

## **Extraordinary Council – 29 January 2008**

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Minutes of the meeting of **Extraordinary Council** held on **29 January 2008** when there were present:-

Chairman – Cllr K A Gibbs  
Vice Chairman – Cllr J E Grey

Cllr Mrs P Aves	Cllr Mrs J A Mockford
Cllr C I Black	Cllr R A Oatham
Cllr Mrs L A Butcher	Cllr J M Pullen
Cllr M R Carter	Cllr C G Seagers
Cllr J P Cottis	Cllr S P Smith
Cllr T G Cutmore	Cllr D G Stansby
Cllr K J Gordon	Cllr M G B Starke
Cllr Mrs S A Harper	Cllr J Thomass
Cllr A J Humphries	Cllr Mrs M J Webster
Cllr T Livings	Cllr P F A Webster
Cllr C J Lumley	Cllr Mrs C A Weston
Cllr J R F Mason	Cllr Mrs B J Wilkins
Cllr D Merrick	

### **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs Mrs R Brown, Mrs J Dillnutt, Mrs H L A Glynn, T E Goodwin, K H Hudson and Mrs J R Lumley.

### **OFFICERS PRESENT**

P Warren	- Chief Executive
RJ Honey	- Corporate Director (Internal Services)
G Woolhouse	- Corporate Director (External Services)
Y Woodward	- Head of Finance, Audit and Performance Management
C Watkins	- Financial Services Manager
J Bostock	- Committee Services Manager

### **32 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Cllr C I Black declared a personal interest in the medium term financial strategy by virtue of owning a plot in Rochford cemetery.

### **33 MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL STRATEGY 2008/09**

Council considered the report of the Head of Finance, Audit and Performance Management on the integrated five year Medium Term Financial Strategy starting in 2008/09.

The Head of Finance, Audit and Performance Management confirmed to the Council that the estimates had been prepared in a robust manner and that the

level of balances maintained by the Council is adequate.

Responding to questions, the Head of Finance, Audit and Performance Management advised that:-

- The overall increase in salary costs between the current year and the next would be 1.4%. Although the lump sum paid in respect of pension deficit had now reduced by £60,000, the ongoing contribution had increased. Salary calculations now excluded staff transferred to the Rochford Housing Association and reflected movement between cost centres associated with the re-structuring into internal/external services.
- Capital Strategy documentation would be amended so that the term 'extension to Sweyne Park' is replaced with 'improvements to Sweyne Park'.
- Whilst the Council had been advised that Police Authority budget monies associated with dealing with stray dogs would transfer to the District once it is required to run the service, there would need to be further review of this aspect given a recent indication that the Police are not expecting monies to be transferred.
- Detailed information on the increase in the Citizens Award budget could be provided.
- The overall percentages relating to car allowances had not changed.

The Leader of the Council observed that the financial strategy report was both clear and informative. It was pleasing that the Authority could hold the Council tax increase at 17 pence per week for a Band D property whilst not cutting services. New projects were being introduced and there was provision for concessionary fares and saving targets.

**Resolved** that the following items, as detailed in the report, be agreed:-

- (1) The Management of Reserves Policy.
- (2) The revised estimates for 2007/08.
- (3) The core estimates for 2008/09.
- (4) The priorities identified for 2008/09 and the agreed non priorities for the Council.
- (5) The 2008/09 Council Tax for Rochford District Council.
- (6) The schedule of fees and charges.
- (7) The Capital Programme. (HFAPM)

**34     TREASURY MANAGEMENT STRATEGY STATEMENT AND ANNUAL INVESTMENT STRATEGY 2008/09**

Council considered the report of the Head of Finance, Audit and Performance Management on the Council's Treasury Strategy for borrowing and investment for 2008/09.

Members concurred with the observation of the Leader of the Council on the clear nature of the report and how it was pleasing that the Authority had performed well in terms of bench marks.

**Resolved**

- (1)     That the Treasury Management Strategy Statement and Annual Investment Strategy, including the limits contained within the report, be agreed.
  
- (2)     That the Authorised Limit and Operational Boundary for external debt, as laid down in the report, be agreed and that authority be delegated to the Head of Finance, Audit and Performance Management, within the total limit for any individual year, to effect movement between the separately agreed limits for borrowing and other long-term liabilities. (HFAPM)

The meeting closed at 8.02 pm.

Chairman .....

Date .....

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