



MINUTES OF SPECIAL MEETING of the CLACKMANNANSHIRE COUNCIL held in the Council Chamber, Kilncraigs, Alloa, on Thursday 9 March 2023 at 9.30 am.

PRESENT

Councillor Phil Fairlie, Convener (Chair)
Councillor Donald Balsillie
Councillor Martha Benny
Councillor Denis Coyne
Councillor Ellen Forson
Councillor Wendy Hamilton
Councillor Scott Harrison
Councillor Craig Holden
Councillor William Keogh
Councillor Fiona Law
Councillor Darren Lee
Councillor Graham Lindsay
Councillor Jane McTaggart
Councillor Bryan Quinn

IN ATTENDANCE

Nikki Bridle, Chief Executive
Stuart Crickmar, Strategic Director (Partnership and Performance)
Lorraine Sanda, Strategic Director (People)
Pete Leonard, Strategic Director (Place)
Annemargaret Black, Chief Officer, Health and Social Care Partnership
Lindsay Sim, Chief Finance Officer (Partnership & Performance)
Colin Bruce, Chief Education Officer (People)
Sharon Robertson, Chief Social Work Officer (People) (Via Teams)
Ewan Murray, Chief Finance Officer, Health and Social Care Partnership (Via Teams)
Michael Boyle, Improving Outcomes Business Manager (People)
Chris Alliston, Senior Manager, HR and Workforce Development (Partnership & Performance)
Cherie Jarvie, Senior Manager, Partnership & Transformation (Partnership & Performance)
Lee Robertson, Senior Manager, Legal and Governance (Partnership & Performance) (Clerk to the Council)
Sophie Gardiner, Solicitor, Legal and Governance (Partnership & Performance)
Karen Payton, Team Leader – Communications & Community (Partnership & Performance)
Elizabeth Hutcheon, Management Accountancy Team Leader (Partnership & Performance)
Iain McDonald, Senior Manager – Environment (Place)
Tony Cain, Senior Manager – Housing (Place)
Emma Fyvie, Senior Manager – Development (Place)
Murray Sharp, Senior Manager – Housing (Place)
Natalie Hogg, HR Business Partner (Partnership & Performance)
Gregory Oduor, Deloitte (External Audit)
Gillian White, Committee Services (Partnership & Performance)

CC(23)20 APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Councillor Kenneth Earle, Councillor Kathleen Martin, Councillor Mark McLuckie and Councillor Janine Rennie.

CC(23)21 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Darren Lee advised that should there be discussion or debate around the petition that had been presented to Special Council by Banchory Parent Council on 7 March 2023, he would declare a non-financial interest and withdraw from the meeting for the duration of that discussion / debate as he has an existing relationship with Banchory Parent Council and Banchory Primary School.

CC(23)22 TREASURY MANAGEMENT STRATEGY 2023/24 AND SERVICE CONCESSION ARRANGEMENTS

The report, submitted by the Chief Finance Officer, presented the Council's Treasury Management Strategy Statement for 2023/24 and Prudential Indicators for 2023/24 to 2025/26. CIPFA defines treasury management as: "The management of the local authority's borrowing, investments and cash flows, including its banking, money market and capital market transactions, the effective control of the risks associated with those activities, and the pursuit of optimum performance consistent with those risks."

The report also presented for approval the new statutory guidance for accounting for the repayment of debt on Service Concessions Arrangements which relates to the Councils Public Private Partnership (PPP) Contracts.

Motion

To agree the recommendations set out in the report.

Moved by Councillor Ellen Forson. Seconded by Councillor Graham Lindsay.

Decision

The Council:

1. Agreed the adoption of the revised accounting arrangements under Local Government Circular 10/2022 for the recalculation of debt repayments arising from the Council's service concession contracts aligned to the useful economic life of the assets under the contracts (section 7);
2. Noted the information contained in this report including the revenue implications of adopting the revised accounting arrangements for Service Concessions;
3. Approved the Treasury Management Strategy Statement for 2023/24 and Prudential Indicators for the years 2023/24 to 2025/26, attached as Appendix A, in compliance with the Prudential Code requirements;
4. Noted the continuation of the Borrowing Strategy to support additional capital investment (paragraph 5.6); and
5. Noted the investment portfolio position as at 31st January 2023 (Appendix B).

Action

Chief Finance Officer

CC(23)23 GENERAL SERVICES REVENUE AND CAPITAL BUDGET 2023/24

The report, submitted by the Chief Finance Officer, presented the General Services Budget for 2023/24. The report built on the regular update reports and briefings presented to Council and the Audit and Scrutiny Committee throughout the year, including those covering the Be the Future Transformation Programme and implementation of the Target Operating Model (TOM).

Motion

To agree the recommendations set out in the report.

Moved by Councillor Ellen Forson. Seconded by Councillor Graham Lindsay.

Voting

There were 14 members present:

For the motion	13 votes
Against the motion	0 votes
Abstain from voting	1 abstention

Decision

The Council agreed:

1. To set minimum reserves at 2% of net budgeted expenditure for 2023/24 and future years to reflect the challenging economic position for local government (paragraph 5.8);
2. The General Services Revenue and Capital Budget for 2023/24 as set out in Appendix A, including:
 - 2.1 The proposals for demand pressures (Appendix B) including the proposed increase in rates and allowances for Foster Carers and an increase in Personal Assistant rates paid to providers (paragraph 5.3);
 - 2.2 The Policy and Redesign savings set out in Appendix D, including the reversal of the previous saving approved in 2022/23 to withdraw funding provision to APEX (paragraphs 5.4-5.5);
 - 2.3 The 2023/24 Income and Charging Strategy (Appendix E);
 - 2.4 The utilisation of £3.441m of General Reserves in setting the proposed General Revenue budget (paragraph 5.10);
 - 2.5 The utilisation of £1.203m Capital receipts to offset loans fund principal repayments (paragraph 5.10);
 - 2.6 The utilisation of £1.150m from the in year benefit derived from service concessions (paragraph 5.10) subject to the approval of the Treasury Management Report also on the agenda for this meeting;
 - 2.7 A net resource transfer of £25.269m for the Clackmannanshire & Stirling Health and Social Care Partnership for 2023/24 (paragraph 6.3);
 - 2.8 The revised General Services Capital Programme incorporating project resource in Appendix A and section 7; and
 - 2.9 The increase in the level of Council Tax for 2023/24 by 5% resulting in Band D Council tax of £1,410.96 (paragraph 4.6).

3. That the remaining uncommitted element of the Transformation Fund £0.646m, and the unallocated £0.518m from the Discovery Fund and Flexible Resourcing Fund, totalling £1.164m is delegated to the Chief Executive with reporting arrangements to the Be the Future Board (paragraph 5.19).

The Council noted:

4. The challenging context within which this Budget is presented including the unprecedented inflationary pressures (Appendix A);
5. The summary of recent budget engagement activity detailed in section 3;
6. The anticipated level of uncommitted reserves of £6.485m by 31 March 2023, prior to setting the 2023/24 budget (paragraph 5.9);
7. The balance of £3.044m in uncommitted General Services Revenue reserves, after setting the budget, equating to 2% (paragraph 5.9);
8. The three year cumulative indicative gap of £21.967m up to 2026/27 and a funding gap of £11.561m in 2024/25 following setting this budget (Exhibit 4),
9. The expected ending of the financial flexibilities to use capital receipts for Transformation and the statutory redundancy element of voluntary severance (paragraph 5.14);
10. The transfer of £1.168m from General Fund Capital to Housing Revenue Account (HRA) to fund capital expenditure and the corresponding receipt of £1.168m from the HRA revenue surplus to the General Fund Revenue account in 2022/23 and 2023/24 (paragraph 7.6).

Action

Chief Finance Officer

Ends: 10.10 am