



**Clackmannanshire
Council**

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**THIS PAPER RELATES TO
ITEM 3(b)
ON THE AGENDA**

MINUTE OF SPECIAL MEETING of the CLACKMANNANSHIRE COUNCIL held within the Council Chamber, Greenfield, Alloa, on THURSDAY 9 FEBRUARY 2012 at 10.00 am.

PRESENT

Provost Tina Murphy (In the Chair)
Councillor Donald Balsillie
Councillor John Biggam
Councillor Janet Cadenhead
Councillor Alastair Campbell
Councillor Eddie Carrick
Councillor Kenneth Earle
Councillor Mark English
Councillor Irene Hamilton
Councillor Craig Holden
Councillor George Matchett, QPM
Councillor Walter McAdam, MBE
Councillor Bobby McGill
Councillor Harry McLaren
Councillor Janis Paterson
Councillor Derek Stewart
Councillor Gary Womersley

IN ATTENDANCE

Elaine McPherson, Chief Executive
Nikki Bridle, Director of Finance and Corporate Services
Garry Dallas, Director of Services to Communities
Deirdre Cilliers, Head of Joint Social Services, Clackmannanshire and Stirling
Stephen Crawford, Head of Facilities Management
Stuart Crickmar, Head of Strategy and Customer Services
John Gillespie, Head of Community and Regulatory Services
Belinda Greer, Head of Joint Education Services, Clackmannanshire and Stirling
David Thomson, Solicitor, Legal Services (Clerk to the Council)

CC.128 APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Reverend Sam Ovens.

CC.129 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None

Protocol for Managing Debate

Before consideration of agenda items 3(a) and (b), the Provost invited the Clerk to the Council to advise members on a protocol for managing debate on agenda items 3(a) and 3(b). The protocol, which accorded with Standing Orders, had been circulated in narrative and flowchart formats in advance of the meeting.

The Clerk advised that the protocol reflected Standing Orders and outlined the process to be followed.

CC.130 GENERAL SERVICES REVENUE AND CAPITAL BUDGETS 2012/13-2014/15

A report submitted by the Director of Finance and Corporate Services presented the Council's General Services Revenue and Capital Budgets for 2012/13. Indicative figures were also provided for 2013/14 and 2014/15. In terms of Standing Order 12.1, the Director of Finance and Corporate Services was invited to introduce the report to the Council.

In terms of Standing Order 12.2, elected members then had opportunity to put questions to the Director.

Further to a request by Councillor McGill, the Provost agreed to adjourn the meeting at 10.25 am. When the meeting resumed at 10.40 am, there were 17 members present.

Questions to officers continued following the adjournment. Members had further opportunity to put questions to, and request explanations from, the Director of Finance and Corporate Services or any other officer in attendance who held information relevant to the matter under consideration.

Motion

That Council approves the recommendations set out in the report (agenda item 3(a)) at paragraph 2.1 (Revenue Budget) and at paragraph 2.2 (Capital Budget).

Moved by Councillor Gary Womersley. Seconded by Councillor Mark English.

Voting

In terms of Standing Order 14.7, Councillor Donald Balsillie asked for a roll call vote. The Council agreed that a vote be taken by calling the roll and at this stage there were 17 Members present who were eligible to vote. On the roll being called the Members present voted as follows:

For the Motion (10)

Councillor John Biggam
Councillor Craig Holden
Councillor Eddie Carrick
Councillor Walter McAdam, MBE
Councillor Irene Hamilton
Councillor Janis Paterson
Councillor Donald Balsillie
Councillor Mark English
Councillor Gary Womersley
Provost Tina Murphy

Abstain (Not Voting) (7)

Councillor George Matchett, QPM
Councillor Bobby McGill
Councillor Janet Cadenhead
Councillor Derek Stewart

Councillor Kenneth Earle
Councillor Harry McLaren
Councillor Alastair Campbell

There were 10 votes for the motion with 7 abstentions.

Decision

Accordingly, on a division of 10 votes with 7 abstentions, the Council agreed to:

Revenue Budget:

- (a) Approve the General Services Revenue Budget for 2012/13 (as set out in Appendix A of the report)
- (b) Note the previously approved savings incorporated within the budget (Appendix B)
- (c) Approve the proposals for demand pressures (Appendix C)
- (d) Note the 0% increase in the level of Council Tax for 2012/13, resulting in Band D remaining at £1,148.
- (e) Note the indicative budget savings targets for 2013-2015 (Table 1 of the report refers)
- (f) Approve the utilisation of £2.022m of uncommitted reserves to present a balanced position for 2012/13 in anticipation of the contribution due at 31 March 2012 as a consequence of savings activity set out in Table 3 of the report.
- (g) Endorse the proposed approach to establish business cases and undertake consultation in respect of future years' savings.
- (h) Approve the proposal to amend the Council's uncommitted General Services Reserve Strategy to a minimum of 3% of budgeted net expenditure.
- (i) Confirm to the Scottish Government its formal assurance that the budget approved for 2012/13 includes provision to deliver across all of the specified commitments in the settlement letters of 21 September and 8 December 2011.

Capital Budget:

- (a) Approve the underpinning principles set out in paragraph 4.5 of the report to guide the preparation of future years' capital budgets.
- (b) Approve the financing limits placed on capital investment for 2012/13-2014/15 (Table 4 of the report refers)
- (c) Approve the General Services Capital Budget for 2012-2015 (Appendix D).
- (d) Note the re-phasing and reprioritisation of capital projects to contain expenditure within gross programme limits (paragraph 4.12 of the report refers).
- (e) Note that officers intend to bring forward a report on the creation of a Capital Stimulus Fund focused on the identification of innovative funding mechanisms to stimulate the local economy (Table 5 of the report refers).

Action

Chief Executive/Directors Finance and Corporate Services/Services to Communities

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In terms of Standing Order 10.22, the meeting adjourned at 12.30 pm and resumed at 1.00 pm. Fifteen (15) members were present when the meeting resumed.

Councillors Campbell and Matchett withdrew from the meeting at 12.30 pm

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**CC.131 HOUSING REVENUE BUDGET 2012/13 AND CAPITAL PROGRAMME
2012/13**

A report submitted by the Head of Community and Regulatory Services presented to Council the Housing Revenue Budget and Housing Capital Programme for the financial year 2012/13. The report also highlighted the key factors influencing the budget.

Motion

That Council approves the recommendations set out in the report subject to the undernoted amendment:

Substitute the following wording to recommendation 2.1(b)

- (b) an increased level for Council house rents of 6.8% for financial year, 6.8% being the most recent (December) RPI figure and considered to be more consistent with the future outlook.

Add the following recommendation:

- 2.1(e) In 2013/14, the relevant inflation figure to be applied to any rent increase will be subject to further review through the Housing Business Plan, with the purpose of smoothing out inflation rate peaks and troughs.

Moved by Councillor Gary Womersley. Seconded by Councillor Mark English.

Councillor McGill indicated that the amendment was accepted by the Labour Group

Voting

In terms of Standing Order 14.7, Councillor Bobby McGill asked for a roll call vote. The Council agreed that a vote be taken by calling the roll and at this stage there were 15 Members present who were eligible to vote. On the roll being called the Members present voted as follows:

For the Motion (15)

Councillor Bobby McGill
Councillor Janet Cadenhead
Councillor Derek Stewart
Councillor Kenneth Earle
Councillor Harry McLaren
Councillor John Biggam
Councillor Craig Holden
Councillor Eddie Carrick
Councillor Walter McAdam, MBE
Councillor Irene Hamilton
Councillor Janis Paterson
Councillor Donald Balsillie
Councillor Mark English
Councillor Gary Womersley
Provost Tina Murphy

There were 15 votes for the motion and no votes against.

Decision

Accordingly, the Council agreed unanimously to support the report subject to the amendment moved by Councillor Womersley and seconded by Councillor English to approve:

- (a) the summary budget on income and expenditure based on the approved HRA Business Plan, as set out in the report and Appendix 1 of the report.
- (b) an increased level for Council house rents of 6.8% for financial year 2012/13; 6.8% being the most recent (December) RPI figure and considered to be more consistent with the future outlook.
- (c) the same level of increase to be applied to charges for lock-ups, garage sites and the Travelling People's site,
- (d) the proposed Housing (HRA) Capital Programme for 2012/13 and the indicative programmes for 2013/14 and 2014/15, as set out in Appendix 2 of the report; and
- (e) In 2013/14, the relevant inflation figure to be applied to any rent increase will be subject to further review through the Housing Business Plan, with the purpose of smoothing out inflation rate peaks and troughs.

Action

Director of Services to Communities/Director of Finance and Corporate Services

CC.132 PRUDENTIAL INDICATORS 2012/13 TO 2014/15

A report submitted by the Director of Finance and Corporate Services updated and revised the indicators approved by Council last year in the context of the Council's latest spending plans over the period 2012/13 to 2014/15. The report also outlined the purpose of each of the indicators and the implications of the proposed levels, values and parameters for Clackmannanshire Council.

Motion

That Council approves the prudential indicators set out in the report for the years 2012/13 to 2014/15 in compliance with the Prudential Code requirements.

Moved by Councillor Gary Womersley. Seconded by Councillor Mark English.

Decision

The Council agreed unanimously to approve the prudential indicators set out in the report for the years 2012/13 to 2014/15 in compliance with the Prudential Code requirements.

Action

Director of Finance and Corporate Services

ENDS 1.40 pm

