



MINUTES OF THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, MOSSLEY MILL ON MONDAY 1 MARCH 2021 AT 6.30 PM

- In the Chair** : The Mayor (Councillor J Montgomery)
- Members Present** : Aldermen – F Agnew, P Brett, T Burns, T Campbell, L Clarke
M Cosgrove, M Girvan, P Michael, J McGrath and J Smyth
- Councillors – J Archibald-Brown, A Bennington,
M Cooper, H Cushinan, P Dunlop, G Finlay, S Flanagan,
R Foster, J Gilmour, M Goodman, P Hamill, L Irwin, N Kelly,
R Kinnear, A M Logue, R Lynch, A McAuley,
N McClelland, T McGrann, V McWilliam, M Magill,
N Ramsay, V Robinson, S Ross, M Stewart, R Swann,
B Webb and R Wilson
- Officers Present** : Chief Executive - J Dixon
Director of Finance and Governance – S Cole
Director of Operations – G Girvan
Head of Finance – J Balmer
Borough Lawyer and Head of Legal Services – P Casey
Head of Leisure – M McDowell
ICT Manager - P Allan
Systems Support Officer – C Bell
Member Services Manager – V Lisk
Member Services Officer – S Boyd

MAYOR'S REMARKS

The Mayor welcomed Councillor McAuley to the Council and everyone to the Special Council Meeting, and reminded all present of the audio-recording protocol. He thanked the Finance Team for their hard work and dedication.

1 APOLOGIES

None

2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None

3. **LOCAL GOVERNMENT FINANCE ACT (NORTHERN IRELAND) 2011**

Members were reminded that under the requirements of the Local Government Finance Act (Northern Ireland) 2011* and the Prudential Code, the Council is required to have regard to a number of reports and to approve a range of indicators and strategies prior to the prescribed date for striking the rates, 1 March 2021.

*The amendment by the Local Government (Capital Finance and Accounting) (Coronavirus) (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2021, has changed the prescribed date to 1 March for the financial year beginning on 1 April 2021.

(a) FI/FA/6 Minimum Revenue Provision Policy 2021/22

Under Regulation 6 of the Local Government (Capital Finance and Accounting) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2011, councils have a statutory requirement to charge to their general fund an amount of Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP) which it considers to be 'prudent' in respect of the financing of capital expenditure.

A copy of the Council's MRP Policy 2021/22 was circulated.

Moved by Councillor McWilliam
Seconded by Councillor Webb and

RESOLVED - that the MRP Policy 2021/22 be approved.

ACTION BY: Richard Murray, Management Accountant

(b) FI/FA/7 Medium Term Financial Plan 2021/22 to 2023/24

The Prudential Code required the council to develop three-year revenue forecasts and three-year capital expenditure plans. These were shown in the Medium Term Financial Plan 2021/22 to 2023/24, a copy of which was circulated.

Moved by Councillor McWilliam
Seconded by Councillor Webb and

RESOLVED - that the Medium Term Financial Plan 2021/22 to 2023/24 be noted.

NO ACTION

(c) FI/FA/9 Report by the Chief Financial Officer on the Robustness of the Estimates and Adequacy of Reserves

Section 4 and 6 of the Local Government Finance Act (Northern Ireland) 2011 required the Council to have regard to a report, a copy of which was circulated from the Chief Financial Officer on the robustness of the estimates and adequacy of reserves when considering the estimates for the next financial year.

Moved by Councillor McWilliam
Seconded by Councillor Webb and

RESOLVED - that the Report by the Chief Financial Officer on the Robustness of the Estimates and Adequacy of the Reserves be noted.

NO ACTION

(d) FI/FA/5 Capital Strategy

The Prudential Code required the Council to develop a Capital Strategy which provided a high-level overview of the long-term context of capital expenditure and investment decisions and their associated risks and rewards along with an overview of how risk is managed for future financial sustainability.

A copy of the Capital strategy was circulated.

Moved by Councillor McWilliam
Seconded by Councillor Webb and

RESOLVED - that the Capital Strategy 2021/22 be approved.

ACTION BY: Ann Hamilton, Financial Controller

4. DRAFT REVENUE AND CAPITAL ESTIMATES 2021/2022

Moved by Alderman Cosgrove
Seconded by Councillor Webb and

RESOLVED – that the estimates for the year 2021/22 be approved and the expenditure included therein authorised and that the District Rates for the year commencing 1 April 2021 be fixed at 24.0406p and 0.3649p in the pound for non-domestic and domestic property respectively.

ACTION BY: John Balmer, Head of Finance

The Party Leaders, on behalf of their Groups, spoke in support of the proposal and, along with the Mayor, paid tribute to the Chief Executive, the Leadership Team and Officers for their continued hard work. They also thanked Members for continuing to work together for the residents and businesses of the Borough, making difficult decisions in challenging times.

The Mayor thanked everyone for their attendance and there being no further business on the agenda the meeting concluded at 6.48 pm.

MAYOR