

Cabinet – Supplementary agenda No.2

A meeting of the Cabinet will be held on:

Date: 10 February 2015

Time: 3.00pm

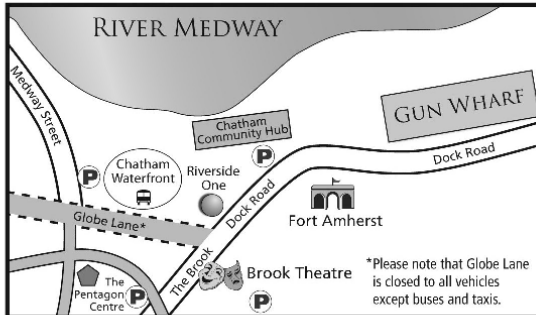
Venue: Meeting Room 2 - Level 3, Gun Wharf, Dock Road, Chatham ME4 4TR

Items

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|----|--|-----------------------|
| 7. | Housing Revenue Account Capital and Revenue Budgets 2015/2016 – Addendum Report | (Pages 3 - 4) |
| 8. | Refresh of Council Plan Performance Indicators 2015/2016 Addendum Report | (Pages 5 - 8) |
| 9. | Capital and Revenue Budgets 2015/2016 – Addendum Report | (Pages 9 - 10) |

For further information please contact Wayne Hemingway/Anthony Law, Democratic Services Officers on Telephone: 01634 332509/332008 or Email: democratic.services@medway.gov.uk

Date: 6 February 2015



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বাংলা	331780	ગુજરાતી	331782	ਪੰਜਾਬੀ	331784	کوردی	331841	ارو	331785	Русский	332374
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CABINET

10 FEBRUARY 2015

HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT CAPITAL AND REVENUE BUDGETS 2015/16 – ADDENDUM REPORT

Portfolio Holder: Councillor Howard Doe, Housing and Community Services

Report from: Robin Cooper, Director of Regeneration, Community and Culture

Report Authors: Marc Blowers, Head of Housing Management
Mick Hayward, Chief Finance Officer

Summary

This addendum report updates Cabinet on the discussions which took place on the Housing Revenue Account budgets and Business Plan at the Business Support Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 3 February 2015.

1. Background

1.1 The Business Support Overview and Scrutiny Committee considered this report on 3 February 2015.

1.2 The Head of Housing Management introduced this report which presented the Housing Revenue Account (HRA) revenue budgets for 2015/2016 and:

- contained details of the proposed 3 year capital programme budget;
- provided details of proposed rent and service charges levels for 2015/16;
- provided an update on the HRA Business Plan which was an integral part of the strategic planning and setting of priorities for the HRA Service.

1.3 Members welcomed in particular the proposal to move to a three-year capital works budget programme instead of an annual programme and felt this would be more helpful for tenants, officers and councillors.

- 1.4 The Committee agreed to recommend to Cabinet
- a) a proposed average rent increase of 2.2% for the housing stock as set out in Appendix A to the report (based upon 50 collection weeks) and a rent increase of 1.2% for garages.
 - b) the harmonisation of all garage rents, charging across all garage sites managed by the HRA Service specifically those as set out as per Appendix B to the report.
 - c) that the service charges and increases as set out in appendix C of the report for 2015/16 be approved
 - d) that the revenue budget for the HRA Service for 2015/16 as per Appendix D to the report be approved.
 - e) that the provision for the repayment debt continues to be based on a minimum revenue payment of 2% on the 2015/2016 HRA opening outstanding debt.
 - f) that a three year capital programme as set out in paragraph 8.5 of this report be agreed.
 - g) to increase the 2015/16 HRA housing building development programme amount by the 2014/2015 MRP payment as set out in paragraph 9.4 of the report.
 - h) to adopt the attached HRA Business Plan 2014 – 2044 as at Appendix E to the report.

Lead officer contacts

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CABINET

10 FEBRUARY 2015

REFRESH OF COUNCIL PLAN INDICATORS 2015-2016 – ADDENDUM REPORT

Portfolio Holder: Councillor Alan Jarrett, Deputy Leader and Finance

Report from: Stephanie Goad, Assistant Director Communications,
Performance and Partnerships

Author: Corporate Performance and Intelligence Hub

Summary

This addendum report updates Cabinet on the discussions on the Council Plan which took place at the Business Support Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 3 February 2015.

1. Background

- 1.1 The Assistant Director Communications, Performance and Partnerships introduced this report which asked members to consider the proposed suite of Council Plan indicators, with the committee's views being reported to Cabinet on the 10th February 2015, alongside the 2015/16 budget proposals.
- 1.2 The following indicators were discussed in detail:
- *The percentage of children permanently excluded from school*
- 1.2.1 It was suggested this be removed as many schools were outside the control of the council and also the target was difficult to understand. Members asked if it could be expressed as both the number of children and a percentage and also clarify that it related to all schools including academies. Other members felt that the target should be retained as it was still a useful statistic for the council to be aware of even if it did relate to non council controlled schools. It was agreed the target should be made more meaningful and retained.
- *Percentage of children who were absent from school for more than 15 percent of the school year*
- 1.2.2 Again it was suggested this be removed but other members argued against this and for its retention particularly as it was a key indicator for Ofsted to scrutinise. Officers agreed to clarify if it related to authorised and unauthorised absences, express the target in terms of numbers and clarify if academies were included. Members questioned whether 85% was too low and impacted on school performance.

- *Carer satisfaction with adult social care services*

1.2.3 It was agreed that the target should be retained at its current level of 46% otherwise moving to the national average of 42.7% represented a drop.

- *The percentage of service users who report they have control over their daily life*

1.2.4 It was agreed this should be retained provided it could be demonstrated that this was a meaningful target and did not involve any additional work for officers given that it formed part of a survey the Council was required to undertake.

- *The proportion of carers who felt that they had been included or consulted in discussions about the person they care for*

1.2.5 It was agreed that the current target of 75% should be retained.

- *Percentage of opiate users that left drug treatment successfully (free of drug(s) of dependence)*

1.2.6 Members felt this target appeared to have been set at a very low level. Confirmation would be sought from the Director of Public Health that the target was appropriate and had been built into the new contract.

- *Number of cardiovascular health checks completed.*

1.2.7 Members queried the relevance to the council of cardiovascular checks but proposed no change after the commissioning role of public health in this matter was explained.

1.3 Generally, Members found the removal of indicator numbers unhelpful and asked for them to be reinstated. The report to Council would summarise which measures and targets were outstanding, why and when the information would be available. Members were happy overall with the plan and its state of development, and felt it compared favourably with a few years ago when no target information was available or targets were not challenging enough.

2. Assistant Director's comments

2.1 Further clarification has been sought from the appropriate service leads for each of the indicators queried above as appropriate.

- *The percentage of children permanently excluded from school*

2.1.1 To remain consistent with national reporting Academies are included in this measure. The use of percentages for this indicator matches the format for national data for this measure. Due to the low numbers of children captured by this measure, presenting this indicator in actual numbers would be challenging as any return of 5 children or less would require the figure to be suppressed (which would cause monitoring issues). It is therefore recommended that the indicator to remain in this format, with actual figures provided where this is deemed appropriate.

- *Percentage of children who were absent from school for more than 15 percent of the school year*

2.1.2 This indicator reports the authorised and unauthorised absence of pupils at state-funded primary, secondary and special schools (maintained & academy). These figures are calculated from locally collected persistent absence returns and should be treated as provisional until national data is published.

2.1.3 From the beginning of the next academic year 2015/16, the government is reducing the persistent absence threshold from 15 per cent to 10 per cent. Currently persistently absent pupils are defined statistically according to the absent sessions threshold – presently 56 or more sessions of absence for the full academic year. The Department for Education’s absence statistical first release for the autumn term 2014 is scheduled to be published in May 2015. Medway Council will fall in line with these changes in the persistent absence return. This will commence in the new financial year, ready to be incorporated in the term 4 collection.

2.1.4 It is therefore recommended that this measure be titled to “The percentage of children who were persistently absent from school” and the target changed to ‘TBC’. In line with the forthcoming national changes to persistent absence thresholds from 15% to 10%, a target will be set in Q1 when the first national data is released in May 2015.

- *Carer satisfaction with adult social care services / who felt that they had been included or consulted in discussions about the person they care for*

2.1.5 The Care Act 2014 which will be implemented from April 2014 has extended the Council’s duties around support for Carers. Given the current financial constraints and a potential increase in demand for carers services it is recommended to set our ambitions accordingly – in this case, in line with the national average.

- *Percentage of opiate users that left drug treatment successfully (free of drug(s) of dependence)*

2.1.6 The current target set at 8% will put Medway in the top quartile against comparator Local Authorities, and is inline with what is built into the performance management sections of the contract with the current service provider. It is therefore recommended that the target remain the same.

3. Recommendations

3.1 That the Cabinet consider the comments of the Business Support Overview & Scrutiny Committee on the Council Plan Indicators for 2015-16 (Appendix 1) and Key projects for 2015-16 (Appendix 2);

3.2 That Cabinet considers the specific recommendation by officers in response to comments of the Business Support Overview & Scrutiny Committee to amend the indicator *Percentage of children who were absent from school for more than 15 percent of the school year*.

3.2 That Cabinet note that Members of the the Business Support Overview & Scrutiny Committee agreed with the overall proposals and felt it compared favourably with previous versions of the Council Plan scrutinised by the Committee.

Lead officer contact

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CABINET

10 FEBRUARY 2015

CAPITAL AND REVENUE BUDGETS 2015/16 – ADDENDUM REPORT

Portfolio Holder: Councillor Alan Jarrett, Deputy Leader and Finance

Report from: Mick Hayward, Chief Finance Officer

Summary

This addendum report updates Cabinet on the budget discussions which took place at the Business Support Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 3 February 2015.

1. Background

- 1.1 The Business Support Overview and Scrutiny Committee considered a report on the capital and revenue budgets 2015/2016 on 3 February 2015.
- 1.2 The Chief Finance Officer introduced a report which presented the draft capital and revenue budgets for 2015/16, which were based on the principles contained in the Medium Term Financial Plan 2014/18 approved by Cabinet and reflected the latest formula grant assumptions announced as part of Local Government Finance Settlement 2014/2015 and 2015/2016 Technical Consultation in July 2014.
- 1.3 The Committee agreed to note the draft capital and revenue budgets for 2015/16, proposed by Cabinet on 2 December 2014, insofar as they affected the Committee.
- 1.4 The Committee also considered the comments and recommendations of all Overview and Scrutiny Committees on the initial budget plan for 2015/16 proposed by Cabinet on 2 December 2014.
- 1.5 The Health and Adult Social Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee at its meeting on 11 December 2014 had agreed to recommend to Cabinet that the 2 WTE vacant administrative posts in the Mental Health Social Work Team be reinstated, thereby bringing the establishment back to 3 WTE.
- 1.6 Members were advised that there were 5 posts in this section and Cabinet were being recommended, at its meeting to be held on 10 February, to delete 2 of these posts. However, the two vacant posts the Health and Adult Social Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee had asked to be reinstated were still budgeted for but had not been unfrozen.
- 1.7 Members supported the decision of the Health and Adult Social Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee to ask Cabinet to reinstate these two posts.

1.8 The Committee:

- (1) noted the comments from the Overview and Scrutiny Committees on the budget.
- (2) agreed to support the recommendation made by the Health and Adult Social Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee that Cabinet reinstate 2 WTE vacant administrative posts in the Mental Health Social Work Team and to forward this decision to Cabinet.

2. Additional recommendation for Cabinet

- 2.1 The Cabinet is requested to authorise the recruitment to the 2 WTE vacant administrative posts in the Mental Health Social Work Team that remain funded.

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