
SOUTHAMPTON CITY COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON
18TH FEBRUARY 2009

Present:

The Mayor, Councillor Parnell
The Sheriff, Councillor Mizon
Councillors Baillie, Barnes–Andrews, Baston, Beckett, Mrs Blatchford,
Burke, Capozzoli, Cooke, Cunio, Mrs Damani, Daunt, Davis, Dean, Dick,
Drake, Fitzgerald, Fuller, Galton, Hannides, Holmes, Jones, Letts, McEwing,
Marsh-Jenks, Matthews, Moulton, Norris, Odgers, Osmond, Payne,
Rayment, Samuels, Smith, Sollitt, Stevens, Thomas, Walker, Wells, White,
Willacy, P. Williams and Dr R. Williams.

85. APOLOGIES

It was noted that apologies for absence had been received from Councillors Ball, Bogle, Fitzhenry and Slade.

86. DEPUTATIONS, PETITIONS AND PUBLIC QUESTIONS

It was noted that no requests for deputations, petitions or public questions had been received.

87. EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC – CONFIDENTIAL PAPERS INCLUDED IN THE FOLLOWING ITEM

RESOLVED that in accordance with the Council's Constitution, specifically the Access to Information procedure rules contained within the Constitution, the press and public be excluded from the meeting in respect of any consideration of the confidential appendix to item 88.

Appendix 4 of the report was not for publication by virtue of category 3 (financial and business affairs) of paragraph 10.4 of the Access to Information procedure rules as contained in the Constitution. It is not in the public interest to disclose this information because it comprises financial and business information that if made public would prejudice the Council's ability to operate in a commercial environment.

88. COUNCIL TAX SETTING AND RELATED MATTERS

(a) GENERAL FUND CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2008/09 TO 2011/12

(b) GENERAL FUND REVENUE BUDGET 2009/10 TO 2010/11

The reports of the Cabinet Member for Resources and Workforce

Planning were submitted seeking approval of the updated Capital Programme for 2008/09 - 2011/12 together with the latest estimated overall financial position on the General Fund Revenue Budget for 2009/10 - 2010/11 and outlining the main issues that needed to be addressed in considering the Cabinet's budget proposals. The recommendations therein as amended by Executive Budget Resolution 2009/10 and set out in appendices 12 and 13 to comprise the Executive's budget proposals were moved by Councillor Moulton and seconded by Councillor Smith (copies of reports circulated with agenda and appended to signed minutes and a copy of the amended Executive Budget resolution as circulated at the meeting attached as appendix A to these minutes).

The Council agreed to suspend Council Procedure Rules 14.2, 14.4, 14.5, 14.6, 14.7, 14.8, 14.9 and 16.2:-

- (i) to enable the above items to be considered together;
- (ii) to enable any amendments to be proposed, seconded and considered at the same time;
- (iii) to enable any amendment to be re-introduced later into the meeting; and
- (iv) to revise the time allowed for speakers as follows:-

Movers of motion	-	20 minutes
Seconders	-	10 minutes
Other Speakers	-	4 minutes

The meeting was adjourned by the Mayor to allow the Groups to re-examine their proposals in light of the amended Executive Budget resolution circulated at the meeting. The meeting was reconvened at 2.40pm and was followed by a further adjournment. The meeting then reconvened at 3pm.

An amendment setting out the Labour Group's budget proposals (Labour Budget Resolution 2009/10) was moved by Councillor Marsh-Jenks and seconded by Councillor R Williams (copy attached as Appendix B to these minutes).

A further amendment setting out the Liberal Democrat Group's budget proposals (Liberal Democrat Budget Resolution 2009/10) was moved by Councillor Sollitt and seconded by Councillor Baston (copy attached as Appendix C to these minutes).

UPON BEING PUT TO THE VOTE THE LIBERAL DEMOCRAT GROUP PROPOSALS WERE DECLARED LOST.

UPON BEING PUT TO THE VOTE THE LABOUR GROUP PROPOSALS WERE DECLARED LOST.

UPON BEING PUT TO THE VOTE THE EXECUTIVE BUDGET PROPOSALS AS AMENDED WERE DECLARED CARRIED.

RESOLVED that the General Fund Capital Programme 2008/9 to 2011/12 and the General Fund Revenue budget 2009/10 to 2010/11 as amended by Executive Budget Resolution 2009/10 (appendix A to these minutes) be adopted.

89. HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT BUDGET REPORT

The report of the Cabinet Member for Housing and Local Services was submitted seeking approval of the Housing Revenue Account budget proposals including the proposed 2009/10 Housing Revenue Account (HRA) revenue estimates for all of the day to day services provided to Council tenants in the City, together with the proposed rent and service charge increases for council tenants from April 2009 and the HRA capital programme for the period to 2011/12, which will include an assessment of the resources available to finance major housing capital projects in the City (copy of report circulated with agenda and appended to signed minutes).

In moving the report, Councillor Phil Williams moved and Councillor Moulton seconded the following amendment to recommendation 7 of the report;

“To not proceed with the deleting of funding to South Coast Money Line set out in paragraph 15 of the report, and therefore to amend the HRA revenue estimates set out in appendix 1 as follows:

- Increase the 2009/10 budget for Supervision and Management by £7,500; and
- Reduce the 2009/10 HRA contingency provision by £7,500.”

UPON BEING PUT TO THE VOTE THE AMENDMENT WAS DECLARED CARRIED

UPON BEING PUT TO THE VOTE THE MOTION AS AMENDED WAS DECLARED CARRIED

RESOLVED

- (i) that the Tenant Association Representatives be thanked for their input to the capital and revenue budget setting process and that their views as set out in the report be noted;
- (ii) that with effect from the 6th April 2009, it be agreed that the current average weekly dwelling rent figure of £61.67 should increase by 6.27%, which equates to an average increase of £3.87 per week, and that the following to calculate this increase be approved:
 - That the percentage increase applied to all dwelling rents should be 5.5%, equivalent to £3.39 per week

- That the revised phased introduction of the Government's Rent Restructuring regime should be followed, giving a further overall increase to average rent levels of 0.77% (£0.48 per week) and,
- to note that:
- The total percentage increase in individual rents will vary according to the restructured rent of their property in 2023/24.
- (iii) that no increase in the charges for garages and parking spaces for 2009/10 be approved;
- (iv) that no increase in the service charges for tower block wardens or the concierge service for 2009/10 be approved;
- (v) that the deletion of the current Support Charges and associated transitional protection payments in sheltered housing accommodation, and the replacement of these charges by the following be approved:
- A new Support Charge of £2.85 pw (based on a 48 week rent year) for tenants in newly designated Scheme Based accommodation,
 - A separate Community Alarm Service (CAS) monitoring charge of £1.35 pw (based on a 48 week rent year) which applies to all sheltered accommodation
- (vi) that the Housing Management service charge for sheltered housing schemes be revised so that costs are more fairly split between those who benefit from the service, and agree that the new charges (based on a 48 week rent year) will be:
- £5.31 pw for all Scheme based accommodation
 - £1.33 pw for all non scheme based accommodation
- (vii) that the Housing Revenue Account Estimates as set out in Appendix 1 to the report be approved subject to increasing the 2009/10 budget for Supervision and Management by £7,500 and reducing the 2009/10 HRA contingency provision by £7,500;
- (viii) that the savings that have been made in the budget process, as set out in paragraphs 13, 14 and 15 of the report be noted;
- (ix) that it be noted that rental income and service charge payments will be paid by tenants over a 48 week period;
- (x) that the revised Housing Revenue Account Capital Programme set out in Appendix 3 to the report, which includes total spending of £83.007M on work that meets the definition of "affordable housing", be approved; and
- (xi) that the use of resources to fund the HRA Capital Programme as shown in Appendix 4 to the report, including the following use of unsupported (prudential) borrowing, be approved:
- £2.150M to support the overall programme (unchanged from

- the report in September 2008)
- £0.570M to fund the Estate Regeneration proposals
 - £2.600M to fund the digital TV proposals if this is more cost effectively purchased rather than leased and
 - £1.420M of short term borrowing to sustain the programme in 2009/10, which can be repaid by the end of 2011/12.

90. ANNUAL TREASURY MANAGEMENT STRATEGY AND PRUDENTIAL LIMITS 2008/09 – 2011/12

The report of the Cabinet Member for Resources was submitted seeking approval to the Annual Treasury Management Strategy and Prudential Indicators for 2008/09 – 2011/12, as required under the provisions of the Local Government Act 2003 (copy of report circulated with agenda and appended to signed minutes).

RESOLVED

- (i) that the Council's Prudential Indicators as detailed in paragraph 9 and within Appendix 1 to the report be approved;
- (ii) that the Treasury Management Strategy for 2009/10 as outlined in the report be approved;
- (iii) that it be noted that the indicators as reported, have been set on the assumption that the recommendations in the reports earlier on the agenda have been approved and therefore may require recalculation to reflect changes to recommendations;
- (iv) that the action taken by the Chief Financial Officer in light of the turmoil in current financial markets be noted; and
- (v) that the introduction of an Interest Equalisation Reserve that will help to smooth out Treasury Management volatility and its potential impact on budget setting be approved.