

To all Members of the Council

MEETING OF THE COUNCIL

Your attendance is requested at the meeting of the Council to be held in the Council Chamber, Pippbrook, Dorking on **TUESDAY 17TH FEBRUARY 2015 at 7.00pm** for the transaction of the business set out in the following Agenda.

AME Griffiths

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Corporate Head of Service
Monday 9th February 2015

The Chairman would like to remind Members that they have the opportunity to ask Officers questions, in respect of issues concerning matters of detail or for further clarification, prior to the meeting.

AGENDA

1. MINUTES

To approve as a correct record the minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 20th January 2015.

2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

To receive apologies for absence.

3. DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS

To receive any disclosures of interests from Members (either disclosable pecuniary interests or non-pecuniary interests) in relation to any items included on the agenda for this meeting in accordance with the Council's Code of Conduct.

4. 2015/16 BUDGET AND COUNCIL TAX RESOLUTION

The Executive at its meeting on 3rd February 2015 agreed to make the following recommendations to the Council for approval:

RECOMMENDED TO COUNCIL:

- (1) That the proposed budget for 2015/16 be set at £10,055,000.**
- (2) That the Council Tax Freeze Grant, offered by Government, be rejected for 2015/16.**
- (3) That the Band D Council Tax for 2015/16 be set at £160.52, representing a 1.9% increase on 2014/15.**
- (4) That the proposed Capital Programme of £11,774,000 be approved.**
- (5) That the Section 151 Officer's statement concerning the 2015/16 budget and the medium term financial outlook for the Council be noted.**
- (6) That the reserve of £238,000 previously earmarked for Subsidence be re-designated as a general reserve.**
- (7) That the Council decide whether to increase Members' Allowances in line with the recommendations of the Independent Remuneration Panel (i.e. in line with the National Pay Award for staff).**
- (8) That a Committee of the Council be established comprising 7 Councillors (politically balanced 3:3:1) to approve the Council Tax should the precept from partners not be received prior to the Council meeting on 17th February 2015.**
- (9) That Group Leaders advise the Council of the Councillors to be appointed to the Committee established in (8) above.**

Following consideration of the above, the Council is asked to approve the Council Tax resolutions for 2015/2016 (set out at pages 27 to 29 of the agenda).

A copy of the report considered by the Executive on 3rd February 2015 is attached at pages 5 to 26.

(N.B. With regard to (8) and (9) above, all precepts from partners have been received and are included in the Council Tax resolutions at pages 27-29.)

5. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

6. BUSINESS RATE TRANSITIONAL RELIEF

To receive the report of the Corporate Head of Service as set out at pages 30 to 32 of the agenda.

The Council is asked to approve a Local Discount Scheme in respect of Transitional Relief for small and medium business properties.

7. COUNCIL CONSTITUTION UPDATE

To receive the report of the Chief Executive, Deputy Chief Executive and Corporate Head of Service as set out at pages 33 to 346 of the agenda.

The Council is asked:

- (1) to consider the recommendation of the Planning Peer Review Working Group in respect of the size of the Development Control Committee (paragraph 1.4) and agree the size of the Committee;**
- (2) that, subject to the decision in respect of (1) above, agree the revised Constitution set out at Appendix 2; and**
- (3) in accordance with proposed Contract Standing Order (CSO) 14, to delegate authority to the Legal Services Manager, in consultation with the s.151 officer, to update the CSOs to take account of any changes to the law as a result of the Public Contract Regulations 2015.**

8. LEADER'S STATEMENT

The Leader will speak to the Council for up to 5 minutes.

9. REPORTS OF EXECUTIVE MEMBERS

To receive reports from Executive Members.

10. QUESTIONS TO MEMBERS OF THE EXECUTIVE

A total of up to two questions can be put to each Executive Member (for a period of up to 15 minutes whichever is the shorter). Questions are to be received by the Corporate Head with responsibility for Democratic Services by no later than 10am on the working day immediately prior to this meeting.

11. MOTIONS

(1) Motion 5/2014

Motion 5/2014 was submitted by Councillor Stephen Cooksey at the meeting of the Council held on 14th October 2014. The Council agreed to refer the motion to the Scrutiny Committee.

“Council notes:

- a) the strong and enthusiastic participation shown by the people of Scotland in a remarkable democratic process leading to the Referendum on 18 September;
- b) the resulting increased discussion on the devolution of powers from central government in Westminster and Whitehall.

Council believes:

- I. That power should be devolved to the people in all parts of the United Kingdom;
- II. That England is currently ruled over by an over-centralised state that fails to reflect localities and regions;

- III. That concentrating more power to English MPs in Westminster is not the only answer for English devolution and that passing power down to the local areas of England is essential.

Council therefore calls for:

Mole Valley's MPs, the Leader of the Council and the Executive to lobby for urgent major devolution of power, including tax raising and spending, from central government to the regions, counties, boroughs and districts and cities of England.

And that such lobbying should emphasise:

that the devolution of powers and finance to English councils be carried out in ways that enhance and strengthen local democratic bodies. This must include agreement that it shall be for local people and communities to decide their form of democratic leadership without having a specific model imposed (for example directly elected Mayors) in return for more powers;

a recognition that English devolution must include both large cities and county areas, as the many councils not within city regions must also gain greater powers and finance in order to build successful and prosperous futures."

The Scrutiny Committee resolved to recommend to the Council that Motion 5/2014 be rejected.

The Council is asked to decide whether it wishes to accept, amend or reject the motion.

12. URGENT ITEMS

To consider any items which the Chairman considers to be urgent.

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