

Executive

Date: Wednesday, 19 January 2022

Time: 16:00

Venue: Flensburg Room

Present: Councillor Nigel Christian, Councillor Gareth Ellis, Councillor Stephen Higgs, Councillor Mrs Elizabeth Mallinson, Councillor John Mallinson

Also Present: Councillor Allison

Officers: Town Clerk and Chief Executive
Deputy Chief Executive
Corporate Director of Governance and Regulatory Services
Corporate Director of Finance and Resources
Corporate Director of Economic Development

EX.01/22 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

An apology for absence was submitted on behalf of Councillor Paul Nedved, Economy, Enterprise and Housing Portfolio Holder.

EX.02/22 PUBLIC AND PRESS

RESOLVED - That the Agenda be agreed as circulated.

EX.03/22 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest were submitted.

EX.04/22 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

RESOLVED - 1) That the minutes of the meeting on 22 November 2021 be signed as a correct record.

2) That the minutes of the meeting held on 20 December 2021 be agreed.

EX.05/22 CALL IN

The Leader reported that the Mayor had, on 7 January 2022, agreed that the following items be exempt from call in as call-procedures would overlap the City Council meeting on 1 February 2022 when the Council will be asked to approve the following matters:

A.2(a) - Budget Update - Revenue Estimates 2022/23 to 2026/27

A.2(b) - Revised Capital Programme 2021/22 and Provisional Capital Programme 2022/23 to 2026/27

A.2(c) - Treasury Management Strategy Statement, Investment Strategy and Minimum Revenue Provision Strategy 2022/23

A.2(d) - Provisional Local Government Finance Settlement 2022/23

A.3 - Executive Response to the Budget Consultation and Recommendations for the 2022/23 Budget
A.7 - Establishment of 'Cumberland' Council Area – Joint Committee

EX.06/22 BUDGET 2022/23 – CONSIDERATION OF CONSULTATION FEEDBACK

(Key Decision - KD.10/21)

Portfolio Finance, Governance and Resources

Relevant Scrutiny Panel Business and Transformation

Subject Matter

The Executive Budget Proposals 2022/23 had been issued for consultation on 20 December 2021, the deadline for responses being 9 am on 18 January 2022. Specific meetings had taken place as part of the budget consultation process.

Copies of the undernoted documentation had been circulated prior to the meeting:

- (a) Minutes of the Business and Transformation Scrutiny Panel in relation to the Budget – 6 January 2022
- (b) Minutes of the budget consultation meeting with Trade Union Representatives – 10 January 2022
- (c) Minutes of the budget consultation meeting with Non-Domestic Ratepayers / Business Representatives – 10 January 2022
- (d) Feedback received in response to the budget consultation process

The Finance, Governance and Resources Portfolio Holder reported that, in addition to the above-mentioned Minutes of the Business and Transformation Scrutiny Panel, the Executive had already reflected upon feedback from the Scrutiny Panel meetings held in November and December 2021. Consideration had also been given to the feedback received from the public as part of the consultation process. Furthermore, the Executive had consulted with individual Members of the City Council.

The Finance, Governance and Resources Portfolio Holder concluded his presentation by moving the above-mentioned documentation, which was seconded by the Leader.

Summary of options rejected None

DECISION

1. That the Minutes of the consultation meetings with Trade Union representatives; representatives of Non-Domestic Ratepayers / Business Representatives, attached as Appendices C and D; and the Extract from the Minutes of the Business and Transformation Scrutiny Panel be received.
2. That the consultation feedback be received, it being noted that the Executive had taken those comments into account when formulating their final recommendations for the City Council's 2022/23 Budget to be submitted later in the meeting.

Reasons for Decision

To take account of consultation feedback when formulating recommendations on the 2022/23 Budget.

EX.07/22 BUDGET UPDATE - REVENUE ESTIMATES 2022/23 TO 2026/27

(Key Decision - KD.10/21)

******(In accordance with Paragraph 15(i) of the Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rules, The Mayor had agreed that call-in procedures should not be applied to this item)

Portfolio Finance, Governance and Resources

Relevant Scrutiny Panel Business and Transformation Scrutiny Panel

Subject Matter

The Finance, Governance and Resources Portfolio Holder submitted report RD.64/21 providing an update to reports RD.46/21 and RD.52/21, with a summary of the Council's revised revenue base estimates for 2021/22, together with base estimates for 2022/23 and forecasts up to 2026/27 for illustrative purposes. Potential new spending, bids and savings were also considered within the report.

It was noted that the figures within the report incorporated the provisional finance settlement received on 16 December 2021.

The Finance, Governance and Resources Portfolio Holder moved the recommendations which were seconded by the Leader.

Summary of options rejected none

DECISION

The Executive:

- (i) noted the revised base estimates for 2021/22 and base estimates for 2022/23;
- (ii) noted that the estimates in the report were provisional and would be subject to the confirmation of the final Local Government Finance Settlement in January/February 2022;
- (iii) noted the current MTFP projections and the outstanding issues, which would continue to be updated throughout the budget process and be incorporated into the Executive's budget proposals tabled at the meeting, if available;
- (iv) noted the budget pressures, bids and savings which need to be taken into account as part of the 2022/23 budget process.

Reasons for Decision

To prepare a draft budget proposal for 2022/23 for recommendation to the City Council.

EX.08/22 REVISED CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2021/22 AND PROVISIONAL CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2022/23 TO 2026/27

(Key Decision - KD.10/21)

******(In accordance with Paragraph 15(i) of the Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rules, The Mayor had agreed that call-in procedures should not be applied to this item)

Portfolio Finance, Governance and Resources

Relevant Scrutiny Panel Business and Transformation

Subject Matter

The Finance, Governance and Resources Portfolio Holder submitted report RD.65/21 providing an update to RD.47/21 and RD.55/21; setting out the proposed capital programme for 2022/23 to 2026/27 in light of new capital proposals identified and summarising the estimated capital resources available to fund the programme.

The revised capital programme for 2021/22 now totalled £32,657,400, as detailed in Appendix, subject to the relevant approvals by Executive and Council for the changes.

Appendix B detailed the revised anticipated resources available and their use to fund the capital programme. They had been revised to take account of revised projections and valuations of asset sales.

As a Member of the Business and Transformation Scrutiny Panel, Councillor Allison, asked if the increased income at the Crematorium could be used to fund the replacement of the cremator. He also asked if consideration could be given to the establishment of an undertaker on the grounds.

The Environment and Transport Portfolio Holder reported that the Business Case for the replacement of the cremator was being prepared, the change to an electric powered cremator would significantly reduce the carbon footprint, however, the Business Case had to support the change.

The Finance, Governance and Resources Portfolio Holder highlighted the need to make savings and made assurances that a project of this size would be taken to Overview and Scrutiny.

The Finance, Governance and Resources Portfolio Holder concluded his presentation by moving the recommendations set out, which were seconded by the Leader.

Summary of options rejected none

DECISION

That the Executive:

(i) noted the revised capital programme and relevant financing for 2021/22 as set out in Appendices A and B;

(ii) gave initial consideration and views on the proposed capital spending for 2022/23 to 2026/27 given in the report in the light of the estimated available resources;

(iii) noted that any capital scheme for which funding has been approved by Council may only proceed after a full report, including business case and financial appraisal, had been approved.

Reasons for Decision

To prepare a draft budget proposal for 2022/23 for recommendation to the City Council.

EX.09/22 TREASURY MANAGEMENT STRATEGY STATEMENT, INVESTMENT STRATEGY AND MINIMUM REVENUE PROVISION STRATEGY 2022/23

(Key Decision - KD.10/21)

**(In accordance with Paragraph 15(i) of the Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rules, The Mayor had agreed that call-in procedures should not be applied to this item)

Portfolio Finance, Governance and Resources

Relevant Scrutiny Panel Business and Transformation

Subject Matter

The Finance, Governance and Resources Portfolio Holder submitted report RD.66/21 setting out the Council's Treasury Management Strategy Statement for 2022/23 which had been prepared in accordance with the CIPFA Code of Practice on Treasury Management. He added that the Investment Strategy and Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP) Strategy for 2022/23 were incorporated as part of the Statement, as were the Prudential Indicators as required within the Prudential Code for Capital Finance in Local Authorities.

The draft Statement had been considered by the Executive on 20 December 2021 prior to the consultation period on the Executive Budget Proposals for 2022/23. It had also been considered by the Audit Committee and the Business and Transformation Scrutiny Panel on 10 December 2021 and 6 January 2022 respectively (Minute Excerpts AUC.67/21 and BTSP.08/22 referred) and their comments would be included in the final version considered by Council on 1 February 2022.

The Finance, Governance and Resources Portfolio Holder then moved the recommendation, which was seconded by the Leader.

Summary of options rejected None

DECISION

That the Treasury Management Strategy Statement for 2022/23, which incorporated the Investment Strategy and Minimum Revenue Provision Strategy, together with the Prudential Indicators for 2022/23 as set out in Appendix A and the Treasury Management Policy Statement as set out in Appendix D, be approved for submission to the City Council on 1 February 2022.

Reasons for Decision

To recommend the Treasury Management Strategy Statement, Investment Strategy and Minimum Revenue Provision Strategy for 2022/23 to the City Council.

EX.10/22 PROVISIONAL LOCAL GOVERNMENT FINANCE SETTLEMENT 2022/23

(Key Decision - KD.10/21)

******(In accordance with Paragraph 15(i) of the Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rules, The Mayor had agreed that call-in procedures should not be applied to this item)

Portfolio Finance, Governance and Resources

Relevant Scrutiny Panel Business and Transformation

Subject Matter

The Finance, Governance and Resources Portfolio Holder submitted report RD.67/21 providing an analysis of the 2022/23 Provisional Finance Settlement received from Central Government on 16 December 2021 and the impact it had on the Council's Revenue budget.

A consultation document which outlined the government's approach in allocating funding for the local government finance settlement had also been provided, which sought views by 13 January 2022.

The Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC) had confirmed the referendum limits for 2022/23; and for District Councils, that was 2% or £5, whichever was the greater.

Members were asked to note that the DLUHC had confirmed the continuation of Cumbria's Business Rate Pool for 2022/23, but as that was integral to the provisional finance settlement, pool members had 28 days (from 16 December 2021) to decide whether they formally wished to be designated as part of the pool.

Details of the amendments to the revenue budget as a result of the provisional finance settlement were provided at Section 2.

The Finance, Governance and Resources then moved the recommendations as recorded within the report.

Summary of options rejected None

DECISION

That the Executive:

(i) noted and had considered the updated budget projections, in respect of the Provisional Finance Settlement which was received on 16 December 2021, noting that the overall

financial impact formed part of the Revenue report considered elsewhere on the agenda; and (ii) delegated responsibility to the Corporate Director of Finance and Resources to respond, if required, to the Local Government Finance Settlement consultation document, following consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Finance, Governance and Resources.

Reasons for Decision

To seek Executive consideration of the Provisional Local Government Finance Settlement 2022/23.

EX.11/22 EXECUTIVE RESPONSE TO THE BUDGET CONSULTATION AND RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE 2022/23 BUDGET

(Key Decision - KD.10/21)

**(In accordance with Paragraph 15(i) of the Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rules, The Mayor had agreed that call-in procedures should not be applied to this item)

Portfolio Finance, Governance and Resources

Relevant Scrutiny Panel Business and Transformation

Subject Matter

The Finance, Governance and Resources Portfolio Holder referred to the Executive's Budget Proposals for 2022/23 (19 January 2022), copies of which were tabled at the meeting.

The Finance, Governance and Resources Portfolio Holder highlighted, in particular the non recurring changes which had been made in response to the consultation process:

- £10,000 to support mental health provision
- £50,000 for Jubilee celebrations
- £125,000 car parking
- £20,000 anti-social behaviour
- £250,000 in capital programme for Play areas

The Culture, Heritage and Leisure Portfolio thanked officers and Portfolio Holders for enabling the allocation for the Jubilee celebrations, he also commented that he was pleased to see that the Fireshow would make a welcome return to the 2022 Community Event Calendar.

The Communities, Health and Wellbeing Portfolio Holder highlighted the importance of the health and wellbeing of young people and welcomed the additional £250,000 to the capital programme for the replacement and upgrade of play areas. The Portfolio Holder also welcomed the additional funding to support anti social behaviour issues and the £10,000 which would support mental health provision within the district.

The Environment and Transport Portfolio Holder reported that car parking played an important role in supporting the City moving out of the pandemic. To assist the retail centre and increase the footfall the Executive would look at proposals to review the car parking offer within the City.

The Finance, Governance and Resources Portfolio Holder concluded his presentation by moving the recommendation that the Executive Budget Proposals for 2022/23 be forwarded to the City Council for approval on 1 February 2022.

Summary of options rejected A number of options which had been considered as part of the Council's 2022/23 budget deliberations as identified in various reports.

DECISION

That the Executive Budget Proposals for 2022/23, attached as Appendix E, be forwarded to the City Council for approval on 1 February 2022.

Reasons for Decision

To produce the Executive's budget proposals for 2022/23 for recommendation to the City Council.

EX.12/22 NOTICE OF EXECUTIVE KEY DECISIONS

(Non Key Decision)

Portfolio Cross-Cutting

Relevant Scrutiny Panel

Health and Wellbeing; Economic Growth; Business and Transformation

Subject Matter

The Notice of Executive Key Decisions dated 17 December 2021 was submitted for information.

The Corporate Director of Economic Development was scheduled to submit a private report regarding the Central Plaza Development Site Options (Key decision – KD.0122). However, work is ongoing on development options for the site and the matter has been deferred.

Summary of options rejected None

DECISION

That the Notice of Executive Key Decisions dated 17 December 2021 be received.

Reasons for Decision Not applicable

EX.13/22 SCHEDULE OF DECISIONS TAKEN BY OFFICERS

(Non Key Decision)

Portfolio Cross-cutting

Relevant Scrutiny Panel

Health and Wellbeing; Economic Growth; Business and Transformation

Subject Matter

Details of decisions taken by Officers under delegated powers were submitted.

Summary of options rejected None

DECISION

That the decisions, attached as Appendix A, be noted.

Reasons for Decision

Not applicable

EX.14/22 JOINT MANAGEMENT TEAM

(Non Key Decision)

Portfolio Cross-cutting

Relevant Scrutiny Panel

Health and Wellbeing; Economic Growth; Business and Transformation

Subject Matter

The Minutes of the meeting of the Joint Management Team held on 20 December 2021 were submitted for information.

Summary of options rejected None

DECISION

That the Minutes of the meeting of the Joint Management Team held on 20 December 2021, attached as Appendix B, be received.

Reasons for Decision Not applicable

EX.15/22 ESTABLISHMENT OF 'CUMBERLAND' COUNCIL AREA - JOINT COMMITTEE

(Non Key Decision)

******(In accordance with Paragraph 15(i) of the Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rules, The Mayor had agreed that call-in procedures should not be applied to this item)

Portfolio Finance, Governance and Resources

Subject Matter

The Finance, Governance and Resources Portfolio Holder submitted report GD.02/22 recommending, as one of the Councils making up the area which would be covered by the forthcoming Cumberland Council, that a Cumberland Joint Committee was established.

The Finance, Governance and Resources Portfolio Holder moved the recommendations which were seconded by the Leader.

Summary of options rejected not to proceed with a Joint Committee until the structural changes order was made

DECISION

That the Executive:

- (1) Agreed to the establishment of the Cumberland Joint Committee as detailed in report GD.02/22 and to the terms of reference attached at Appendix 1.
- (2) Delegated the Executive functions within the Terms of Reference to the Cumberland Joint Committee.

That the Executive recommend to Council that it:

- (3) Agree to the establishment of the Cumberland Joint Committee as detailed in report GD.02/22 and to the terms of reference attached at Appendix 1
- (4) Delegates the Non-Executive Functions within the Terms of Reference to the Cumberland Joint Committee
- (5) Delegates to the Corporate Director of Governance and Regulatory Services, in consultation with the Leader and Mayor the making of any minor changes to the terms of reference following consideration by other councils making up the Joint Committee
- (6) Authorise the Corporate Director of Governance and Regulatory Services to make the necessary amendments to the Councils Constitution and to update the Council's scheme of delegation in Section 2(a) of the Constitution.
- (7) To receive nominations and make appointments to the positions on the Cumberland Joint Committee in accordance with the political representation / balance calculation.
- (8) Delegates to the Town Clerk and Chief Executive following consultation with the Leader and the Mayor the authority to agree which of the 'Cumberland' Councils acts as the host authority for the Cumberland Joint Committee.
- (9) Agrees that this Joint Committee will be/is the Cumberland Joint Committee for the purposes of the forthcoming Cumbria (Structural Changes) Order 2022 (or such similar title that Her Majesty's Government decides).

Reason for Decision

To comply with the statutory requirements of the forthcoming structural changes order and to facilitate as efficiently as possible the ongoing Local Government Reorganisation.

The Meeting ended at: 16:17