

Worthing Borough Council

Record of the Decisions taken by the Executive at its meeting held at the Town Hall, Chapel Road Worthing

6 February 2017

Councillor Daniel Humphreys (Leader)
Councillor Bryan Turner (Deputy Leader)

Councillor Heather Mercer
*Councillor Clive Roberts

Councillor Mark Nolan
Councillor Val Turner

*= absent

W EX/001/16-17 Declarations of interest

Councillor Bryan Turner declared his interest as a member of West Sussex County Council.

W EX/002/16-17 Public Questions

There were no members of the public present at the meeting.

W EX/003/16-17 Items raised under Urgency Provisions

There were no urgent items.

W EX/004/16-17 Worthing Overall Budget Estimates 2016/17 and Setting of 2016/17 Council Tax

The Executive had before it a report by the Director for Digital and Resources, attached to the signed record of these decisions as item 4.

The report represented the culmination of the annual budget exercise and asked the Executive to consider the following:

- The final revenue estimates for 2017/18 including any adjustments arising from settlement;
- An updated outline 5-year forecast;
- The provisional level of Council Tax for 2017/18, prior to its submission to the Council for approval on the 21st February 2017.

The budgets reflect the decisions taken by Members to date in relation to agreed savings proposals and any committed growth. The report also updated Members about the impact of the draft 2017/18 settlement.

The major points raised within the report included:

- A full update on the impact of settlement. The Council should prepare itself for a continuation of the reduction in Government resources for another 2-5 years

(Section 3.2 of the report) ;

- Identified that the Executive will need to consider whether to increase Council Tax by maximum level possible of £5.00 (2.27%) or by a lower amount (detailed in paragraph 5.10);
- Identified that the Executive needs to consider the new growth item in paragraph 5.11.

The budget was presented by Executive Member portfolio. The draft estimates for 2017/18 had been prepared, as usual, in accordance with the requirements of the Service Reporting Code of Practice for Local Authorities (except in relation to pension costs adjustments that do not impact either on the budget requirement of the Council Tax requirement).

The Prime and Crime Commissioner has consulted on an increase to the council Tax for 2017/18 of £5.00 or 3.36%. The proposed 2017/18 budget was considered by the Sussex Police and Crime Panel (PCP) on 20 January 2017 and an increase of £5.00 was approved.

The comments of the Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 26 January had been emailed to all Executive members for their attention.

The Director presented the report drawing attention to the budget position and the impact the reducing grant would have over the next few years. For the forthcoming year, the Director identified at paragraph 5.10 options available to the Executive suggesting that a 2% increase, amounting to 8p per week, would ensure that the Council had a balanced budget and fund some new initiatives.

The Executive Member for Resources proposed an increase of 2% in council tax for 2017/18 which was seconded.

There was a discussion on the proposed increase and the recommendations before the meeting.

Decision the Executive

- (i) Approved the growth item detailed at paragraph 5.11;
- (ii) Agreed to **recommend** to Council the draft budgets for 2017/18 at Appendix 5 as submitted in Executive Member Portfolio order, and the transfer to Reserves leading to a net budget requirement of £13,468,630;
- (iii) Agreed to **recommend** to Council an increase of 2% making Band D for Worthing Borough Council's requirements in 2017/18 as set out in paragraph 12.3 of £224.64 per annum.

Reason for Decision

Statutory requirement to set a budget

Alternative Options considered

As detailed in the report; a growth bid was considered.

Call-in

There is no call-in for this decision as it is a recommendation to Council.

The meeting ended at 6.39 pm having commenced at 6.30pm.

Leader