) That it be noted that, if the formal Council Tax Resolution at Annex 10A of the report is approved, the total Band D Council Tax will be as set out at Annex 14 of the report.