

EXECUTIVE – SPECIAL MEETING

MONDAY 12 DECEMBER 2016 AT 4.00 PM

PRESENT:

Councillor Glover (Leader / Chairman)
Councillor Dr Tickner (Deputy Leader, and Finance, Governance and Resources Portfolio Holder)
Councillor Mrs Bradley (Economy, Enterprise and Housing Portfolio Holder)
Councillor Ms Quilter (Culture, Heritage and Leisure Portfolio Holder)
Councillor Miss Sherriff (Communities, Health and Wellbeing Portfolio Holder)
Councillor Southward (Environment and Transport Portfolio Holder)

OFFICERS:

Town Clerk and Chief Executive
Deputy Chief Executive
Corporate Director of Governance and Regulatory Services
Corporate Director of Economic Development
Chief Finance Officer

ALSO PRESENT:

Councillor Nedved (Chairman of the Environment and Economy Overview and Scrutiny Panel)

WELCOME

The Chairman welcomed all those present to the meeting.

APOLOGY FOR ABSENCE

An apology for absence was submitted on behalf of Councillor Burns (Chairman of the Community Overview and Scrutiny Panel).

PUBLIC AND PRESS

RESOLVED – That the Agenda be agreed as circulated.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest affecting the business to be transacted at the meeting.

**EX.124/16 BUDGET 2017/18 – FEEDBACK FROM THE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY
 PANELS ON THE DRAFT BUDGET REPORTS**
(Key Decision – KD.21/16)

Portfolio Finance, Governance and Resources

Relevant Overview and Scrutiny Panel

Community; Environment and
Economy; and Resources

Subject Matter

Speaking by way of introduction, the Leader indicated that the Overview and Scrutiny Panels had scrutinised the draft Budget Reports for 2017/18 considered by the Executive on 21 November 2016.

The purpose of the special Executive meeting today was to give consideration to the Minutes of the undernoted Overview and Scrutiny Panel meetings, copies of which were submitted:

- (a) Community – 24 November 2016 (COSP.79/16)
- (b) Environment and Economy – 1 December 2016 (EEOSP.76/16)
- (c) Resources – 6 December 2016 (ROSP.92/16)

Invitations had been extended to the Overview and Scrutiny Panel Chairmen to speak at the special meeting.

The Leader reported that Councillor Burns, Chairman of the Community Overview and Scrutiny Panel had submitted apologies. Councillor Burns had, however, confirmed that he had nothing further to add to the Minutes submitted.

The Chairman of the Environment and Economy Overview and Scrutiny Panel began by expressing thanks to the Leader, Portfolio Holders and Officers for their attendance at the Panel.

The Chairman outlined the Panel's response which centred around three main areas, namely:

Talkin Tarn

Members had questioned the rationale behind the proposal to increase the Annual Membership Parking Permit at Talkin Tarn from £52 in 2016/17 to £104 in 2017/18 (as detailed in Appendix B to Report SD.27/16). It was anticipated that the take up of the membership may be severely reduced by such a large increase.

The Chairman noted that Appendix B detailed proposals for increasing charges for car parking at all of the Council's car parks, but that the proposed increase in charge for the Annual Membership Parking Permit was significant and beyond that proposed at other sites. Increases in charges had been proposed universally at Talkin Tarn and encompassed facilities such as the Education Hut, whereas no proposal had been put forward to levy a charge for the use of facilities at Hammond's Pond for example.

Allotments

Concerns had been raised by Members of the Community; and the Environment and Economy Overview and Scrutiny Panels that the proposed increase in allotment fees of 20% was much higher than the Corporate Charging Policy's 3%; and that would be detrimental to those on low incomes. Members also questioned the rationale behind the removal of the over 60 discount when the Council was trying to encourage more active lifestyles. It was felt that the change could cause issues for some people.

Bulky Waste

A Member had expressed concern that the proposed increase in charges for bulky waste collections would increase incidences of fly tipping in the District.

The Leader noted that the Chairman of the Resources Overview and Scrutiny Panel was not in attendance. He confirmed however that Executive Members had received the Minutes of the Panel meeting held on 6 December 2016 which would be taken into account.

The Deputy Leader, and Finance, Governance and Resources Portfolio Holder thanked the Chairman of the Environment and Economy Overview and Scrutiny Panel for his address to the Executive. He further wished to place on record thanks to all Members of the Overview and Scrutiny Panels for their work and questioning.

The Executive would give serious and detailed consideration to each area raised prior to putting forward their draft Budget Proposals for consultation on 19 December 2016.

The Deputy Leader commented upon the financial constraints faced by the authority, which necessitated the proposed increases in charging. Those increases would, however, be kept to a minimum.

In conclusion, the Leader echoed the Deputy Leader, and Finance, Governance and Resources Portfolio Holder's comments; and thanked the Chief Finance Officer and her team for their work in producing the various financial reports under consideration.

He added that feedback from the public consultation and budget consultation meetings programmed for January 2017 was welcomed and appreciated by the Executive. All consultation responses received would go forward to the special Council meeting on 7 February 2017.

Summary of options rejected None

DECISION

That the Overview and Scrutiny Panels be thanked for their consideration of the draft Budget reports; and their comments, as detailed within the Minutes submitted, would be taken into account as part of the Executive's deliberations on the 2017/18 Budget.

Reasons for Decision

The views of the Overview and Scrutiny Panels would be taken into account as part of the 2017/18 Budget process

(The meeting ended at 4.06 pm)