

CABINET

Tuesday, 10 December 2024

REDCAR & CLEVELAND BOROUGH COUNCIL

Decision Record

Decision-making body: Cabinet

Location: Civic Centre, Ridley Street, Redcar TS10 1TD

Date: Tuesday, 10 December 2024

Present	Councillor A Brown (Chair) Councillors A Brook, U Earl, C Massey, L Pallister, C Quartermain, L Robson and B Suthers.
Officials	B Archer, S Fenwick, S Newton, P Rice, J Sampson, C Styles, D Swainston and P Winstanley
In attendance	Councillors I Hart, J Joy, G Nightingale and M Ovens.
Apologies for absence	Councillors C Richardson (Vice-Chair).
Minutes	RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting held on 29 October 2024 be confirmed and signed by the Chair as a correct record.
Declarations of Interest	None

These minutes were published on 12 December 2024
by the Governance Director

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Item/report:	80. Budget Proposals 2025/26
Reporting source:	Managing Director (Head of Paid Service)
Record of decision:	RESOLVED that Cabinet:- <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Approves for consultation the revenue budget for 2025/26 and the indicative medium term financial plan through to 2029/30, as set out in this report;2. Agrees to consult on the investment programme with businesses in the Borough between 2024/25 and 2029/30;3. Agrees to consult on a 2.99% increase to Council Tax; and,4. Agrees to consult on a 2.00% increase to the Adult Social Care Precept.
Reason for the decision:	<p>This report set out Cabinet's budget proposals for the forthcoming 2025/26 financial year along with an indicative medium term financial plan through to 2029/30. These proposals were subject to consultation, with a final 2025/26 budget and council tax level being recommended by Cabinet on 11 February 2025 to the Borough Council for approval on 27 February 2025.</p> <p>Cabinet were advised that consultation with the public and businesses on the budget proposals would now take place. The Budget Proposals would include a transformation savings programme in order to address the significant impact of rising costs and increasing demand for many of the Council's services. This was set within the context of a one-year funding settlement from Government, which would not be provisionally published until late December and finalised in late January 2025.</p>
Assessment of options:	A wide range of options were explored when considering this report.
Declared conflicts of interest:	None
Date and time by which call-in must be exercised:	Midnight on 19 December 2024

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Item/report: 81. Fees and Charges 2025/26

Reporting source: Managing Director (Head of Paid Service)

Record of decision: **RESOLVED** that Cabinet:

1. Approves the fees and charges of the Council in respect of the 2025/26 financial year, as set out in the report;
2. Notes the approach adopted for fees and charges described, as set out in the report; and,
3. Notes the in-year approach to be taken for the setting of some fees and charges in future years, as described in the report.

Reason for the decision: This report set out the proposals for fees and charges for the forthcoming 2025/26 financial year along with details regarding new statutory and discretionary fees.

Cabinet were advised that the Local Authority was operating within challenging financial circumstances, with increased costs and demands for services alongside constraints in the grant funding awarded to Councils. This had resulted in less money to fund many services and had necessitated Councils placing a greater emphasis on raising income from the local tax base and looking at options to charge for more services.

As part of the financial planning process, Councils were required to carefully review the services which needed to be considered for charging, and the level of charges to be set to fund the costs of delivering these services. As part of this year's financial planning work, detailed conversations have taken place through an Elected Member Task and Finish Group.

Fees and charges provided an important income stream to the Council and were an essential element of the Medium-Term Financial Strategy. The CIPFA Financial Resilience Index showed that the Council raised the third lowest level of income from fees and charges as a proportion of service expenditure of all unitary authorities. Alongside this, there was significant pressures on the cost of delivering council services.

Cabinet were reminded that the Council's fees and charges for 2025-26 had been discussed through the respective directorate Scrutiny and Improvement Committees. Members of the Scrutiny & Improvement Committees were in attendance at the meeting and were given the opportunity to share the views and concerns of the respective Scrutiny and Improvement Committees regarding the proposed fees and charges.

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Assessment of options:

The Council considered a range of factors when addressing the level at which to set the price of fees & charges, including the ability of the individual service to recover its costs based on the volume of users and the price charged.

Whilst there was a general aim to break even from what was charged to what was spent, there continued to be some areas which had subsidised fees and charges.

Declared conflicts of interest:

Nones

Date and time by which call-in must be exercised:

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Item/report: 82. **Council Tax Base 2025/26 and the Council Tax Collection Fund Position for 2024/25**

Reporting source: Managing Director (Head of Paid Service)

Record of decision: **RESOLVED** that Cabinet:

1. Approves the tax base for 2025/26 for the Council, calculated as being the relevant gross and net amounts, after a 1.25% allowance for non-collection, property movement, and the notification and levying of additional premiums as analysed by parish and non-parish areas set out below and detailed in Appendix 1.

Area	Gross Tax Base	Net Tax Base
Non-Parish	36,470.0	21,146.3
Saltburn & Marske	9,185.0	6,488.6
Skelton & Brotton	6,144.0	3,912.3
Loftus	3,999.0	2,240.8
Lockwood	1,709.0	957.9
Guisborough	9,039.0	6,969.0
Total Borough	66,546.0	41,714.9

2. Approves the Council's share of the forecast surplus on the collection fund for council tax purposes of £0.207 million for the financial year 2024/25; and,
3. Approves notification to the Cleveland Police & Crime Panel and Cleveland Fire Authority of the tax base for 2025/26 and of their share of the forecasted surplus for 2024/25.

Reason for the decision: This report set out the Council's council tax base for the financial year 2025/26 and the estimated forecast outturn position for the council tax accounts 2024/25. This was a statutory requirement, and the information used within this report was an integral step in the budget setting process. If the council tax base was not set within the prescribed timescale, the Council would not be complying with the regulations and it would also jeopardise the budget setting of the other bodies involved who need this information so that they can set their own level of precept.

Assessment of options: A wide range of options were explored when considering this report.

Declared conflicts of interest: None

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Item/report: 83. Financial Update – Quarter 2 – 2024/25

Reporting source: Managing Director (Head of Paid Service)

Record of decision: **RESOLVED** that Cabinet:

1. Notes the forecast outturn position on the revenue budget and capital investment plan;
 - In terms of capital investment variations, Cabinet agreed to recommend to the Borough Council approval of additional Council resources of £1.605 million for the purchase of additional vehicles to replace those on hire to achieve savings over the life of the assets as detailed in the report and not reproduced.
2. Approve the revised position at Quarter 2 for Prudential Indicators used to measure performance for the Council's Treasury Management arrangements (as set out in the report and not reproduced);
3. Approve the itemised list of revenue budget virements (as set out in the report and not reproduced); and,
4. Approve the itemised list of capital budget virements (as set out in the report and not reproduced).

Reason for the decision:

Strong financial governance was the foundation of the Council's ability to deliver the Corporate Plan. Effective financial management of the budget aids the delivery of the Council's key priorities and objectives as stated in the Corporate Plan.

The Council maintained a medium-term financial strategy, which informed the Council's revenue and capital budgets and drives the Treasury Management Strategy.

Cabinet were reminded that the budget for this financial year was approved by the Borough Council on 29 February 2024. The Council's 2024/25 Budget was based on a 2.99% council tax increase and a 2% increase in the adult social care precept (which was approved within the national referendum limits of 3% for council tax and 2% for adult social care precept rises). The Council's available funding through council tax remained below the level the Government assesses as part of its definition of Core Spending Power in this financial year.

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This report therefore gave a forecast year-end position for the Council as at Quarter 2 of the 2024/25 financial year; covering the revenue budget, the collection fund, revenue reserves, the capital investment programme, the arrangements for Treasury Management, and approval requests for debt write-offs.

Assessment of options:

A wide range of options were explored when considering this report.

Declared conflicts of interest:

None

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Item/report:	84. Football Foundation Playzones Programme
Reporting source:	Executive Director of Growth Enterprise and Environment
Record of decision:	<p>RESOLVED that Cabinet:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Accepts the award of grant funding from the Football Foundation for the portfolio of Playzones and enter into any required funding agreements;2. Approves the funding arrangements for the delivery of the PlayZones (including the provision by the Council of match funding) and approves any resultant variations to the capital programme; and,3. Approves, subject to the award of funding for any of the PlayZones:<ol style="list-style-type: none">a) The procurement and award of contracts for the design and construction of each of the PlayZones, such contractors to be procured by the Council through the Football Foundations framework; and,b) Subsequent variations to any contract awarded for the delivery of the PlayZones as may be required, to ensure their delivery in accordance with the requirements of the funding arrangements subject always to the funding being available to fund the works.
Reason for the decision:	This report advised Cabinet of an external funding opportunity to develop new sport and physical activity facilities across the borough and sought approval (subject to a successful funding application) for the procurement, and award of all contracts necessary to deliver the project.
Assessment of options:	The alternative option was not to support the project, which would result in a reduction in the number of residents from areas of need, having access to local, modern and safe spaces to participate in sport and physical activity.
Declared conflicts of interest:	None
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Item/report:	85. Draft Guisborough Conservation Area Management Plan Consultation
Reporting source:	Executive Director of Growth Enterprise and Environment
Record of decision:	RESOLVED that Cabinet approves the publication of the Draft Guisborough Conservation Area Management Plan for a period of public consultation from 7 January 2025.
Reason for the decision:	<p>This report advised Cabinet of the Draft Guisborough Conservation Area Management Plan (Guisborough CAMP) and sought approval for the document to be published for a period of public consultation.</p> <p>Cabinet were reminded that Conservation areas were designated to provide protection to parts of the historic environment that were of special architectural or historic interest. To ensure these conservation areas were preserved or enhanced, Local Authorities were directed to formulate plans for their conservation.</p> <p>The Draft Guisborough CAMP fulfilled this requirement by illustrating the positives and negatives of the Guisborough Conservation Area and outlined how the Council would seek to preserve and enhance the historic interest and architectural character of the area. The report also set out the actions that would be undertaken to publicise the document.</p>
Assessment of options:	The alternative option of not producing a CAMP for Guisborough had not been considered. The Draft Guisborough CAMP had been produced in order to assist the Council in fulfilling its duties under the Planning (Listed Building and Conservation Areas) Act 1990. It was part of meeting the commitment to produce Conservation Area Management Plans for all of the conservation areas within the Council's area, which was expressed within the adopted Local Plan. It would only be adopted following community consultation and would also help to preserve the Conservation Area for the benefit of visitors and residents and, provide guidance to the community on how to carry out appropriate alterations to properties.
Declared conflicts of interest:	None
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Item/report:	86. Neighbourhood Strategy
Reporting source:	Executive Director of Growth Enterprise and Environment
Record of decision:	RESOLVED that the Neighbourhood Services Strategy be approved.
Reason for the decision:	This report advised Cabinet that the Neighbourhood Services Strategy set out the various services that contributed to delivering a clean, safe and well-maintained public realm that residents of the borough experience on a daily basis. The strategy took account of the current financial position of the Council and the resource levels that were presently available to deliver these services. It also set out the longer-term investment needed to maintain and improve services should this position change in the coming years.
Assessment of options:	Maintenance of the public realm contributes to all of the Council's priorities to varying degrees, as residents, businesses and visitors to the Borough are all affected by the provision of these services. Although many of these were either statutory services or essential to providing a safe environment, there could be a wide variation in the quality of services provided, depending on the human and financial resources available.
Declared conflicts of interest:	None
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Item/report:	87. Childcare Sufficiency Report 2024
Reporting source:	Executive Director of Children and Families
Record of decision:	RESOLVED that the Childcare Sufficiency Report 2024 be approved.
Reason for the decision:	<p>This report reminded Cabinet of the statutory obligations in respect of the Childcare Act 2016 which required Local Authorities to report annually on how they were meeting their duty to secure sufficient childcare and funded early years education places.</p> <p>The report also provided Cabinet with information on the supply and take up of childcare and the free early years' education entitlement for children aged 2, 3 and 4 years across Redcar and Cleveland.</p>
Assessment of options:	The Families Information Service will continue to promote the range of childcare and funding options available to parents with children of all ages, whether they are working or not, to maximise the benefits and possible savings for working families in the Borough and help Early Years Providers remain sustainable.
Declared conflicts of interest:	None
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Item/report: 88. Information Items

RESOLVED that the following items be approved and noted where necessary:

Delegated Decisions:

- Adults and Communities
- Children and Families
- Growth, Environment and Enterprise
- Resources