

Minutes of a Meeting of the **POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE** held in the Council Chamber, Council Offices, School Aycliffe Lane, Newton Aycliffe, on **WEDNESDAY, 23rd JANUARY 2013 at 7.15pm.**

PRESENT **Councillor R.S. Fleming (Chairman) and**
Councillors W.M. Blenkinsopp, Mrs. D. Bowman, J.D. Clare, Mrs. B.A. Clare, W. Curtis, Mrs. M. Dalton, G.C. Gray, I. Gray, Mrs. J. Gray, B. Haigh, B. Hall, K. Henderson, Mrs. W.P. Hillary, Mrs. K. Hopper, M. Iveson, Mrs. S.J. Iveson, W. Iveson and Mrs. V.M. Raw.

IN ATTENDANCE Councillors G.R. Gray and J.P. Hillary.

OFFICERS Mr. A. Bailey (Town Clerk)
Mr. D. Austin (Finance Manager)
Miss C. Ryder (Senior Admin. Officer)

70. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors T.R. Bowman, V. Crosby, P. Gittins, Mrs. S. Haigh, Mrs. A. Palmer and A. Warburton.

71. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest submitted.

72. **PUBLIC QUESTIONS**

There were no questions from the public.

73. **MINUTES**

It was proposed by Councillor B. Hall, seconded by Councillor Mrs. M. Dalton and

RESOLVED – that the minutes of the meeting of the Policy and Resources Committee held on the 5th December 2012 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

74. **ACCOUNTS CONTROL SHEETS**

Accounts control sheets for the period 30th November 2012 to the 28th December 2012 and the General Bank Accounts for November and December 2012 were submitted.

RESOLVED – that it be recommended that the accounts control sheets for the period 30th November 2012 to the 28th December 2012 and the General Bank Accounts for November and December 2012 be received.

75. **GRANTS / DONATIONS**

The Town Clerk had submitted a report which gave the current donation budget for this financial year as £1,818.

The following requests for grants / donations had been received:

- (a) 'County of Durham School Benevolent Fund'.
- (b) 'Holocaust Memorial Day' – Application for funding of a TV Screen.

Letters of Thanks

Letters of thanks had been received from:-

- (a) Aycliffe Bus Preservation Society - £200
- (b) Great North Air Ambulance - £200

Aycliffe Youth Council

The Youth Council donation budget is currently £3,900.

There had been no further grants to consider.

RESOLVED – that it be recommended:

- (i) That the report be received.
- (ii) County of Durham School Benevolent Fund
That an amount of £50 be donated to the School Benevolent Fund.
- (iii) Holocaust Memorial Day – Application for funding of a TV Screen
That an amount of £55 be donated to the funding of the TV Screen.
- (iv) That the letters of thanks be received.
- (v) That the information supplied by the Youth Council be received.

76. **PRE-SCHOOL LEARNING CENTRE REPORT**

The Early Years Officer submitted a report setting out information with regard to the attendance figures and waiting lists.

The report also set out information on 'Staffing', Voluntary Contribution income and the replacement of the boiler at St. Oswald's Pre-School building.

RESOLVED – that it be recommended that the information be received.

NOTE:

The Finance Manager, Mr. Dan Austin, had compiled a combined 'slide show' presentation on agenda item No. 8, (2012/13 Revenue and Capital Budget Position), No. 9 (Localisation of support for Council Tax) and No. 10 (Approval of the 2013/14 Revenue and Capital Budget) to give members detailed information prior to decisions being made on those items.

77. **2012/13 REVENUE AND CAPITAL BUDGET POSITION**

The Finance Manager had submitted a report setting out details of the financial position on the Council's approved 2012/13 Revenue and Capital programme Budget for the nine months to the 31st December 2012 as well as an assessment of the expected year end outturn position.

RESOLVED – that it be recommended:-

- (i) That the financial position on the Council's 2012/13 Revenue and Capital Budgets and projection on expected outturn be received.
- (ii) That a further report and final Revenue and Capital Budget position report be submitted to the June Policy and Resources Committee meeting giving details of the year-end financial position of the Council at the 31st March 2013.

78. **LOCALISATION OF SUPPORT FOR COUNCIL TAX**

The Finance Manager submitted a report to give information on the Government's final response to its consultation on the council tax base and funding arrangements for town and parish councils following the forthcoming Localisation of Support for Council Tax in April 2013.

The report also set out details of Durham County Council's proposed Local Council Tax Support Scheme developed in response to this new legislation and explained the impact it would have upon the Council's ability to raise money from Council Tax.

RESOLVED – that it be recommended:-

- (i) That representations be made to Central Government, the Member of Parliament and the National Association of Local Councils in respect of the fairness of the LCTSS Funding Allocation and its impact on the Town and Parish Council's sector.
- (ii) That the issues around the inequitable impact of the Durham County Council LCTSS on some Town and Parish Councils in County Durham are raised with the County Durham Association of Local Councils and the Larger Local Council Forum.

79. **APPROVAL OF THE 2013/14 REVENUE AND CAPITAL BUDGET**

All Councillors in attendance had been granted a Dispensation under Council Minute No. 101 – 12th December 2013 for the setting of a Council Tax or a Precept under the “Local Government Finance Act 1992”.

The Finance Manager had submitted a report for Members to consider and approve the 2013/14 Revenue and Capital Budget in order that the Council’s 2013/14 Precept and Town Council Tax could be set at the meeting of the Council on the 30th January 2013.

The report sought Members to consider two options:-

1. Honour the original proposal to freeze the Council Tax; or
2. Consider a 2% increase in the Council Tax which would generate resources to provide protection against future spending pressures and funding cuts.

RESOLVED – that it be recommended that:-

- (i) The report be received.
- (ii) The Council’s 2013/14 Revenue and Capital Budget as set out in the report and appendices be accepted.
- (iii) It be agreed to a freeze of the Council Tax for 2013/14.
- (iv) The Council’s Precept and Town Council Tax be set at the meeting of the Full Council on the 30th January 2013.

It was further

RESOLVED - that it be noted in the Minutes that Members wished to express their thanks and appreciation to the Finance Manager, Mr. Dan Austin, for his excellent comprehensive reports and presentation on the Council’s Financial situation.

CHAIRMAN.