

MID DEVON DISTRICT COUNCIL

MINUTES of a **MEETING** of the **CABINET** held on 19 November 2015 at 2.15 pm

Present

Councillors

C J Eginton (Leader)
R J Chesterton, N V Davey, P H D Hare-
Scott, C R Slade, Mrs M E Squires and
R L Stanley

Also Present

Councillor(s)

Mrs J Roach and F J Rosamond

Also Present

Officer(s):

Kevin Finan (Chief Executive), Andrew Jarrett (Head of
Finance), Catherine Yandle (Internal Audit Team Leader)
and Sally Gabriel (Member Services Manager)

87. APOLOGIES

There were no apologies.

88. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

There were no members of the public present.

89. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING (00-01-07)

The minutes of the previous meeting held on 22 October were approved as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

90. FINANCIAL MONITORING (00-02-15)

The Head of Finance updated the Cabinet with the following information: nothing had changed dramatically since the previous report, there was a projected overspend of £150k mainly due to a change in the valuation of GP surgeries which required a partial refund in business rates. In addition, redundancies were taking place in order to set a balanced budget for the following year.

Discussion took place regarding:

- The GP surgeries refund
- The amount held in reserves
- The contribution towards the Grand Western Canal
- The inability to make firm promises on future contributions because of the economic climate.

91. BUDGET UPDATE (00-06-07)

The Cabinet had before it a *report of the Head of Finance setting out options available in order for the Council to set a balanced budget for 2016/17 and to agree a future strategy for further budget reductions for 2017/18 onwards.

The Cabinet Member for Finance outlined the contents of the report stating that Service Managers had been tasked to produce savings and substantial savings had been found, however there was still a budget gap of £827k. It had been reported that the Treasury had reached agreement with four government departments, including the Department for Communities and Local Government, for an average of 30% cut in government funding over the next four years. There was no question that the formula grant would be cut and it was now likely that the Revenue Support Grant of £1.7m would disappear entirely by 2019/20.

Consideration was given to the following table:

Reconciliation of Major 2016/17 Budget Variances

Variances	Amount £000
<i>External items outside of our control</i>	
Reduced formula grant settlement	597
Increased pension contributions - auto enrolment	110
NIC rebate removed from contracted out pensions	180
NNDR GP surgery appeals	100
Pay award circa	100
Falling commodity prices for recycling	125
<i>Subtotal</i>	1,212
<i>Other changes</i>	
Deficit on our 2015/16 budget taken from reserves	187
Increase in sinking funds for asset replacement	132
Increased interest payable	78
Decrease in Collection Fund surplus	32
Income from garden waste scheme	(250)
Increased leisure income	(155)
Increased income from investments	(102)
Contributions from town and parish councils	(100)
Increase Council tax income	(95)
Other net savings	(112)
Draft budget gap for 2016/17	827

Discussion followed with regard to:

- The increase in sinking funds for asset replacement
- Increased income from investments
- The purchase of refuse and recycling vehicles
- Aspirations within the new Corporate Plan

RESOLVED that following consideration of the draft budget proposals for 2016/17, the report be **NOTED**.

(Proposed by Cllr P H D Hare-Scott and seconded by Cllr R J Chesterton).

Note: *Report previously circulated, copy attached to minutes.

92. **PERFORMANCE AND RISK REPORT FOR THE SECOND QUARTER OF 2015-16 (00-17-35)**

The Cabinet had before it and **NOTED** a * report of the Head of Communities and Governance providing Members with an update on performance against the Corporate Plan and local service targets for 2015/16 as well as providing an update on the key business risks.

The Cabinet Members identified issues within their portfolios:

Housing

- The number of affordable homes delivered.
- Rent recovery would be on target by the end of the financial year.

Leisure

- The percentage of leisure's operational expenditure recovered through customer receipts which were marginally below target.

Planning

- Major applications were below local targets but above Government target.
- Staffing levels were still below the norm and recruitment had proved difficult.
- Central Government were proposing changes to targets for minor and other applications within 8 weeks.
- Listed Building Consents were also below target as the capacity of the team had been affected by issues arising in Cullompton.

Working Environment

- Percentage of complaints acknowledged in 3 days was below target, a new system was in the process of being put in place.

Finance

- Council Tax collections were slightly below target as were the percentage total of NNDR collected monthly.

Discussion took place regarding planning enforcement and the length of time taken to deal with enforcement cases.

The Internal Audit Team Leader provided updated papers for Managing the Environment Policy Development Group which showed a below target figure for fixed penalties however the new waste scheme was performing well with an encouraging uptake on the chargeable garden waste scheme.

Note: *Report previously circulated, copy attached to minutes.

93. **NOTIFICATION OF KEY DECISIONS (00-31-27)**

The Cabinet had before it, and **NOTED**, its rolling plan for December containing future key decisions.

Members were informed of the following movements since the publication of the document:

- The addition of a report regarding Activation of the Severe Weather Emergency Protocol (SWEP) and Extended Winter Provision which would be discussed on 17 December.
- The Corporate Asbestos Policy had been removed as it had been amalgamated with the Asbestos Management Plan which had been discussed in October.

It was requested that reports requiring a decision by Council be clearly identified. (This would be actioned).

The Chief Executive informed the meeting that a report regarding devolution would go straight to an Extraordinary meeting of Council on 9 December and therefore the special meeting of the Cabinet arranged for 2 December would be cancelled.

Note: * Plan previously circulated, copy attached to minutes.

(The meeting ended at 2.52 pm)

CHAIRMAN