



MINUTES

A&B - PUBLIC

Policy and Resources Committee
Council Chamber, Town Hall, Lerwick
Wednesday 25 November 2015 at 2pm

Present:

G Robinson	B Fox
G Cleaver	A Cooper
S Coutts	G Smith
T Smith	M Stout
V Wishart	

Apologies:

C Smith

In Attendance:

M Boden, Chief Executive
H Budge, Director of Children's Services
C Ferguson, Director of Corporate Services
N Grant, Director of Development Services
M Sandison, Director of Infrastructure Services
J Belford, Executive Manager – Finance
C McIntyre, Executive Manager – Audit, Risk and Improvement
J Riise, Executive Manager – Governance and Law
J Robinson, Executive Manager – Occupational Therapy
R Sinclair, Executive Manager – Capital Programme
K Adam, Solicitor
J Jamieson, Risk Management Officer
B Kerr, Communications Officer
L Adamson, Committee Officer

Also in attendance:

A Manson
A Wishart

Chairperson

Mr Robinson, Leader, as Chair of the Committee presided.

Circular

The circular calling the meeting was held as read.

Declarations of Interest

None

73/15 **Audit Scotland and other External Audit Reports – Best Value Reports**

The Committee considered a report by the Executive Manager – Audit, Risk and Improvement (IA-30-15-F), which presented the Audit Scotland Best Value reports recently issued to Falkirk Council and Aberdeen City Council.

The Executive Manager – Audit, Risk and Improvement introduced the report.

During debate, the Leader advised on the importance to consider learning points from other Local Authorities.

Decision:

The Committee noted the contents of the report.

74/15 **Executive and Corporate Services Department Performance Report: 6 Month/2nd Quarter 2015/16**

The Committee considered a report by the Director of Corporate Services (CRP-24-15-F), which summarised the activity and performance of the Executive and Corporate Services Department for the reporting period above.

In referring Members to the table on Page 2 of the report, the Director of Corporate Services provided updates on a number of the key priorities from the Corporate Plan, which are either being led or supported by Corporate and Executive Services. In referring to the appendices, the Director of Corporate Services advised that the focus will be on improved reporting on narrative and in terms of outcomes on the Corporate Plan, and tie-in better with the Directorate Plans.

During debate, the Leader commented that he was heartened to note the improved reporting on sickness absence in Executive and Corporate Directorates, and that overall, the performance on indicators at Quarter 2 was very good. A Member advised that he welcomed the reassurance from the Director of Corporate Services on the shift to outcome focused reporting.

Decision:

The Committee noted the contents of the report.

75/15 **Corporate Risk Register**

The Committee considered a report by the Executive Manager – Audit, Risk and Improvement (IA-25-15-F), which presented the current Corporate Risk Register that was reported to the Risk Board on 6 October 2015.

The Executive Manager – Audit, Risk and Improvement summarised the main terms of the report.

A Member commented that the risks associated with capital investment were an accurate assessment, given the financial challenges that will be faced in years to come.

Decision:

The Committee noted the content of the current Corporate Risk Register and the change in timescale for reporting the Corporate Risk Register to this Committee.

76/15 **Asset Investment Plan**

The Committee considered a report by the Executive Manager – Capital Programme (CPS-21-15-F), which advised the Council on the progress on the projects contained within the Asset Investment Plan (AIP).

The Executive Manager – Capital Programme introduced the report.

Mr Robinson moved that the Committee approve the recommendation contained in the report. Mr Coutts seconded.

Decision:

The Committee **RECOMMENDED** that the Council notes the progress on the projects within the AIP.

77/15 **Management Accounts for Policy and Resources Committee: 2015/16 – Projected Outturn at Quarter 2**

The Committee considered a report by the Executive Manager – Finance (F-064-F), which enabled monitoring of the financial performance of services within its remit to ensure that Members are aware of the forecast income and expenditure and the impact that this will have with regard to delivering the approved budget.

The Executive Manager – Finance introduced the report. In referring to Appendix 1, he reported on the projected overspend on Fund Managers Fees, where as a consequence on the increased value of the funds under their control, the Council can expect increased fees this financial year compared to budget. In response to a question, the Executive Manager – Finance explained that Fund Managers' fees are part of the draw from reserves, which is adjusted based on investment return assumptions.

Decision:

The Committee **RESOLVED** to review the Management Accounts showing the projected outturn position at Quarter 2.

78/15 **Overall Shetland Islands Council Management Accounts: 2015/16 – Projected Outturn at Quarter 2**

The Committee considered a report by the Executive Manager – Finance (F-070-F), which enabled monitoring of the financial performance of all Council services to ensure that Members are aware of the forecast income and expenditure and the impact that this will have with regard to delivering the approved budget.

In introducing the report, the Executive Manager – Finance referred Members to the table at Section 3.5, where he highlighted the £3.8 million reduction in projected outturn draw on reserves for 2015/16 against the revised budget. In response to a question, he confirmed that there will be a requirement for some carried forward. The Executive Manager - Finance provided a summary of the projected outturn variance position at Quarter 2 on the Housing Revenue Account, General Fund and Harbour Account, as detailed in Appendix 1. The Executive Manager – Finance advised that the Council is in a good place to conclude the financial year in control of finances and there is confidence to move forward positively.

In referring Members to Appendix 3, the Executive Manager - Finance advised that the contingency and cost pressure budget has been used in part, and will continue

to be reviewed and reported to Corporate Management Team and to this Committee.

In responding to a question in regard to the loss of the income to the Harbour Account, it was acknowledged that had the Harbour Account performed accordingly the draw on the General Fund would have been considerably less.

During the discussion and in response to questions, the Executive Manager – Finance provided clarity on a number of areas that required the drawdown of contingency during 2015/16. He also advised on a number of factors that could have brought about reduced utilisation of the organisational change fund during 2015/16

On the motion of Mr Robinson, seconded by Mr Fox, the Committee approved the recommendation in the report.

Decision:

The Committee **RECOMMENDED** that the Council resolve to review the Management Accounts showing the projected outturn at Quarter 2.

79/15

Council Reserves – 2015/16 Mid Year Performance Review Report

The Committee considered a report by the Executive Manager – Finance (F-067-F), which allowed for review of the mid-year investment position and performance of the Council's long term external investments, managed on its behalf by Fund Managers.

The Executive Manager – Finance summarised the main terms of the report, where Members noted that Council investments reduced in value by £19 million, to a value of £261 million, over the period April to September 2015. The Executive Manager – Finance reported to Members on the poor performance of the Fund Managers during this period, however he gave assurance that meetings will be taking place with Fund Managers and these would include seeking explanations about market conditions and why they have not performed against benchmarks.

During debate, the Leader referred to Section 3.5 of the report, where Members noted that over the six month period £2 million has been added to the reserves, being a cash injection from the Council's bank account.

The Committee noted the contents of the report.

Decision:

The Committee **RESOLVED** to consider the outcome of the mid-year review.

80/15

Executive and Corporate Services Directorate Plan 2016/17

The Committee considered a report by the Director of Corporate Services (CRP-25-15-F), which presented the Executive and Corporate Services (E&CS) Directorate Plan for 2016/17, describing how the Services plan to deliver key actions, manage key risks and report and manage progress and performance through the coming year.

The Director of Corporate Services introduced the report. In referring to the Directorate Plan at Appendix 1, the Director of Corporate Services explained that

while E&CS will contribute to all the key priority areas in the Corporate Plan, the new Anderson High School will be the focus going forward. The Director of Corporate Services advised on the Directorate Aims and Priorities that will be the core business for E&CS, where the focus at this time is on the Asset Investment Plan, Workforce Development and Procurement.

In referring Members to the Performance Indicator relating to “FOI requests responded to in 20 days” at Appendix B, the Director of Corporate Services advised that C&ES deal with the most FOI requests received by the Council, which is increasingly time consuming. She advised that whilst no additional resources are being proposed for this area, a drive will be made for more information to be published on the Council’s Website so that it can be readily available to requestors and the public. She added that this move will contribute towards the Council’s public reporting framework activity, and help improve transparency and dialogue with communities. A Member advised that he welcomed this approach, and went on to advise on the importance of sharing relevant information and for dialogue through social media to be a two way process. During the discussion, the Director of Corporate Services reported that the Communications Team are looking at different ways of making information available to the public and staff, and Community Planning and Development are working to develop Local Area Forums in localities to ensure various information is available at different places to different groups in the public arena. The Leader advised that he supported the approach for more information to be in the public domain, as it will help improve the transparency of the Council.

A Member enquired on the impacts that the budget savings required for 2016/17 will have on delivery of the key actions in the Directorate Plan. The Director of Corporate Services reported that there will continue to be impacts on the Services’ ability to do development work, and for next year there is concern on how the Workforce Strategy will be implemented. In terms of actual activity, she advised that as the number of auditors in the Audit, Risk and Improvement Service have been reduced, there is a reduced Audit Plan going forward, and a decrease in follow-up Audits and changes to that process. She advised that the focus for the Improvement Team to support other departments had been affected, due to reduced resources, where there could be no proposals to lead on projects. She advised that Services will struggle to react to any unexpected pieces of work, where in doing so there would be slippage on other projects. In response to a question, the Director of Corporate Services confirmed that the Risk Register is under constant review, where she proposed an addition to the Register relating to opportunity costs.

In response to requests for clarity on the budget and financial information on staff numbers and net expenditure in the table on Page 18, the Executive Manager – Finance explained that the budgets relay different information, as the figures for 2016/17 captures the pay awards announced this year.

Mr Robinson moved that the Committee approve the recommendations contained in the report. Mr Coutts seconded.

Decision:

The Committee **RESOLVED** to:

- Review and discuss the contents of the E&CS Directorate Plan 2016/17, making any suggestions for amendment or further update.
- Delegate authority to the Director of Corporate Services to make any necessary adjustments to the E&CS Directorate Plan to ensure it is fully aligned with the final version of the Council's Corporate Plan and Medium Term Financial Plan approved by Council.

81/15

2016/17 Budget and Charging Proposals – Policy and Resources Committee

The Committee considered a report by the Executive Manager – Finance (F-075-F), which concerned the controllable budget proposals for the services within the Committee's remit.

In introducing the report, the Executive Manager – Finance advised on the joint working across the Council to bring together budget proposals in line with the Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP) and the objectives and outcomes in the Corporate Plan. He confirmed that the target savings of £213k from Corporate and Executive Services have been met, and reflect the expectation of 2% savings in 2016/17, with details on the changes and impacts to the Services reported in Appendix 2, and Appendix 3 presents the schedule of charges associated with Policy and Resources Committee.

In referring to Appendix 2, a Member sought further detail where the savings would impact across the budget service headings. The Director of Corporate Services reported that there have been a number of operational changes, some reduction in staff, service restructuring, and more focus to reduce costs associated with training, travel, subsistence and mileage.

Mr G Smith reported on his concern at the format of budget reporting, where it does not compare existing and proposed budget, or inform on any impacts on budget areas. He advised on the different approaches that have been taken at each of the functional Committees to achieve the savings, and on the need for improved understanding on the effects of savings on direct and support services, and the need for Members to have sufficient information to make political judgements. The Executive Manager – Finance advised that the reporting format was similar than last year, however he confirmed that information can be presented differently in the future, and work will take place with officers and Members to ensure the appropriate level of information is presented to make informed decisions. The Chief Executive commented that should the amount of additional budget information presented warrant an alternative meeting plan, he would support such a change.

During debate, Members advised on further areas for improved reporting going forward, to include detail on the impacts of the savings on the Council's priorities, impacts on the Directorate Plans, and more detail in terms of narrative to support the outcomes focus. During the discussion, the Leader suggested that the budget process and community engagement could start at an earlier stage next year. A Member referred to the work done by Directorates over the last two years to achieve savings while trying to protect frontline services, where he said that in order to meet the 3.3% savings going forward it is important that officers and Members work together to meet the targets set.

On the motion of Mr Robinson, seconded by Mr Stout, the Committee approved the recommendations in the report.

Decision:

The Committee **RECOMMENDED** that the Council resolve to approve the budget proposals for 2016/17 included in the report and set out in detail in the Budget Activity Sheet and Schedule of Charges.

82/15

2016/17 Housing Revenue Account Budget and Charging Proposals

The Committee considered a report by the Executive Manager – Finance (F-080-F), which presented the budget proposals for the Housing Revenue Account (HRA).

In introducing the report, the Executive Manager – Finance advised that the budget has been set taking account of the principles in the HRA 30 Year Business Plan and the Medium Term Financial Plan, and he informed Members on the proposed rental levels for 2016/17.

In response to a question, the Director of Development Services reported that the feedback from the Tenants Forum during the 2015/16 Consultation was general satisfaction with the rent increases proposed.

(Mr A Wishart attended the meeting).

On the motion of Mr Robinson, seconded by Mr Fox, the Committee approved the recommendation in the report.

Decision:

The Committee **RECOMMENDED** that the Council resolves to approve the budget proposals for 2016/17 included in the report and the Schedule of Charges.

83/15

2016/17 Budget and Charging Proposals – Social Services Committee

The Committee considered a report by the Executive Manager – Finance (F-077-F), which enabled consideration of the controllable budget proposals for the services within the Social Services Committee's remit, which will in turn contribute towards ensuring that the Community Health and Social Care Directorate meets its target operating budget, set out in the proposed Medium Term Financial Plan for 2015-2020.

The Executive Manager – Finance summarised the main terms of the report.

In response to a question from the Leader, the Executive Manager – Finance undertook to seek clarity as to whether the schedule of charges, at Appendix 2, had been set against national guidance or benchmarks.

In response to a question regarding the statement in Section 4.4, that provision has been made for two FTE posts to administer Self Directed Support, the Executive Manager – Finance advised that the appointments would only be made following approval of the 2016/17 budget.

In responding to a question relating to the one Directorate activity currently ranked as Red, the Director of Corporate Services advised on the uncertainty at this time in terms of the NHS budget to the Integration Joint Board where for next year it has not been identified where savings will be made.

Mr Robinson moved that the Committee approve the recommendation contained in the report. Mr Fox seconded.

Decision:

The Committee **RECOMMENDED** that the Council resolve to approve the budget proposals for 2016/17 included in the report and set out in detail in the Budget Activity Sheet and Charging Sheet.

84/15 **Chair's Report: 2016/17 Budget and Charging Proposals**
Education and Families Committee – 23 November 2015

The Committee considered a report by the Chair of Education and Families Committee (P&R-2511-E&FC), which concerned the controllable budget proposals for the services within the Committee's remit, which will in turn contribute towards ensuring that the Children's Services and Development Directorates meet their target operating budgets, as set out in the proposed Medium Term Financial Plan for the period 2015-2020.

Ms Wishart moved that the Committee approve the recommendation contained in the report. Mr G Smith seconded.

Decision:

The Committee **RECOMMENDED** that the Council resolve to approve the recommendations from Education and Families Committee, as part of the overall budget setting exercise.

85/15 **Chair's Report: 2016/17 Budget and Charging Proposals**
Development Committee – 23 November 2015

The Committee considered a report by the Chair of Development Committee (P&R-2511-DC), which concerned the controllable budget proposals for the services within the Committee's remit, which will in turn contribute towards ensuring that the Development Directorate meets its target operating budget, as set out in the proposed Medium Term Financial Plan for the period 2015-2020.

Mr Cooper moved that the Committee approve the recommendation contained in the report. Mr T Smith seconded.

Decision:

The Committee **RECOMMENDED** that the Council resolve to approve the recommendations from Development Committee, as part of the overall budget setting exercise.

86/15 **Chair's Report: 2016/17 Budget and Charging Proposals**
Environment and Transport Committee – 24 November 2015

The Committee considered a report by the Executive Manager – Finance (P&R-2511-E&TC), which concerned the controllable budget proposals for the services within the Committee's remit, which will in turn contribute towards ensuring that the Infrastructure and Development Directorates meets their target operating budgets, as set out in the proposed Medium Term Financial Plan for the period 2015-2020.

In introducing the report, Mr Stout advised on the additional pressure to identify a funding mechanism for internal ferries.

Mr Stout moved that the Committee approve the recommendation contained in the report. Mr Coutts seconded.

Decision:

The Committee **RECOMMENDED** that the Council resolve to approve the recommendations from Environment and Transport Committee, as part of the overall budget setting exercise.

87/15

Chair's Report: 2016/17 Budget and Charging Proposals
Harbour Board – 25 November 2015

The Committee considered a report by the Executive Manager – Finance (P&R-2511-HB), which concerned the controllable budget proposals for the services within the Board's remit, which will in turn contribute towards ensuring that the Harbour Board meets its target operating budget, as set out in the proposed Medium Term Financial Plan for the period 2015-2020.

The Leader advised on the decision from Harbour Board, whereby the Board recommended that the Policy and Resources Committee and Council approve the budget proposals for 2016/17 included in the report and set out in detail in the Budget Activity Sheet. The Board approved the tables of Dues, subject to further amendment, which includes, that the previous charging arrangement for the Boat Hoist be reinstated based on length, updated by inflation, which is more in line with industry practice; and the "Landing Disc for under 15gt vessels" be continued, but that the gross tonnage of the vessel be reduced to 5gt and under. The Leader confirmed that the revised Table of Dues, with all amendments, will be presented to the Council meeting in December.

The Leader moved the decision from Harbour Board in that regard. Mr Stout seconded.

Decision:

The Committee **RECOMMENDED** that the Council approve the budget proposals for 2016/17 included in the report and set out in detail in the Budget Activity Sheet, and

Approve the Table of Dues, subject to further amendment, as discussed at the Harbour Board, which includes the following:

- That the previous charging arrangement for the Boat Hoist be reinstated based on length, updated by inflation, which is more in line with industry practice; and
- The "Landing Disc for under 15gt vessels" be continued, but that the gross tonnage of the vessel be reduced to 5gt and under.

88/15

Chair's Report: 2016/17 Budget and Charging Proposals
Shetland College Board – 25 November 2015

The Committee considered a report by the Executive Manager – Finance (P&R-2511-SCB), which concerned the controllable budget proposals for the services within the Board's remit, which will in turn contribute towards ensuring that the Development Service meets its target operating budget, as set out in the proposed Medium Term Financial Plan for the period 2015-2020.

In introducing the report, Mr Cleaver advised on the recognition from the recent HMI inspection in regard to the weaknesses with the current management structure of the Shetland College, which he stated will have to be addressed.

Mr Cleaver moved that the Committee approve the recommendation contained in the report. Mr G Smith seconded.

Decision:

The Committee **RECOMMENDED** that the Council resolve to approve the recommendations from Shetland College Board, as part of the overall budget setting exercise.

89/15

Proposed Five-Year Asset Investment Plan 2016-2021

The Committee considered a report by the Executive Manager – Finance (F-081-F), which set out the proposed sustainable capital budget for the Council over a five-year period from 2016-2021 in line with the Capital Investment Planning Policy set out in the proposed Medium Term Financial Plan for the period 2015-2020.

In introducing the report, the Executive Manager – Finance drew Members' attention to Section 4, which informed on the proposals to meet the funding of the Plan, where he confirmed that the programme is affordable in line with the Council's financial objectives.

In response to questions, the Director of Infrastructure Services reported that work has started on the street lighting inspection programme to identify heads to be replaced as LEDs which will help to generate revenue saving, and will require less maintenance and that in turn will deliver energy savings. The Director of Infrastructure Services advised on the duty to respond to any safety issues, and that the replacement element is still built into the Asset Investment Plan.

In response to a question, the Director of Development Services reported that the ferry replacements identified in the Plan are clearly necessary, and will be funded through borrowing, which is still to be fully taken account in the Medium Term Financial Plan and revenue budget forecasts.

During debate, Mr Cleaver said that on behalf of the communities in the North isles he welcomed the inclusion of the Ferry Replacements in the Asset Investment Plan, while he acknowledged the difficulty to balance the significant funding requirements with the other projects in the Plan. He also advised of his concern in regard to the timescale and processes around funding the new Eric Gray Centre, particularly with the service redesign ahead. In referring to the further opportunity to raise issues at the Council meeting, Mr Robinson moved that the Committee approve the recommendations in the report. In seconding, Mr G Smith advised on the assurance given that the Levenwick Road will be considered in due course.

Decision:

The Committee **RECOMMENDED** that the Council resolves to:

- Approve the capital budget proposals for 2016/17 included in the report and set out in detail in Appendix 1; and

- Adopt Appendix 1 as the Council's 5-Year Asset Investment Plan 2016-2021, subject to any requirements of the Council's gateway process and continuing efforts to resolve the net deficit.

90/15

Shetland Islands Council Budget Book 2016/17

The Committee considered a report by the Executive Manager – Finance (F-078-F), which set out the spending plans for Shetland Islands Council in the next financial year.

In introducing the report, the Executive Manager – Finance advised that the budget as presented is an accumulation of the work that Corporate Management Team have done to drive a process based upon the financial projections made. He reported on the assumption on the General Fund relating to the expected cash reduction from the Scottish Government of slightly over 1.5% in cash terms, which he considered a reasonable approach. The Executive Manager – Finance advised that the budget proposals take account of an investment return from reserves of approximately £12m, cost pressures of the pay award, national insurance contributions and pension costs. The Executive Manager – Finance also referred to the recommendation that Council Tax is frozen at the current levels, for the ninth year. He advised on the savings required of 2% agreed in the terms of the Medium Term Financial Plan to allow this budget to be presented, and that the proposals presented are an affordable position with a gross return annually of 7.3% on financial resources invested over a long-term period.

The Executive Manager – Finance drew Members' attention to Appendix 3, which presented detailed information from the budget engagement exercise "Building Budgets 2015". He reported that although participation represented only 1% of Shetland's population, it was important to recognise the value of the feedback in terms of comments received. He confirmed that the information had been shared with Directors in preparation of their 2016/17 budgets and will be taken into account in future years to understand what is important to the population of Shetland.

In response to a question, the Executive Manager – Finance advised that at this time there has been no formal announcement from the Scottish Government on the Council Tax freeze. However the Leader advised on the expectation that the Council Tax freeze will continue for one more year, and reported that a cross party commission will be presenting proposals on Local Government taxation during the first quarter of 2016/17.

In response to questions, the Executive Manager – Finance reported that the findings from Building Budgets 2015 had been shared with Directors to allow consideration of the information in their budget setting, where he acknowledged that the extent to which the feedback could impact on decision making would vary across Directorates. He advised Members that the feedback received generally supported the priorities in the Corporate Plan.

During the discussion, a Member commented that it would have been useful to have sight of the findings from the Building Budgets exercise at an earlier stage. In referring to the table on page 8 and 9, the Member highlighted the significant differences in regard to proposed savings and budget changes across all Council areas from the different respondent groups and Ward areas, which he stated does not take cognisance of what has been presented in the Medium Term Financial Plan for 3.3% savings to be equally applied to all services.

In response to comments from a Member, the Director of Corporate Services reported that further analysis will be undertaken on the findings of Building Budgets 2015 to better inform decision making going forward.

In referring to the recommendations in the report, a Member questioned whether the Council should recommend approval of the Budget in advance of confirmation on the Scottish Government's settlement. In his response, the Executive Manager – Finance said that he remained confident that the assumptions made are suitable for the next financial year, and would allow Directors to move on with services for 2016/17. The Leader advised that the Council has approached each year with a degree of uncertainty on a number of areas that are beyond the Council's control, and there have always been benefits of setting the budget at an early stage. The Chief Executive said that the budget predictions made at this stage are good, with the likelihood that they will turn out to be reasonably accurate, however he said that any major changes could be reported to Members. He added that the advance setting of budgets at this time would allow Directors lead in time to implement their budgets.

In response to a question, it was advised that the expected date for the Scottish Government's finance settlement is 16 December.

During debate, a Member said that he welcomed the commitment from the Director of Corporate Services on the further analysis to be undertaken of Building Budgets 2015. He suggested that for future years other funding organisations should be encouraged to participate. He also suggested that a hard copy of the analysis from the exercise should be circulated to Community Councils, as it would be a useful tool for discussion in the current climate.

In referring to the recommendations in the report, Mr G Smith advised of his concern as to whether it would be tactically and strategically wise for the Council to approve its budget only a fortnight ahead of when the Scottish Government's announcement will be made, where the perception could be that the Council is prepared to deal with whatever settlement is given. In that regard, Mr G Smith moved that the Committee approve the recommendations in the report, with the proviso that Recommendation 2.1 is changed to read, "Approving the Council Budget Book 2016/17, in principle".

During the discussion, some Members advised of their support for approving the Council's budget, in principle, until the Scottish Government's finance settlement has been announced. The Leader proposed that the Council consider the recommendations in the report at the earliest date after the announcement is made. It was further agreed that the Budget Book would be presented to the Council meeting on 16th December, or to a special meeting as soon as possible thereafter, and that the Executive Manager – Finance present an analysis from the financial settlement, by way of a supplementary paper to Members at that time. The Committee concurred.

Decision:

The Committee **RECOMMENDED** that the Council resolves to approve the budget proposals and the proposed charging for 2016-17 subject to any further changes recommended as a result of the local authority settlement for 2016/17.

The meeting concluded at 4.50pm

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Chair