



**MINUTES OF SPECIAL MEETING of the CLACKMANNANSHIRE COUNCIL held within
the Council Chamber, Greenfield, Alloa, FK10 2AD, on FRIDAY 21 FEBRUARY 2014 at
10.00 am.**

PRESENT

Provost Tina Murphy (In the Chair)
Councillor Donald Balsillie
Councillor Janet Cadenhead
Councillor Archie Drummond
Councillor Kenneth Earle
Councillor Ellen Forson
Councillor Irene Hamilton
Councillor Craig Holden
Councillor Kathleen Martin
Councillor George Matchett, QPM
Councillor Walter McAdam, MBE
Councillor Bobby McGill
Councillor Les Sharp
Councillor Jim Stalker
Councillor Derek Stewart
Councillor Graham Watt
Councillor Gary Womersley

IN ATTENDANCE

Elaine McPherson, Chief Executive
Nikki Bridle, Director of Finance and Corporate Services
Garry Dallas, Director of Services to Communities
Val De Souza, Head of Social Services, Clackmannanshire and Stirling
Ahsan Khan, Head of Housing and Community Services
David Leng, Head of Education, Clackmannan and Stirling
Liz Shaw, Chief Accountant
David Thomson, Solicitor, Legal Services (Clerk to the Council)

CC.183/166 APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Alastair Campbell.

CC.184 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

Councillor Walter McAdam joined the meeting at this point in the proceedings (10.05 am)

**CC.185 GENERAL SERVICES AND HRA REVENUE AND CAPITAL BUDGET
2014/15**

A report which presented the Council's Budget for 2014/2015 was submitted by the Director of Finance and Corporate Services. The report covered revenue and capital expenditure budgets for both General Services and Housing Revenue Accounts. In addition, the budget sought approval and/or provided information for further actions which will contribute to the Council's aim of improving medium term financial planning and financial sustainability.

The report also built on the regular 'Making Clackmannanshire Better' (MCB) and Budget Strategy Update reports and briefings presented to Council and the Resources and Audit Committee throughout the year.

Having given notice of an amendment, the Leader of the Council intimated that he intended to move the report before the meeting and immediately thereafter the amendment which had been circulated to members previously.

Motion

That Council agrees the recommendations set out in the report.

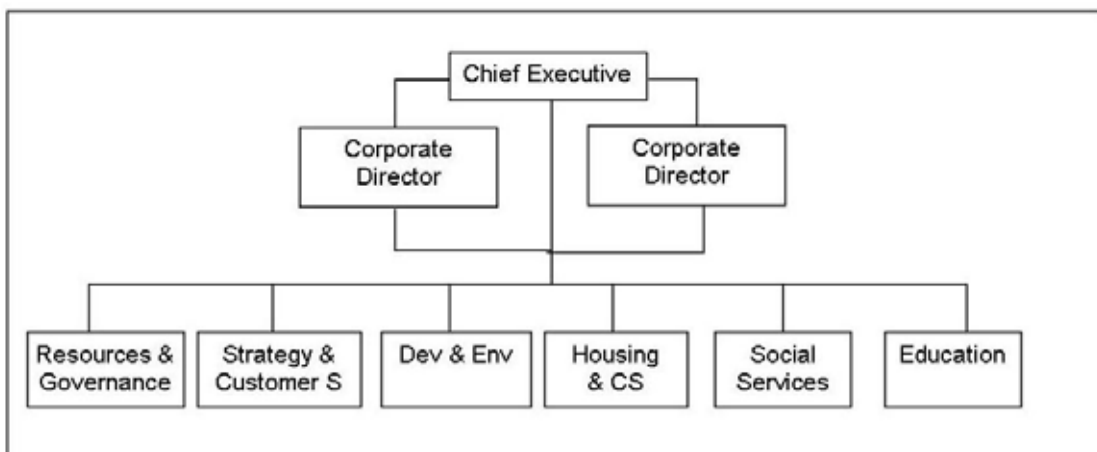
Moved by Councillor Gary Womersley. Seconded by Councillor Craig Holden.

Amendment

In respect of recommendation 2.1.4 in the report by the Director of Finance and relating to the explicit recommendations set out in Appendix G (*Review & Reconfiguration of Chief Officer Structure*), it is recommended that Council does not agree the recommendations contained in Appendix G but instead agrees the following recommendations:

1.
 - a) to delete one Head of Service post from the establishment;
 - b) to remove direct service responsibility from the roles and responsibilities of the Director posts so that their roles and responsibilities are to work with the Chief Executive on the leadership, management, governance and performance of the Council, including driving specific corporate, strategic and change initiatives; and
 - c) to have a limited realignment of the functional responsibilities of Heads of Service as set out in Appendix 2 of the Chief Executive's report, *Review & Reconfiguration of Chief Officer Structure* (Appendix G to the budget report)

so that the revised chief officer structure would be as follows:



- d) to advertise the vacant the Head of Resources & Governance and Head of Development & Environment posts openly and recruit to them by an Appointments Committee with the political balance as set out at paragraph 5.7 of Appendix G

2.

- a) agrees that one of the Director posts is designated as Depute Chief Executive to provide clarity and consistency of senior management arrangements for deputising for the Chief Executive; and
 - b) that designation is decided by an Appointments Sub-Committee with the political balance as set out at paragraph 5.7 of Appendix G
3. to note and endorse the approach to leadership and management development which the Chief Executive is taking forward;
4. to note that, subject to the approval of the recommendations at 1 above, consequent proposals to change the Council's Standing Orders and consequent amendments to the Council's Scheme of Delegation will be brought to a future meeting of Council.
5. agrees that the consequent reduction in savings (c.£90K) to be funded from uncommitted reserves.

Moved by Councillor Gary Womersley. Seconded by Councillor Craig Holden.

Voting on the Amendment

For the amendment	9 votes
Against the amendment	8 votes

On a division of 9 votes to 8, the amendment was carried.

Voting on the Motion as amended

For the motion as amended	9 votes
Against the motion as amended	0 votes
Abstain (Not voting)	8

Decision

The motion as amended was carried on a division of 9 votes to 0 with 8 abstentions. Accordingly, the Council agreed to approve:

- 1. the General Services Revenue Budget for 2014/15 as set out in Appendix B of the report.
- 2. the proposals for demand pressures as set out in Appendix C of the report.
- 3. the indicative budget savings targets and the underpinning assumptions for 2014-2017, including the proposal to provide £5k pending the outcome of the review to establish holiday lunch clubs (as set out in Table 1 and paragraph 5.6 of the report).
- 4. the savings set out in Appendix D1 of the report as additionally explained in Appendices E to I and paragraph 5.7 of the report, and including the explicit

recommendations set out in Appendices E to I of the report which were incorporated as part of this recommendation.

5. a 0% increase in the level of Council Tax for 2014/15, resulting in Band D remaining at £1,148 (as set out in paragraph 5.6).
6. the utilisation of £1.319m of uncommitted General Services Revenue reserves to achieve a balanced budget for 2014/15.
7. the utilisation of £1.714m from the available Capital Receipts Reserve and the release of previously budgeted sums of £0.883m in 2013/14 and £0.535m in 2014/15 which are no longer required.
8. the MCB (Making Clackmannanshire Better) programme development priorities set out in paragraph 8.3 of the report.
9. the MCB Draft Target Operating Model and action plan (set out in Appendix J of the report), subject to consultation through the established Programme governance of the Steering Group, Programme Board and Council.
10. the Summary Revenue Budget based on the HRA Business Plan (set out in Appendix K of the report).
11. a housing rent increase of 4.2% for 2014/15 in line with the HRA Financial Business Plan Assumptions (set out in Appendix L of the report)
12. £256k of the remaining HRA Service Improvement Contract (SIMCo) reserve balance of £239k being brought into the HRA Financial Business Plan to support Capital Investment and, if required, the balance of £37k being earmarked to support door entry installations for private owners to enable the Council to meet 100% SHQS by 2015 (as set out in paragraph 7.24 of the report).
13. a rent increase of 4.2% to lock up garages and garage pitch sites (as set out in Appendix K2 of the report)
14. a weekly rent of £85 for the travelling persons' site, as the Council moves towards full service cost recovery for the site management.
15. the financing limits placed on capital investment for 2014/15-2019/20 based on the underpinning assumptions set out in Table 4 and paragraph 7.14 of the report.
16. the General Services Capital Budget for 2014-2020 (set out in Appendix M of the report).
17. the HRA Capital Budget for 2014-18 based on the HRA Financial Business Plan (set out in Appendix N of the report).
18. the principle of a managed contraction of staffing levels in line with the agreed service delivery priorities (set out in paragraphs 8.3 and 8.12 of the report).
19. the establishment of an Employment Fund of £400k, financed by £200k from the Spend to Save Fund and £200k from the anticipated underspend in 2013/14 of £251k (as set out in paragraphs 8.13 and 5.10 of the report).
20. the continued application of the underpinning principles set out in paragraphs 3.4 and 7.4 of the report to future budgeting.

21. The recommendations set out in Appendix G of the report (Review and Reconfiguration of Chief Officer Structure) as amended. Political balance of the Appointments Committee to be 3 SNP Members, 2 Labour Members and one other member. Nominations to be notified.

The Council also agreed to note :

- (a) the feedback from recent consultation and engagement activity detailed in Appendix A of the report.
- (b) the efficiency savings set out in Appendix D2 of the report
- (c) the anticipated level of uncommitted revenue reserves of £7.69m by 31 March 2014 prior to setting this 2014/15 budget.
- (d) that the budget approved for 2014/15 includes provision to deliver across all of the specified commitments, set out in the letter from the Deputy Director of Scottish Government's Local Government Division on 11 December 2013.
- (e) the intention to carry out a new Housing Needs and Demand Assessment to inform investment in current stock and future provision.
- (f) the balance of £1.824m in the Capital Receipts Reserve, available to invest in new capital projects or repay existing debt (as set out in paragraph 7.17)
- (g) the intention to establish a corporate officer group, the Capital Investment Group (CIG), to improve the co-ordination of capital investment activities (as set out in paragraph 7.7 of the report)

Action

Chief Executive

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The Provost adjourned the meeting at 12.15 pm for 30 minutes.

Councillor Earle withdrew from the meeting at this point in the proceedings (12.15 pm)

When the meeting resumed at 12.45 pm, 16 members remained present.

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CC.186 PRUDENTIAL INDICATORS 2014/15 TO 2016/17

A report which updated and revised the indicators approved by Council last year in the context of the Council's latest spending plans over the period 2014/15 to 2016/17. The report described the purpose of each of the indicators and the implications of the proposed levels, values and parameters for Clackmannanshire Council.

Motion

That Council agrees the recommendations set out in the report.

Moved by Councillor Gary Womersley. Seconded by Councillor Craig Holden.

Decision

The Council agreed unanimously to approve the prudential indicators set out in the report for the years 2014/15 to 2016/17 in compliance with the Prudential Code requirements.

Action

Director of Finance and Corporate Services

EXEMPT INFORMATION

The Council resolved in terms of Section 50(A) of the Local Government (Scotland) Act, 1973, that the press and public be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the following item of business on the grounds that it involved the likely disclosure of exempt information as detailed in Schedule 7A, Part 1, Paragraph 9.

CC.187 PROVISION OF CARE AT HOME SERVICE FOR OLDER PEOPLE AND PEOPLE UNDER 65 WITH A PHYSICAL DISABILITY

A report which provided summary detail of the competitive tender process for the provision of Care at Home Services for older people and people under the age of 65 with a disability living in Clackmannanshire and Stirling was submitted by the Head of Social Services.

Motion

That Council agrees the recommendations set out in the report.

Moved by Councillor Gary Womersley. Seconded by Councillor Les Sharp.

Decision

The Council agreed unanimously to approve the recommendations set out in the report at paragraph 2.1 (a) and (b).

Action

Head of Social Services

ENDS 1.20 pm