

EXECUTIVE

5 JANUARY 2021

Present:

Cllrs Connett (Leader), Dewhirst (Deputy Leader), J Hook, Keeling, Jeffries, MacGregor, Purser, Taylor and Wrigley

Members in Attendance:

Cllrs G Hook and Swain

Officers in Attendance:

Phil Shears, Managing Director

Martin Flitcroft, Chief Finance Officer & Head of Corporate Services

Tracey Hooper, Revenue, Benefits & Fraud Manager

Fergus Pate, Principal Delivery Officer

Charles Acland, Self Build Project Officer

Sarah Selway, Democratic Services Team Leader & Deputy Monitoring Officer

Christopher Morgan, Trainee Democratic Services Officer

These decisions will take effect from 10.00 a.m. on 12 January 2021 unless called-in or identified as urgent in the minute.

1. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 1 December 2020 were approved as a correct record and will be signed at the earliest convenience.

2. NATIONAL LOCKDOWN

The Managing Director advised of the actions that the Council were taking in response to the announcement of the National lockdown. He directed Members and residents to the Councils website for initial inquiries and information.

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

4. EXECUTIVE FORWARD PLAN

The Leader advised that a report on Striving for 60% Recycling for Teignbridge would be on the agenda for Executive in March.

RESOLVED that the Forward Plan be noted.

5. INITIAL FINANCIAL PLAN PROPOSALS 2021/22 TO 2023/24

The Leader stated that this was the initial budget report and that in light of the evolving position with the pandemic and the announcement of a lockdown, there could be a requirement to review the initial budget which may result in additional Committee meetings.

The Executive Member for Corporate Resources presented the report to consider the initial financial plan proposals 2021/22 to 2023/24 to be published for comments over the next six weeks. He thanked officers for their work to produce a balanced budget.

The Chief Finance Officer outlined the current budget position and the savings that would need to be found in future years. He confirmed that the New Homes Bonus would continue for another year but there was no details of what could replace it going forward.

The Leader brought attention to the proposed increase to car parking charges, some extension to winter charges and the introduction of charges in some free car parks. This proposal formed part of the public consultation process.

RECOMMENDED to Council that it approves the council tax base of 48,410 for 2021/22 at appendix 2 of the circulated report.

The vote was unanimous.

6. COUNCIL TAX REDUCTION SCHEME FOR 2021/22

The Executive Member for Corporate Resources presented the report to notify members of a proposed change to the Council Tax Reduction Scheme for 2021/22 and the supporting Discretionary Discount and Exceptional Hardship policy.

The Revenue, Benefits and Fraud Manager highlighted the main change to the Council Tax Reduction Scheme which was to increase flexibility to make provision to disregard any emergency increases to the levels of welfare benefits made by Government.

RECOMMENDED to Council that:

- (1) the current [Council Tax Reduction Scheme](#) be adopted for the year 2021/22 with the one proposed change set out in this report; and
- (2) the revised Discretionary Discount and Exceptional Hardship Scheme (see appendix A) be adopted from 1 April 2021.

The vote was unanimous.

7. NOTICE OF MOTION - PREFERENCE VOTING INCLUDING PROPORTIONAL REPRESENTATION

Cllr Swain presented his Notice of Motion on Preference Voting including proportional representation submitted to [Full Council on 23 November 2020](#). He commented that first past the post was not a fair system, it was disproportionate and that the voting age should be reduced to age 16 to improve democratic participation and accountability.

Members supported the Notice of Motion and felt that proportional representation and lowering the voting age to 16 would promote better engagement with local democracy and give young people a voice.

RECOMMENDED to Council:-

- (1) To call upon Her Majesty's Government by writing to the Home Secretary, and the Prime Minister urging them to:-
 - a. commit to changing electoral law to permit such a move.
 - b. Introduce such a system of voting in any reforms to local government presented to Parliament; and
- (2) To write to Teignbridge's two MPs to ask them to call for changes in electoral law to permit such a system and promote the matter for debate in Parliament.

The vote was unanimous.

8. LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION) ACT 1985 - EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

RESOLVED that under Section 100(A)(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the press and public be excluded from the meeting for the following item of business on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Act.

The Executive Member for Sport, Culture and Recreation left the meeting at this point.

9. CUSTOM BUILD HOMES AT HOWTON FIELD, NA1

The Executive Member for Planning in presenting the report regarding the Custom Build Homes at Howton Field proposed an amendment to recommendation (1) that the Planning Executive Member and Housing Executive Member also be consulted.

This was agreed by Executive.

RESOLVED that:-

- (1) Delegated authority be granted to the Head of Place and Commercial Services in consultation with the other members of the Officer Panel, the Planning Executive Member and Housing Executive Member to appoint a development partner in accordance with the tender process addressed in this report and to complete the associated agreements; and
- (2) Delegated authority be granted to the Head of Place and Commercial Services to make minor changes to the tender documents provided at Appendices 2, 3 and 4 of the circulated report.

The vote was unanimous.

The meeting started at 10.00 am and finished at 11.01 am.

Chair