

66/05 - **DRAFT REVENUE BUDGET 2006/2007:** The Mayor referred to the procedural guidance issued by the Chief Executive, governing the proceedings of the Extraordinary meeting of the Council and the consideration of the draft budget for 2006/2007. In order to commence debate on the matter, the Leader would be called on to move Cabinet Minutes 117/05, 118/05, 119/05 and 124/05 which would then collectively become the Cabinet's proposed budget for the forthcoming year. For the information of Members, the relevant Minutes of the various meetings of the Overview and Scrutiny Commissions which had met during the current Committee cycle in order to consider the draft Revenue Budget had also been circulated with the agenda, but which would not, in accordance with the new procedures, require the formal receipt by Council. Following the Leader's address on the budget, the Leaders of the opposition groups would then be invited, should they so wish, to address the Council in respect of the budget for the forthcoming year and in accordance with Standing Order 13(5) the Leaders of the political groups would, if required, be permitted to exceed the normal time limit for their speech.

The Council would then address the notified budget amendments, together with any consequential amendments arising during the debate. In the event of a budget being unable to be agreed, then it would be necessary for the Leader to consider the views of Council and for a further Extraordinary meeting of the Council to take place on 22 February to reconsider the budget.

CABINET – 4 JANUARY AND 1 FEBRUARY 2006:

Moved by Councillor Dr Gardner Seconded by Councillor Cooper

That Cabinet Minutes 117/05, 118/05, 119/05 and 124/05 be approved and adopted.

Council then considered the following amendments pertinent to Cabinet Minutes 117/05 and 124/05.

Moved by Councillor Webber Seconded by Councillor Broadbank

The Council will set up a Starbeck Baths maintenance fund with an initial contribution of £50,000, funded by deleting the £30,000 proposed contribution to the Corporate Improvement Fund, deleting the recommended growth of £11,970 on the Tree Management Strategy and contributing up to £8,030 from 2005/2006 corporate underspends if these occur.

As an amendment to that in the names of Councillors Webber and Broadbank, it was:-

Moved by Councillor Dr Gardner Seconded by Councillor Pat Jones

Contingent upon a trust option for Starbeck Baths being successful, this Council commits £60,000 from any corporate underspends to a Starbeck Baths repair fund.

As an amendment to that in the names of Councillors Dr Gardner and Pat Jones, it was:-

Moved by Councillor Hoult

Seconded by Councillor Broadbank

That the words "contingent upon a trust option for Starbeck Baths being successful" be deleted from the amendment in the names of Councillors Dr Gardner and Pat Jones.

On a vote being taken on the further amendment in the names of Councillors Hoult and Broadbank, twenty Members voted in favour and thirty one against.

The Mayor declared the further amendment lost.

On a vote being taken on the further amendment in the names of Councillors Dr Gardner and Pat Jones, thirty Members voted in favour, fifteen against and there were six abstentions.

The Mayor declared the amendment carried to go forward as part of the substantive budget motion.

Moved by Councillor Webber

Seconded by Councillor Broadbank

The Council will reinstate the £3,000 cut to Holiday Tourism for 2006/2007, funded from 2005/2006 corporate underspends if these occur, with a view to making a contribution to any potential Yorkshire Forward tourism publication applicable to Harrogate District.

On a vote being taken on the amendment, twenty Members voted in favour and thirty one against.

The Mayor declared the amendment lost.

Moved by Councillor Williams

Seconded by Councillor Charlie Powell

Harrogate Borough Council will accept responsibility for funding the management costs of Ripon Leisure Centre in the same way as it accepts responsibility for those costs at the Hydro in Harrogate.

Accordingly, Harrogate Borough council will no longer require a contribution to the management costs from Ripon City Council of £17,100 and the proposed contribution to the working balance be reduced accordingly.

In moving the motion Councillor Williams sought to make it clear that Ripon City Council had yet to determine its policy in respect of meeting the future management costs of the centre and that the amendment had been submitted in order to highlight to the borough council, at an early stage, the financing issues faced by the City.

As an amendment to that in the names of Councillors Williams and Powell, it was:-

Moved by Councillor Dr Gardner

Seconded by Councillor Cooper

Harrogate Borough Council recognises that changes in 2006 in the funding arrangements for Ripon Leisure Centre could well pose financial problems for Ripon City Council and the Council will give sympathetic consideration to any request that the City Council may make to address these issues.

Councillors Williams and Powell indicated their acceptance of a further amendment which was then accepted by the Leader to go forward as part of the substantive vote on the draft Revenue Budget for 2006/07.

On a vote being taken on the adoption of the draft Revenue Budget for 2006/2007, thirty two Members voted in favour, twelve against and there were seven abstentions.

The Mayor declared the budget approved, subject to the following amendments:-

Contingent upon a trust option for Starbeck Baths being successful, this Council commits £60,000 from any corporate underspends to a Starbeck Baths Repair Fund.

Harrogate Borough Council recognises that changes in 2006 in the funding arrangements for Ripon Leisure Centre could well pose financial problems for Ripon City Council, and the Council will give sympathetic consideration to any request that the City Council may make to address these issues.

(The meeting concluded at 6.53 pm).