

COUNCIL MEETING – 26 NOVEMBER 2009

The decisions set out in these minutes will come into force, and may then be implemented, on the expiry of three working days after the publication of the decision, unless the decision is subject to call-in.

Date of publication: Monday, 23 November 2009

CANTERBURY CITY COUNCIL

**Minutes of a meeting of the EXECUTIVE
held on Thursday, 19 November 2009 at 6.30 pm
at The Guildhall, Westgate, Canterbury**

Present: Councillor Gilbey, Leader of the Council
Councillor Austin
Councillor Doyle
Councillor Ellis
Councillor Lee
Councillor Patterson
Councillor A Taylor
Councillor Vickery-Jones

**Other Member present
for the meeting** Councillor A Perkins

E133 AUDIO RECORDING OF MEETING

The Leader pointed out that the meeting was being recorded for subsequent broadcast via the council's website and that the public speakers at the meeting would not be recorded if they did not wish that part of the recording to appear in the broadcast.

E134 APOLOGY FOR ABSENCE

An apology for absence was received from Councillor Law.

E135 DECLARATION OF ANY INTERESTS

There were no declarations by Members of any interests at the meeting.

The Head of Culture and Communications had declared a personal interest in the item regarding proposed loans to Kent County Cricket Club because her relatives owned a property opposite the cricket ground.

E136 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

The Leader reported that there were two public speakers for the meeting for the items regarding the proposed loans to Kent County Cricket Club and the General

Fund Revenue Budget. He indicated that they would be heard immediately before the consideration of the relevant item

E137 ANNOUNCEMENTS

- (a) The Leader reported that the council had successfully bid for funding to assist sole traders and local businesses in expanding their markets in France and Belgium. He said that through the Transmanche Enterprise Network we could pay towards translation on websites, provide a one-off session with a European trade specialist, deliver workshops and seminars, provide specific financial assistance and language support.
- (b) The Leader reported that he had attended the opening of the Innovation, Creativity Enterprise (ICE) at the Canterbury Innovation Centre. He said that this is a great addition to the support service of the City, working with the University.

E138 MEMBERS' QUESTIONS

- (a) Councillor A Perkins mentioned that there had been much excitement in the city about the circus tent at Kingsmead, which he said is a fantastic venue for the Marlowe pantomime. He asked the Leader if he would join him in congratulating Emily Wood, the producer of the pantomime, in having so quickly produced such a good venue for the city.

The Leader said that the plan for this venue had been around for some time and that he hoped that the pantomime would be a great success so that we could repeat it in the future to cover the winter period when the Marlowe Theatre is not available.

- (b) Councillor A Perkins referred to the launch of the Budget consultation and mentioned that there had been an excellent discussion on this at the Overview and Scrutiny Committee meeting on 12 November 2009. He thanked the Executive for coming along to the meeting to talk through the issues. He said that he was disappointed at the level of sadness of local people, as shown in the number of letters in the Kentish Gazette today, objecting to the Budget proposals. He asked the Leader how many Budget consultation leaflets had been printed and where they had been circulated.

The Leader indicated that he would let Councillor A Perkins know by letter or telephone.

Councillor A Perkins said that he had checked the Budget figures with the Director of Corporate Services today and indicated that the Revenue Budget on which we are consulting is £22m, but the amount contained in the consultation document is only £955,000. He pointed out that we are only consulting the public on 4½% of the total Budget spend. He asked the Leader who is making the decision on the other 95% and why we are not consulting the public on this part of the Budget spend.

The Leader said that the figures quoted by Councillor A Perkins related to those areas where there are changes and that the other figures are for the areas which are unchanged.

Councillor A Perkins said that he had looked through the consultation document and mentioned that it referred to things like horticultural activities. He mentioned that he did not understand what horticultural activities meant and said that this is all that is being consulted on for horticultural activities. He asked the Leader if we are doing a disservice for the public by consulting in this way.

The Leader advised that he did not consider that this is the case because this is the most consulted on Budget for many years. He added that he considered that we are giving every member of the public the opportunity to comment on this Budget.

In response to the Leader's remarks, Councillor A Perkins said that this is not the case because under the previous Administration a company called *SIMALTO* had carried out a detailed consultation through meetings with members of the public who expressed their desires on areas of the Budget and then the council's draft Budget was drawn up on this basis.

Councillor A Perkins asked the Leader if he would review the consultation document about the Budget, look at the language in it and perhaps ask some people not involved in the council if they could understand the questions being asked, and then see if it is fit for purpose.

The Leader then advised that although it is limited, the people who had contacted him so far had more than understood the document. He said that this is a consultation which is beyond anything we had had in previous years. He added that it is widely documented and anyone could comment on it and that we looked forward to further work to see where we go from here.

The Leader indicated that he would not review the consultation document.

E139 TREASURY MANAGEMENT REPORT, SECOND QUARTER 2009/10

The portfolio holder presented the report of the Head of Finance, which detailed the results of the council's treasury management activities in the second quarter of the financial year ended 31 March 2010.

RESOLVED - That the report be noted.

E140 RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE SINGLE GRANTS GATEWAY PANEL FOR THE ALLOCATION OF VOLUNTARY SECTOR GRANT FUNDING FOR 2010-2011

The portfolio holder presented the report of the Head of Community Development, which set out the recommendations of the Single Grants Gateway Panel in respect of the grant funding and parking concessions for 2010/11.

RESOLVED – That, subject to the council's decision on the Budget in February 2010, the recommendations of the Single Grants Gateway Panel for the allocation of grants and parking concessions for 2010/11 be approved.

E141 LOAN TO THE KENT COUNTY CRICKET CLUB WITHIN THE PRUDENTIAL BORROWING FRAMEWORK TO SUPPORT GROUND REDEVELOPMENT

Prior to the consideration of this item, Mr G Kennedy, President of Kent County Cricket Club, spoke on the item.

The portfolio holder presented the revised report of the Director of Corporate Services, which advised on a proposal for the council to provide loans to the cricket club on the basis that the club paid the full cost of borrowing, in order to facilitate the club's ground redevelopment plans.

The Director of Corporate Services reported the receipt of an email today from a local resident who had commented on an issue regarding the proposed 4* hotel development within the scheme. The Director of Corporate Services advised on the matter.

When considering the report, the Executive Members took into account the confidential advice set out in the Annex to the report.

RECOMMENDED (to **Full Council**) -

- (i) That the council enters into a loan agreement with Kent County Cricket Club to provide a loan of £4 million within one month of completion of the loan agreement based on the terms set out in this report to enable the club to develop the St Lawrence ground.
- (ii) That the Director of Corporate Services in consultation with the Head of Legal and Democratic Services and the Head of Culture and Communications be authorised to deal with any matters necessary to bring the agreement to completion.
- (iii) That the council are satisfied that the proposed loan will promote or improve the economic and social well being of the council's area.

(The Head of Culture and Communications, who was in attendance at the meeting, had declared a personal interest in this item because her relatives owned a property opposite the cricket ground).

E142 **CANTERBURY BEANEY ART MUSEUM AND LIBRARY**

The portfolio holder presented the joint report of the Chief Executive and the Head of Culture and Communications, which sought approval of recommendations to Full Council -

for the appointment of the recommended contractor for the refurbishment and extension of the Beaney Art Museum and Library (Option A).

for the release of capital funding to enable the above to be delivered.

When considering the report, the Executive Members took into account the confidential advice set out in the Annex to the report.

RECOMMENDED (to **Full Council**) -

- (a) That the council approve the recommended contractor for the refurbishment and extension of the Beaney.
- (b) That the council approve the release of the balance of capital funding to enable the above to be delivered.

- (c) That the council delegate authority to the Executive for further approvals on the project provided the allocated capital budget is not exceeded.

E143 GENERAL FUND REVENUE BUDGET AND CHARGES PROPOSALS FOR CAR PARKS AND OTHER ACTIVITIES

Prior to the consideration of this item, Parish Councillor Peter Topley of Sturry Parish Council, spoke on this item in so far as it related to the provision for public conveniences.

The portfolio holder presented the joint report of the Chief Executive, Director of Corporate Services and the Head of Finance, which advised on the key budgeting assumptions and budget proposals for 2010/11 and future financial years. These proposals formed the basis for consultation and for budget planning.

The report was made at a time when the national and local economy faced significant challenges and, as a consequence of the dire state of public finances, when we anticipated sizeable reductions in the level of resources available to local government for some years to come. At the time of writing this report, the Office for National Statistics (ONS) reported that the economy had shrunk for a sixth successive quarter and the depth of the current recession was comparable to that experienced between 1979 and 1981. It was the longest period of continuous decline since ONS records began in 1955.

As a result of the state of the economy many of the assumptions made in the budget report in February 2009 were no longer valid and the scale of the challenge to achieve balanced budgets for next year and future years was much greater.

The projections assumed reductions in levels of government grant, lower levels of council tax increases than previously anticipated and on-going shortfalls against budgeted income in property related areas. The council had to adjust its spending levels downwards as a consequence and some tough choices needed to be made. The proposals were a basis for consultation over those choices.

The recommendations set out were a result of a series of meetings which the core Management Team and the Finance Sub Group of the Executive had had, and a series of 'star chambers' with heads of service and portfolio holders. The Executive was invited to endorse the proposals or suggest alternative solutions. The outcome would be used as the basis to prepare detailed estimates.

The report included the proposals in relation to car park charges and other charges.

The proposals resulted in a projected net revenue budget of £22,161,200 for 2010/11 compared to £21,896,100 in 2009/10.

On the basis of the present assumption about government grants that the amounts overall would not increase in cash terms this equated to a council tax level of £178.65, an increase of £4.23 per year. This was equivalent to 8p per week for a Band D property.

The detailed estimates would be considered by the Executive in January 2010 and by Council in February and it was at that time that council tax would be fixed.

The Parking Services Manager circulated at the meeting details of suggested further textual amendments to the car park proposals set out in the report, but advised that

these amendments did not affect the suggested resolutions in the report. He also circulated at the meeting further amendments to the proposed charges for the Gorrell Tank Long Stay car park, Whitstable.

The textual amendments and the revised charges for that car park had been supported by the portfolio holder. Those revised charges were also supported by the other Executive Members and are incorporated in the resolutions below.

The portfolio holder responded to the comments at the meeting by Parish Councillor Peter Topley of Sturry Parish Council about the provision for public conveniences and indicated that evidence should be brought to the Executive if there are any concerns on the issue, including the locations of the facilities. The portfolio holder mentioned that the Executive would consider any objections arising from the Budget consultation.

RESOLVED - That the Executive approves for budget planning purposes that:

- (a) the general strategic priorities and framework for budget decisions be as set out in section 2 of the report;
- (b) the net revenue budget be set at £22,161,200 for 2010/11 in accordance with proposals in this report;
- (c) parking charges and changes agreed last year but frozen until January 2010, be further frozen until the end of March 2010;
- (d) the changes listed below be advertised for implementation in March 2010:

The on and off-street proposals and amendments identified in Appendices A, C and D of the report, as further amended at the meeting for the charges for the Gorrell Tank Long Stay car park, Whitstable, as indicated below, be formally advertised, namely:

Canterbury

- i) For Watling Street "Premium Central" car park, linear tariffs be based upon £1.10 per hour Sunday to Friday and £1.30 per hour Saturdays. Extend the maximum parking period from 5 hours to 12 hours. Minimum fee 70p.
- ii) For Castle Row, Castle Street Multi-Storey, Miller's Field, North Lane, Pound Lane, Queningate, Rosemary Lane and St Radigund's "Central" car parks, linear tariffs to be based upon £1.00 per hour. Extend the maximum parking period from 5 hours to 12 hours. Minimum fee 70p.
- iii) For Dover Street, Holman's Meadow, Longport, Northgate, Station Road West and Toddlers Cove "Outer" car parks, linear tariffs to be based upon 90p per hour for up to 12 hours (any ticket purchased for 12 hours will be valid in the car park of purchase for up to 24 hours). Minimum fee 70p.
- iv) Delete, where applicable, the current extended time tariff of £12.
- v) Increase tariffs in Cow Lane, Kingsmead and Maynard Road car parks as follows:

Up to 5 hours to 80p
5 to 24 hours to £2.20

- vi) In all car parks where tariffs apply, extend period when tariffs are payable until 9.00pm and remove with overnight charges
- vii) Increase on-street tariffs (hourly rate) to £1 per hour.
- viii) Increase charges for Residents' visitor vouchers to £3.50 each.
- ix) Add new definitions for the Toddlers Cove and Victoria Recreation Ground car parks.
- x) Increase charges for on-street waivers as follows:

Daily waiver to £12
Weekly waiver to £35
Monthly waiver to £80
Annual waiver to £275

Coastal towns

- i) Increase short stay tariffs as follows:
 - Up to 30 mins. to 40p
 - 30 mins. to 1 hour to 70p
 - 1 - 3 hours to £1.80
 - 3 - 5 hours to £2.40
 - 5 - 24 hours to £4.00
- ii) Increase long stay tariffs other than for the Gorrell Tank Car Park as follows:
 - Sunday to Friday up to 24 hours to £1.10
 - Saturday up to 2 hours to £1.10
 - 2 – 24 hours to £2.50
- iii) Increase Neptune car park tariffs as follows:
 - Cars (April – September)
 - Up to 2 hours to £1.20
 - 2 – 4 hours to £2.40
 - 4 – 24 hours to £4.00
 - Cars (October to March)
 - Any period to £1.50
- iv) Gorrell Tank Long Stay Car Park, Whitstable
 - Sunday to Friday
 - Up to 1 hour 40p
 - 1 – 3 hours 80p
 - 3 – 24 hours to £1.10
 - Saturday
 - Up to 2 hrs £1.10
 - 2 – 24 hrs £2.50
- v) Increase Whitstable Harbour tariffs as follows:

Up to 30 mins. to 50p
Up to 1 hour to 80p
1 – 2 hours to £2.50

- vi) In all car parks where tariffs apply, extend period when tariffs are payable until 8.00pm and remove overnight charges (with the exception of Whitstable Leisure Centre where charges to remain payable until 10.00pm).

- vii) Revert to free parking at Swalecliffe Avenue car park.

- viii) Increase on-street tariffs at Beach Walk, Whitstable as follows:

Up to 30 mins. to 30p
30mins. -1 hour to 60p
1 - 4 hours to £2.40

- ix) Introduce on street pay and display charges at Central Parade Herne Bay from the junction with Canterbury Road to the junction with Lane End.

Charges to be linear tariffs based upon 60p per hour with a maximum of 2 hours and a minimum payment 20p.
Charges to apply from 8.30am until 8.00pm.

- x) Residents' visitor vouchers be increased to £1.60 each

- xi) Add a new definition for the Herne Bay Memorial Park car park as a short stay (free) car park and Windsor House.

- xii) Increase charges for on-street waivers as follows

Daily waiver to £12
Weekly waiver to £35
Monthly waiver to £80
Annual waiver to £275

Villages

- xiii) Reculver Towers and School Lane car park tariffs to be increased as follows:

Up to 30 mins 20p
30 mins to 2 hours 40p
2 hours to 24 hours to £1.00

Extend period when tariffs are payable until 8.00pm and remove overnight charges.

- xiv) Increase on and off street permit charges to the following

Permit Charges and Changes – Canterbury

Permit type	Proposed charge
Residents' Off St - Off Peak	£140
Residents' Off St - Full	£500
Residents' Off St - reserved space	£300
Castle Street MSCP residents' permit	£515
Residents' on-street (City centre – Orange Zone - 140 spaces)	£125
Residents' on-street (Zones adjacent to Orange Zone – Blue Zone - 890 spaces)	£75
Residents' on-street (Zones outside Blue Zone – Green Zone 1470 spaces)	£55
Business User – on-street (Blue zone only)	£355
Business User	£590
Business User Reserved Space	£750
Business User – Castle Street	£700
Canterbury Market Traders' (Wed's or Fri)	£175
Canterbury Market Traders' (Weds & Fri)	£350
Worshippers'	£30

(Charges are inclusive of VAT where applicable)

Permit Charges and Changes – Herne Bay, Whitstable and villages

Permit	Proposed charge
Herne Bay Residents' (Off-street)	£100
Herne Bay Residents' (On-street)	£50
Herne Bay Business Users' (Off-street)	£100
Herne Bay Business Users' (On-street)	£120
Herne Bay Market Traders' (Off-street)	£32
Whitstable Residents' (Exclusive)	£75
Whitstable Residents' (On-street)	£50
Whitstable Residents' (Off-street)	£100
Whitstable Business Users' (Off-street)	£100
Whitstable Business Users' (On-street)	£120
Whitstable Market Traders' (Off-street)	£32
Worshippers'	£30
School Lane Herne Residents' permit	£100
Sturry village Residents' permit (On street)	£55

(Charges are inclusive of VAT where applicable)

xv) General

On and off-street amendments, as set out in Appendix D, as further amended at the meeting, are advertised where necessary.

- (e) the review of other charges set out in Appendix 8 be the basis of consultation;
- (f) it be noted that officers will use delegated powers to implement efficiency savings contained in the proposals.

RECOMMENDED (to Full Council)

- (g) That officers be given authority to put into effect the measures required to achieve the service savings and reductions contained within the 2010/11/12 proposals, in order that the savings begin to accrue from as early as possible in 2010/11, subject to implementation of the measures only becoming effective if the measures are approved in the budget in February 2010.

E144 GENERAL FUND CAPITAL BUDGETS

The portfolio holder presented the joint report of the Chief Executive, the Director of Corporate Services and the Head of Finance about the draft capital programme, which covered the period 2010/11 to 2013/14. It also set out the current year position and implications beyond 2013/14. The programme was intended to deliver on the key aspirations in the corporate plan.

The report drew out the key issues and the resources available to fund the programme.

The report revised the programme initially approved for 2009/10 onwards to reflect approved carry forwards of budgets plus amendments to reflect the latest information known on timings of key projects.

The overall capital programme would be dealt with at the Executive in January 2010 and Council in February 2010.

The programme might be adjusted prior to or at the Executive or exceptionally at Council if any of the assumptions proved to be inaccurate or other factors arise.

RESOLVED –

- (a) That authority be given to incur expenditure on schemes brought into the 2009/10 and 2010/11 programme since the council meeting in February 2009.
- (b) That for those major schemes listed in section 3, expenditure on each new stage of these may only proceed with the express approval of the council.
- (c) That the draft capital programme set out in Appendix 1 be adopted as the basis for planning the approved 5-year capital budget.

E145 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Thursday 3 December 2009 - 6.30pm The Guildhall, Westgate, Canterbury

- E146 **CONFIDENTIAL ANNEX FOR THE REPORT ON CANTERBURY BEANEY ART MUSEUM AND LIBRARY**
(Exempt information)

This confidential Annex had been taken into account by the Executive when making its recommendations at Minute No. 142 above. No further discussion was required by the Executive on this item.

- E147 **CONFIDENTIAL ANNEX FOR THE REPORT ON THE LOAN TO THE KENT COUNTY CRICKET CLUB**
(Exempt information)

This confidential Annex had been taken into account by the Executive when making its recommendations at Minute No. 141 above. No further discussion was required by the Executive on this item.

There being no other business the meeting closed at 7.15 pm