

**CABINET  
(FURTHER MEETING)  
HELD ON 1 FEBRUARY 2006  
(FROM 5.30 PM TO 6.05 PM)**

**PRESENT:** Councillor Dr Gardner in the Chair. Councillors Jean Butterfield, Cooper, Ellington, Pat Jones and Skidmore.

**Late Arrivals:** None.

**Early Departures:** None.

120/05 - **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:** There were no apologies for absence.

(5.31 pm)

121/05 - **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:** Councillor Cooper declared a personal interest relating to any reference on the agenda to Harrogate International Centre arising from the use of the facility by his employer for conference purposes. The Chief Executive declared an interest in respect of Minute 133/05 below arising from the membership of his wife of the Harrogate Cricket Club and left the room during the consideration of the matter.

The Member Services Manager declared an interest in respect of Minute 130/05 below arising from family connections with staff associated with the payroll function.

(5.31 pm)

122/05 - **MINUTES:** The Minutes of the meeting of Cabinet held on 4 January 2006 were unanimously approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

(5.31 pm)

123/05 - **EXEMPT INFORMATION:** The report referred to at Minute 133/05 below together with the relevant appendices of the report referred to in Minutes 130/05 and 132/05 were regarded as exempt in accordance with paragraphs 7, 8 and 9 of Schedule A to the Local Government Act 1972 as amended. Discussions on the items were, however, held in open session.

(5.31 pm)

**MATTERS REFERRED TO COUNCIL FOR CONSIDERATION**

124/05 - **DRAFT GENERAL FUND REVENUE BUDGET 2006/07:**

- (a) In accordance with the Council's budget and policy framework procedure rules, the Chair of the Council Resources Overview and Scrutiny Commission, Councillor A Jones, submitted a written report detailing the comments from the three Overview and Scrutiny Commissions regarding

the Executive's budget proposals for the General Fund Revenue Budget 2006/07. In speaking to the matter, the Chair directed Cabinet to, in particular, Appendix C to the report which provided an overall summary of the comments of the Commissions and in respect of which no alternative budget proposals or amendments had been identified and, therefore, indicated support from Overview and Scrutiny for the proposed budget for 2006/07.

**RECOMMENDED (UNANIMOUSLY):**

That (1) the report be received; and

(2) the Commission and Cabinet Members together with Officers be thanked for their work in the presentation and consideration of the Draft General Fund Revenue Budget 2006/2007.

(5.32 – 5.34 pm)

- (b) Further to Minute 117/05 the Head of Financial Management submitted a written report on the latest position in relation to the 2005/2006 Revised Estimate and the 2006/2007 Revenue Budget. In respect of the latter Cabinet were advised that the final RSG Settlement for Harrogate for 2006/2007 was £10.083m, an increase of £4,753 on the provisional figure of £10.079m.

Having considered under (a) above the observations of Scrutiny on the proposed Revenue Budget for 2006/2007 Cabinet were asked to confirm the level of Council Tax increase for the forthcoming financial year together with the options in order to achieve an associated balanced budget. In re-affirming these options identified at its meeting held on 4 January, Cabinet agreed a net budget for 2006/07 of £22,031,000 which would result in a Council Tax increase of 4.4% and a contribution to the working balance of £34,620.

Section 12 of the report detailed the outcome of stakeholder consultation taken towards the end of 1995 in relation to the Council's budget policy.

**RECOMMENDED (UNANIMOUSLY):**

That (1) the items of discretionary growth previously identified to be funded from 2005/06 corporate underspends be confirmed;

(2) the General Fund Revised Estimate for 2005/06 as set out in Section 5 be approved;

(3) a total net budget of £22,031,000 with an equivalent council tax increase of 4.4% be approved for 2006/07;

(4) the discretionary growth items for inclusion in the 2006/07 Revenue Budget as previously identified be confirmed together with the inclusion of further

growth provision of £7,500 to reflect new burdens associated with the Electoral Administration bill;

(5) the following options for achieving a balanced budget be confirmed:-  
Local Authority Business Growth Incentive £200,000  
Concessionary Travel – reduced contingency sums £80,000  
Additional car parking income £60,000  
Single Status Reserve – reduced contribution £18,000  
Vehicle purchases – defer restoration of capital funding £58,000  
Public conveniences – reduced provision £16,000  
Holiday Tourism – reduced marketing £3,000  
Mayoralty – reduced hospitality £2,000

(6) the risk assessment on the working balance as set out in Appendix 1 be endorsed; and

(7) the outcome of the stakeholder consultation be noted.

(5.34 – 5.39 pm)

*(NB: Minute 124/05 dealt with at Extraordinary Council on 8 February 2006)*

**125/05 - HOUSING INVESTMENT PROGRAMME 2006/2007:** The Head of Financial Management submitted a written report which reviewed the current year's latest expenditure position under the Housing Investment Programme for 2005/06 and sought approval for a programme of capital expenditure for the year 2006/07. The Head of Housing reminded Cabinet of the Investment Programme adopted for the current year, amended to take account of slippage from the previous year, the latest forecast of expenditure on which was £7,710,780. The enhanced programme had been delivered at a time when efficiency savings in internal commissioning costs had been achieved, through a combination of the effects of the Housing Division's restructure, implemented in 2005/06, and the benefits of revised procurement and delivery methods also introduced that year. Cabinet wish to place on record its appreciation to the Property Services Manager, Stephen Hargreaves and his staff in delivering the current year's programme.

Section 7 of the report outlined the proposed programme for the ensuing year, totalling expenditure of £4,553,580 the outline programme for which was identified in Section 7 of the report in respect of which the Cabinet Member for Housing would be requested to approve the detailed programme of planned maintenance and improvements.

### **RECOMMENDED (UNANIMOUSLY)**

That (1) the current expenditure position for 2005/06 be noted;  
(2) the outline Housing Investment Programme for 2006/07 be approved;  
(3) the Cabinet Member for Housing approve the 2006/07 detailed programme of planned maintenance and improvement schemes; and

(4) the Cabinet Member for Housing approve expenditure from the commuted sums reserved for suitable projects as and when they are identified.

(5.39 – 5.43 pm)

126/05 – **CAPITAL PROGRAMME – NON-HOUSING SERVICES 2006/07 –**

**2008/09:** The Head of Financial Management submitted a written report in connection with detailed capital spending proposals as recommended by the appropriate Portfolio Holders, within the target levels approved in the Autumn of 2005 for the period 2006/07 to 2008/09. Details of the schemes, to be financed by the Revenue Budget, together with the target levels given in the report, and, in addition those other schemes shown in Section 8 of the report and excluded from the target level.

**RECOMMENDED (UNANIMOUSLY)**

That (1) the individual Capital Programmes and schemes for 2006/07 as shown in Appendix 2(a) be approved;

(2) the funding levels for these schemes as shown in Appendix 2(b) be approved;

(3) the individual Committee programmes for 2007/08 and 2008/09 as shown in Appendix 2(a) be approved in principle only;

(4) the progress of the additional schemes not included in target levels shown in Appendix 3(a) be noted;

(5) the funding levels for those schemes shown in Appendix 3(b) be noted;  
and

(6) the position with regard to the monitoring of Capital Expenditure and financing in 2005/06 shown in Appendices 4 and 5 be noted.

(5.43– 5.45 pm)

127/05 **TREASURY MANAGEMENT ANNUAL STRATEGY, ANNUAL INVESTMENT STRATEGY, PRUDENTIAL BORROWING INDICATORS**

**2006/07:** The Head of Financial Management submitted, in accordance with the CIPFA Code of Practice on Local Authority Treasury Management and Financial Regulation 21, the Treasury Management Annual Strategy, Annual Investment Strategy and Prudential Borrowing indicators for 2006/07. In acquainting Members with the objectives of Treasury Management, the report also briefly outlined the broad strategy proposed for the ensuing year.

**RECOMMENDED (UNANIMOUSLY)**

That the report on Treasury Management Annual Strategy be received and the Annual Investment Strategy and Prudential Borrowing Indicators be approved.

(5.45 pm)

128/05 **BEST VALUE PERFORMANCE PLAN 2006/07:** The Executive Director, Corporate Policy Improvement submitted a written report in connection with the second and final draft of the Best Value Performance Plan 2006/07, following its consideration by the Council Resources Overview and Scrutiny Commission on 17 January 2006. No comments had arisen from that consultation and the plan would therefore go forward for approval by Council at its meeting to be held on 1 March 2006.

The Executive Director, Corporate Policy and Improvement, explained work undertaken in summarising and condensing the plan and agreed, for future plans, to provide Cabinet Members with a plan in CD ROM format, with a hard copy being available on request.

**RECOMMENDED (UNANIMOUSLY)**

That (1) the final draft of the Best Value Performance Plan 2006/07 be approved; and

(2) the proposed changes to the distribution of the plan to Members be agreed.

(5.45 pm – 5.49pm)