

SOUTHAMPTON CITY COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON
16 FEBRUARY 2011

Present:

The Mayor, Councillor Cunio
The Sheriff, Councillor Matthews
Councillors Baillie, Ball, Barnes-Andrews, Bogle, Burke, Capozzoli, Mrs Damani, Daunt, Dean, Dick, Drake, Fitzgerald, Fitzhenry, Fuller, Furnell, Hannides, Harris, Holmes, Jones, Kolker, Letts, Marsh-Jenks, McEwing, Morrell, Moulton, Norris, Odgers, Osmond, Parnell, Payne, Rayment (minute 64-67and 69), Samuels, Slade, Smith, Sollitt, Stevens, Vinson, Thomas, Turner, Walker, Wells, Willacy, P Williams, Dr R Williams (minute 64-67and 69) and White

64. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received on behalf of Councillor Mead.

65. ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE MAYOR AND LEADER

1. Dorian Attwood

The Mayor announced that the former Mayor and Councillor for Shirley, Dorian Attwood, had died recently of cancer. He served on the Council from 1990-2000 and was Mayor in 1996. Members stood for a moment in silence as a mark of respect.

2. BBC and Meridian

The Mayor reminded Members that Meridian and the BBC would be filming the meeting. The BBC filming would be used as part of a process of making a one-off programme about the budget setting process in local authorities.

3. Most improved schools

On behalf of the Council, the Mayor congratulated two of the City's primary schools that had been listed in the table of 100 most improved schools. The table identified schools which had seen the biggest sustained improvement in the proportion of pupils attaining the government benchmark in their national curriculum test.

Bassett Green Primary School had a combined English and Mathematics level 4 percentage of 34% in 2008. This rose to 67% in 2010, an increase of 33%.

St Mary's Church of England Voluntary Controlled Primary School had a combined English and Mathematics level 4 percentage of 23% in 2008. This rose to 57% in 2010, an increase of 34%.

4. Southampton Football Club

On behalf of the Council, the Mayor congratulated Southampton Football Club on their 125th anniversary and wished them well in their fight for promotion.

66. DEPUTATIONS, PETITIONS AND PUBLIC QUESTIONS

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

67. COUNCIL TAX SETTING AND RELATED MATTERS

(A) GENERAL FUND CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2010/11 TO 2013/14

(B) GENERAL FUND REVENUE BUDGET 2011/12 TO 2013/14

The reports of the Cabinet Member for Resources and Workforce Planning were submitted seeking approval to the updated Capital Programme for 2010/11 - 2013/14 together with the latest estimated overall financial position on the General Fund Revenue Budget for 2011/12 - 2013/14 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 2011/12 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 motions - 20 minutes
Seconders - 10 minutes
Other Speakers - 4 minutes

Councillors Marsh-Jenks, Morrell and Dr. R. Williams gave a summation of the budgetary situation. No budgetary amendment was submitted on behalf of the Labour Group.

An amendment setting out the Liberal Democrat Group's budget proposals (Liberal Democrat Budget Resolution 2011/12 – 2013/14 was moved by Councillor Vinson and seconded by Councillor Sollitt (copy attached as Appendix B to these minutes).

UPON BEING PUT TO THE VOTE THE LIBERAL DEMOCRAT 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 2010/11 to 2013/14 and the General Fund Revenue Budget 2011/12 to 2013/14 as amended by Executive Budget Resolution 2011/12 (appendix A to these minutes) be adopted.

68. HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT BUDGET REPORT

The report of the Cabinet Member for Housing was submitted seeking approval to the Housing Revenue Account budget proposals including the proposed 2011/12 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 2011 and the HRA capital programme for the period to 2012/13 (copy of report circulated with agenda and appended to signed minutes).

RESOLVED:

- (i) That the Tenant Association Representatives be thanked for their input to the capital and revenue budget setting process and their views as set out in the report be noted;
- (ii) That it be agreed that, with effect from the 4th April 2011, the current average weekly dwelling rent figure of £65.15 should increase by 6.99%, which equates to an average increase of £4.55 per week, and that the following be approved to calculate this increase:
 - That the percentage increase applied to all dwelling rents should be 5.1%, equivalent to an increase of £3.32 per week; and
 - That the revised phased introduction of the Government's Rent Restructuring regime should be followed, giving an increase in average rent levels of 1.89% (£1.23 per week) and to note that:
 - The total percentage increase in individual rents will vary according to the restructured rent of their property in 2015/16.
- (iii) That the charges for garages and parking spaces for 2011/12 be increased by 6.99% in line with the increase in average rents;
- (iv) That the Housing Revenue Account Revenue Estimates as set out in the attached Appendix 1 to the report be approved;
- (v) That the revised Housing Revenue Account Capital Programme set out in Appendix 2 to the report which includes total spending of £55.028M on work that meets the definition of "affordable housing" be approved;
- (vi) That the use of resources to fund the HRA Capital Programme as shown in Appendix 3 to the report, be approved including the following use of unsupported (prudential) borrowing:
 - £2.150M to support the overall programme (unchanged from the report in September 2010);
 - £3.356M to fund the new build programme that is not funded from HCA grant,
 - £2.230M to fund the digital TV proposals,
 - £0.870M to fund the estate regeneration programme pending the receipt of capital receipts from sale of the sites and
 - £3.100M of short term borrowing to sustain the programme in 2010/11, which can be repaid by the end of 2012/13.
- (vii) That parking charges at Wyndham Court be amended as set out in appendix 5 to the report;
- (viii) That the rent setting policy for new build, acquired and converted dwellings be adopted as set out in Appendix 6 to the report;

- (ix) That it be noted that rental income and service charge payments would be paid by tenants over a 48 week period; and
- (x) That it be noted that the overall shortfall in resources of £3.079M to fund the capital programme is within the tolerances set by the Executive Director for Resources in the approved Medium Term Financial Strategy and that plans are in place to close this gap as set out in paragraph 35 of the report.

69. ANNUAL TREASURY MANAGEMENT STRATEGY AND PRUDENTIAL LIMITS 2011/12 TO 2013/14

The report of the Executive Director for Resources (Acting) was submitted seeking approval of the Annual Treasury Management Strategy and Prudential Indicators for 2011/12 – 2013/14 (copy of report circulated with agenda and appended to signed minutes).

RESOLVED:

- (i) That the Council's Prudential Indicators as detailed within the report be approved;
- (ii) that the 2011 Minimum Revenue Provision Statement be approved;
- (iii) that the Treasury Management Strategy for 2011/12 as outlined in the report be approved;
- (iv) that it be noted that the indicators as reported have been set on the assumption that the recommendations in the Capital Update report will be approved. Should the recommendations change, the Prudential Indicators may have to be recalculated; and
- (v) that delegated authority continue to be granted to the Chief Financial Officer, following consultation with the Cabinet Member for Resources and Workforce Planning, to approve any changes to the Prudential Indicators or borrowing limits that will aid good treasury management. For example, increase the percentage for variable rate borrowing to take advantage of the depressed market for short term rates. Any amendments will be reported as part of quarterly financial and performance monitoring and in revisions to this strategy.