



**MINUTES OF SPECIAL MEETING of the CLACKMANNANSHIRE COUNCIL held within
the Council Chamber, Kilncraigs, Greenside Street, Alloa, FK10 1EB, on THURSDAY 27
FEBRUARY 2020 at 9.30 am.**

PRESENT

Provost Tina Murphy (In the Chair)
Councillor Donald Balsillie
Councillor Martha Benny
Councillor Dave Clark
Councillor Chris Dixon
Councillor Kenneth Earle
Councillor Ellen Forson
Councillor Craig Holden
Councillor Darren Lee
Councillor Graham Lindsay
Councillor Kathleen Martin
Councillor George Matchett QPM
Councillor Jane McTaggart
Councillor Les Sharp
Councillor Derek Stewart

IN ATTENDANCE

Nikki Bridle, Chief Executive
Fiona McOmish, Strategic Director (People)
Fiona Duncan, Chief Social Work Officer (People)
Lorraine Sanda, Chief Education Officer (People)
Stuart Crickmar, Strategic Director (Partnership & Performance)
Lindsay Sim, Chief Finance Officer (Partnership & Performance)
Elizabeth Hutcheon, Management Accountancy Team Leader (Partnership & Performance)
Chris Alliston, Senior Manager, HR & Workforce Development (Partnership & Performance)
Emma Fyvie, Senior Manager, Development (Place)
Iain McDonald, Senior Manager, Environment (Place)
Andy Buchanan, Team Leader, Business Improvement (Place)
Lindsay Thomson, Senior Manager, Legal & Governance (Partnership & Performance)
(Clerk to the Council)
Gillian White, Committee Services (Partnership & Performance)

CC.282 APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Councillor Mike Watson and Councillor Chris Dixon.

CC.283 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

CC.284 BUDGET 2020/21 – TREASURY MANAGEMENT STRATEGY 2020/21

The report, submitted by the Chief Finance Officer, presented the Council's Treasury Management Strategy Statement for 2020/21 and Prudential Indicators for 2020/21 to 2024/2025.

Motion

That Council agrees the recommendations as set out in the report.

Moved by Councillor Ellen Forson. Seconded by Councillor Donald Balsillie.

Decision

The Council agreed to:

1. Approve the Treasury Management Strategy Statement for 2020/21 and prudential indicators for the years 2020/21 to 2024/25 in compliance with the Prudential Code requirements attached as Appendix A to the report;
2. Note that there will be a fundamental review of the agreed General Fund Capital programme and any impact on borrowing will be reported to Council;
3. Approve the changes to the accounting policies for the Loans Fund;
4. Note that future investment decisions will consider ethical investment opportunities; and
5. Note the investment portfolio position set out in Appendix B to the report.

Action

Chief Finance Officer

**CC.285 BUDGET 2020/21 – HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT BUDGET 2020/21
AND CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2020/21**

The report, submitted by Strategic Director (Place), presented the Housing Revenue Budget and Housing Capital Programme for the financial year 2020/21 and highlights the key factors influencing the budget.

Motion

That Council agrees the recommendations as set out in the report.

Moved by Councillor Jane McTaggart. Seconded by Councillor Donald Balsillie.

Decision

The Council agreed to:

1. Approve the summary revenue budget based upon the Council approved HRA financial Business Plan, as set out in Appendix 1;
2. Approve the Housing (HRA) capital programme 2020/21 and indicative programmes for the next four years, as set out in Appendix 2;
3. Approve a rent increase of 1.5% for Council houses for the financial year 2020/21, as set out in Appendix 6;

4. Approve the same level of increase (1.5%) to rental of lock-up garages, garage pitch-site rentals and associated tenancy charges, as set out in Appendix 6; and
5. Approve that the forthcoming review of the HRA financial business plan should assess the viability and affordability of the Council building new build Council houses, together with a review of rental strategy and policy.

Action

Strategic Director (Place)

CC.286 BUDGET 2020/21 – GENERAL SERVICES REVENUE AND CAPITAL BUDGET 2020/21

The report, submitted by the Administration, Chief Finance Officer and Chief Executive, presented the Administration's General Services Budget for 2020/21. The report built on the regular Budget Strategy Update reports and briefings presented to Council and the Audit and Services Committees throughout the year. The Council's financial sustainability has continued to be the focus of member and trade union briefings held throughout the year.

Motion

That Council agrees the recommendations as set out in the report.

Moved by Councillor Ellen Forson. Seconded by Councillor Donald Balsillie.

The Clerk advised that an Amendment had been received from Councillor Clark. The amendment had been received at 1.25 pm on Wednesday 26 February 2020 outwith the required deadline of 12 noon. The Clerk advised that while the content of amendment had been confirmed prior to the deadline, it had not been possible to have the amendment signed by Councillor Clark until 1.25 pm. In these circumstances, the Clerk asked the Provost if she would be prepared to allow the Council to consider the amendment.

Councillor Holden sought further information on the competency of the amendment, including whether there were exceptional circumstances.

Invited by the Provost, Councillor Clark addressed the Council and advised the circumstances were as the Clerk explained, that the amendment had been confirmed within the deadline of 12 noon and he had needed officer's support to ensure that the amendment would be competent.

The Provost was satisfied that there were exceptional circumstances as to why the amendment did not meet the deadline as set out in Standing Order 13.11 and allowed the Amendment to be put to Council.

Amendment

"It is recommended that Council agree

1. That recommendation 2.1.7 is amended as follows:-

The 2.75% increase in the level of Council tax for 2020/21, resulting in a band D Council Tax of £1,301.46

2. That appendix F is amended to increase the funding as follows:-

Partnership and Performance	The Gate Foodbank (Alloa)	Supporting Vulnerable Adults	Contract via Direct Award	£9,645 (an increase of £5000)
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3. That a new recommendation is added as follows:-

3.1.15 to develop a business plan for a performing arts academy start up at the Bowmar Centre, Alloa which will include full engagement of the community, and to establish an earmarked a revenue reserve of £25,000 for any initial costs.

4. That a new recommendation is added as follows:-

3.1.16 to establish a “fabric fund” for which eligibility criteria will be developed and brought back to Council and to earmark a revenue reserve for the fabric fund of £150,000 for repairs and maintenance at the following facilities:-

Dollar Hive, Dollar
Centenary Hall, Tillicoultry
Coalsnaughton Hall,
Devonvale Hall, Tillicoultry
Cochrane Hall, Alva
Dumyat Centre, Menstrie
Tullibody Civic Centre
Burgh Mews (Glebe Hall), Alloa
Clackmannan Hall

5. That a new recommendation is added as follows: -

3.1.17 to establish a Circular economy officer post within the Economic Development Team at an assumed cost of £55,000.

6. That the proposed amendments increase the budget gap by £301,000. Council therefore agree that recommendation 2.1.11 is amended to reduce the discretionary element of the resource transfer to the HSCP by the same amount thereby reducing the transfer from £19.041m to £18.740m which equates to growth of 9.7%.
7. That the S95 officer makes consequential amendments to the proposed budget summarised at recommendation 2.1.4 and appendices C, F & H to reflect these amendments and sustain a balanced position.”

Moved by Councillor Dave Clark. Seconded by Councillor Kenneth Earle.

Voting on Amendment

In terms of Standing Order 14.7, Councillor Holden 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 elected members present voted as follows:

For Amendment (5 votes)

Councillor Dave Clark
Councillor Kenneth Earle
Councillor George Matchett, QPM
Councillor Derek Stewart
Councillor Kathleen Martin

Against Amendment (10 votes)

Provost Tina Murphy
Councillor Ellen Forson
Councillor Donald Balsillie
Councillor Les Sharp
Councillor Graham Lindsay
Councillor Craig Holden
Councillor Helen Lewis
Councillor Jane McTaggart
Councillor Martha Benny
Councillor Darren Lee

The Amendment was defeated by 10 votes to 5.

In line with Standing Order 10.24, the Provost adjourned the meeting at 11.30 am. When the meeting resumed at 11.36 am, 12 members were present, Councillors George Matchett QPM, Derek Stewart and Kathleen Martin having withdrawn from the meeting during the adjournment.

Voting on the Motion

In terms of Standing Order 14.7, Councillor Holden asked for a roll call vote. The Council agreed that a vote be taken by calling the roll and at this stage there were 12 members present who were eligible to vote. On the roll being called, the elected members present voted as follows:

For the Motion (10 votes)

Provost Tina Murphy
Councillor Ellen Forson
Councillor Donald Balsillie
Councillor Les Sharp
Councillor Graham Lindsay
Councillor Craig Holden
Councillor Helen Lewis
Councillor Jane McTaggart
Councillor Martha Benny
Councillor Darren Lee

Against the Motion (2 votes)

Councillor Dave Clark
Councillor Kenneth Earle

The motion was carried by 10 votes to 2.

Decision

On a division of 10 votes to 2, the Council agreed:

1. the 'Be The Future' Programme (Appendix A);
2. that the Programme Governance Board is renamed the Be the Future Board in line with its developing remit and focus (paragraph 3.17);
3. the proposals for demand pressures (Appendix B);

4. the General Services Revenue Budget for 2020/21 (Appendix C);
5. the policy savings set out in Appendix D;
6. the 2020/21 Income and Charging Strategy and Register of Charges and the Schedule of Funding to Voluntary Organisations (Appendices E and F);
7. the 3% increase in the level of Council Tax for 2020/21, resulting in Band D Council tax of £1,304.63, (Appendix H);
8. the utilisation of £1.160m Capital Receipts from the Capital Receipts Reserve (paragraph 6.10);
9. to create a revenue Transformation Fund of £1.000m from uncommitted reserves (paragraph 6.7) and top up the existing Transformation Fund by £0.426m from Capital Receipts (paragraph 6.15).
10. the use of the Transformation Fund for the Health & Safety Management System (£0.011m) (paragraph 6.15);
11. a net resource transfer of £19.041m for HSCP in respect of 2020/21 (paragraph 6.24);
12. the continued utilisation of Capital Receipts to fund the permitted element of severance costs (paragraph 6.14);
13. approve £0.012m additional funding for Security at Kelliebank (paragraph 6.19); and
14. to establish earmarked reserves of £0.175m for 2020/21 to cover contractual repairs and maintenance costs and feasibility studies (paragraph 6.7).

The Council also agreed to note:

- that progress on the Be the Future Programme and Organisational Redesign will be reported regularly to Council through specific Be the Future update reports;
- the feedback from recent budget consultation and engagement activity detailed in section 4;
- that there has been no increase to the weekly rent for the travelling persons site (Appendix E);
- the anticipated level of uncommitted reserves of £4.542m by 31 March 2020 prior to setting the 2020/21 budget (paragraph 6.8);
- that £1.160m of Capital Receipts have been applied in setting the 2020/21 budget;
- that £0.660m of uncommitted general reserves have been applied in setting the 2020/21 budget;
- the balance of £3.882m in uncommitted General Services Revenue reserves after setting this budget which equates to 3% of net expenditure in line with the minimum level set by the Council's approved Reserve Strategy (paragraph 6.10);
- the cumulative indicative gap of £21.226m to 2024 following setting this budget, and a funding gap of £7.916m in 2021/22 (Exhibit 9);
- that the budget proposed for 2020/21 aims to deliver the Scottish Government's settlement package measures (paragraph 6.17);
- the demand pressures for the HSCP totalling £2.006m (Appendix I);
- that the agreed Capital Programme will remain under review and any changes required as a result of City Deal or other priorities will be reported to Council (paragraph 8.3); and
- that the Council's regular Budget Strategy and Be the Future Update reports will update Council on progress with implementing agreed proposals.

Action

Administration, Chief Finance Officer and Chief Executive

Ends: 12.05 pm