

Minutes of a Meeting of the Executive held on Monday 22nd February 2016 at Pippbrook, Dorking, from 8.02pm to 8.27pm

Present:

Executive Members: Councillors James Friend (Leader/Chairman), Lynne Brooks, Howard Jones, Vivienne Michael and Charles Yarwood.

Non-Executive Members: Councillors Tim Ashton, Margaret Cooksey, Stephen Cooksey, David Draper, Mary Huggins, Malcolm Ladell, Simon Ling, Paul Potter and Chris Townsend.

76. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Lucy Botting, Corinna Osborne-Patterson, Sarah Seed and Michelle Watson.

77. Disclosure of Interests

None.

78. 2016/17 Budget and Council Tax Resolution

The Executive considered the budget proposals for 2016/17. The Executive Member for Finance and Performance advised that the budget had been reviewed in light of the revised Revenue Support Grant settlement of which the Council had been notified on 8th February 2016.

Members of the Scrutiny Committee who had scrutinised the initial budget report were advised of the three significant changes arising from the revised settlement. Firstly Mole Valley District Council would receive transitional relief of £119,000 in 2016/17 and provisionally £71,000 in 2017/18. Secondly, the concept of a negative grant had been eliminated. Members noted that the settlement was a three year settlement and that although, for 2019/20 negative grant remained, the Secretary of State had advised that full retention of the Business Rates in 2019/20 would eliminate the negative grant. Thirdly, the government had announced that District and Borough Councils could increase their Band D Council Tax by £5 per year where this increase is higher than 2%.

The Executive Member for Finance and Performance reported that the proposed budget was the same as that previously submitted to the Scrutiny Committee, with the addition of the £119,000 transitional relief. She advised that the proposed budget was balanced and provided good value for money for residents. As such, it was proposed that the Council Tax increase be kept at 1.95%.

RESOLVED: That the Council be **RECOMMENDED** to agree:

- (1) That the proposed budget for 2016/17 be set at £9,971,000.
- (2) That the Band D Council Tax for 2016/17 be set at £163.65, representing a 1.95% increase on 2015/16.
- (3) That the Capital Programme be approved.
- (4) That the Section 151 Officer's statement concerning the 2016/17 budget and the medium term financial outlook for the Council be noted.
- (5) That the Council decide whether to increase Members' Allowances in line with the National Pay Award for staff.

79. Exclusion of Press and Public

RESOLVED: That members of the Press and public be excluded from the meeting for the following item of business under Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972 on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule

12A of the Act; namely information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information) and the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information.

80. Acquisition of Property Investment

The Executive considered a report which proposed the acquisition of a property investment. The Chairman thanked the project team for their work to date.

RESOLVED:

- (1) That the acquisition of a property investment at a purchase price as detailed in the report submitted be approved, subject to satisfactory completion of the due diligence process and Council approval.
- (2) That the final decision to proceed with the acquisition be delegated to the Corporate Head of Service with responsibility for Property, in consultation with the Executive Members for Property and Parking and Finance and Performance, following completion of the due diligence process.