

## MINUTES OF THE CABINET OVERVIEW WORKING GROUP HELD ON

1 December 2016

7.30 - 9.14 pm

### PRESENT

#### Overview Working Group Members

Councillor Ian Beckett (Chair)  
Councillor Mark Ingall (Vice-Chair)  
Councillor David Carter  
Councillor Simon Carter  
Councillor Michael Garnett  
Councillor Stefan Mullard  
Councillor Clive Souter  
Councillor John Strachan  
Councillor Rod Truan

#### Officers

Simon Freeman, Head of Finance  
Donna Beechener, Revenues and Benefits Manager  
John Dyson, Principal Finance Manager  
Lisa Purse, Corporate and Governance Support Officer

#### 18. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

None.

#### 19. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

#### 20. MINUTES

**RESOLVED** that the minutes of the meeting held on 20 October 2016 be agreed as a correct record subject to adding Councillor David Carter to Agenda Item 7 'apologies for absence'.

#### 21. MATTERS ARISING

None.

#### 22. TREASURY MANAGEMENT STRATEGY REVIEW

The Overview Working Group received a report, from Simon Freeman, Head of Finance, on the Treasury Management Strategy Review. John Dyson, Principal Finance Manager, introduced and summarised the report.

The Group discussed current financial markets, the Council's current financial position and the role of Arlingclose, the Council's financial advisors.

**RESOLVED** that:

- A. the Working Group noted the report and the underpinning principles that support the Council's Treasury Management Strategy.
- B. whilst the Working Group identified no specific issues, it did note the volatility and unpredictability of the current financial situation set out by Officers and Advisors and expressed that it would be willing to consider any critical additional interim reports, for diligence and overview, should there be a requirement.

23. **LOCAL COUNCIL TAX SUPPORT SCHEME**

The Overview Working Group received a report, from Simon Freeman, Head of Finance, on the Annual Review of the Local Council Tax Support Scheme (LCTSS). Donna Beechener, Revenues and Benefits Manager, introduced and summarised the report.

In response to questions from Councillors, Donna provided more details on the consultation methodology that had taken place on Government changes to support including the period for which a person can be absent from Great Britain and still receive Council Tax support, Work Related Activity allowance and the Severe Disability Premium.

Councillors discussed the recommendation to reduce the period for which a person can be absent from Great Britain and still receive Council Tax Support to four weeks (Bi). The discussions included possible exceptions to the rule and the implications involved in not approving the recommendation.

**RESOLVED** that the Overview Working Group:

- A. acknowledged the current position regarding the 2016/17 Local Council Tax Support Scheme and endorses continuing stability within the scheme for 2017/18.
- B. recommended to Cabinet that, following the results of the consultation process, the scheme is amended with effect from 1 April 2017 as follows:
  - i. reduce the period for which a person can be absent from Great Britain and still receive Council Tax Support to four weeks

- ii. remove the element of a Work Related Activity Component in the calculation of the current scheme for new Employment and Support Allowance applicants
  - iii. remove entitlement to the Severe Disability Premium where another person is paid Universal Credit (Carers Element) to look after them
- C. recommended to Cabinet that the proposal to remove the Family Premium in calculating an award of Local Council Tax Support is deferred for a further 12 months.
- D. recommended to Cabinet that the proposal to limit the number of dependent children within the calculation for Council Tax Support to a maximum of two is deferred for 12 months.

24. **WORK PLAN**

The Cabinet Overview Working Group received a report that outlined its Work Plan for the current year.

The Group discussed the practical reasons why the Economic Development Strategy Work Group had not been able to meet as often as desired.

**RESOLVED** that:

- a) the 2016/17 Work Plan is noted.
- b) it is unlikely that the Interim Report of the Economic Development Strategy would be considered at the January meeting of the Cabinet Overview Working Group.

25. **MATTERS OF URGENT BUSINESS**

None.

CHAIRMAN OF THE OVERVIEW  
WORKING GROUP