

**Minutes of the Meeting of the Mid Sussex District Council Cabinet
held on 8 May 2018
from 5.30 p.m. to 5.51 p.m.**

Present: Councillors: Jonathan Ash-Edwards, Andrew MacNaughton, Gary Marsh, Garry Wall (Leader), Mandy Thomas-Atkin and Norman Webster.

Also present: Councillors: Peter Wyan, Edward Matthews, Norman Mockford, Rod Clarke, Dick Sweatman, Jacqui Landriani, Colin Holden, Pete Bradbury, Michelle Binks, Judy Llewellyn-Burke, Sandy Ellis, Anne Boutrup and John Wilkinson.

Officers: Kathryn Hall, Judy Holmes, Tom Clark, Peter Stuart, Simon Hughes, Terry Stanley and Hamish Evans.

1. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

2. APOLOGIES

None.

3. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 19 March 2018 were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Leader.

4. URGENT BUSINESS

None.

5. OUTTURN 2017/18.

Peter Stuart the Head of Corporate Resources, introduced the report which informed Members of the outturn position for the 2017/18 revenue and capital budgets. He confirmed that at Cabinet on 19 February 2018 a projected net overspend of £14,000 had been forecast. Following closedown, the year-end position for 2017/18 now shows a net underspend of £418,000 before allowing for approved transfers to Reserves. This year-end underspend is due to the over performance on income this year, together with some salary savings and a saving generated by creating the Hurst Farm Specific Reserve which had been agreed at the meeting in February.

Peter Stuart stated that the underspend provided an opportunity to earmark funds for specific purposes: Community Safety, Asset Management and the Job Evaluation and Voluntary Redundancy Reserves.

He added that both Treasury Management and investment in the Local Authorities' Property Fund had performed well in the year with returns in excess of budget.

He stated that the Council's reserves position had continued to improve and therefore the Council was now in a position to earmark some funds for some major projects which Members had indicated should be brought forward; these were detailed on pages 10 and 11.

Finally, the Head of Corporate Resources highlighted the table on page 19 which showed positive performance on housing benefit subsidy.

The Leader noted that the investments made by the Council have been prudent and generated good returns. He thanked the Officers for their hard work. He did acknowledge that there would be challenging times ahead.

The Cabinet Member for Community was pleased to see that Mid Sussex Partnership had been fully funded and successfully delivered its programmes while retaining the £50,000 reserve by year end. He also noted the worthwhile schemes that the Council had invested in through the Capital Programme.

The Cabinet Member for Housing and Planning discussed temporary accommodation. He was pleased to see that Officers had sought external advice and are developing a business case for improving the Council's options in terms of housing homeless individuals and families. He agreed with the recommendation that £4m should be earmarked to help support this work.

The Cabinet Member for Customer Services commented that she was pleased that the two apprentices had become full time employees of the Council and that the Council had plans to recruit more. She noted that the cost of solar panels on top of the Oaklands office was £28,000 instead of the budgeted £62,000 and that they reinforced the Council's commitment to sustainability.

The Cabinet Member for Service Delivery said that the Council's investment in worthwhile schemes showed that the Council's priorities were to benefit the District as a whole.

The Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Resources and Economic Growth thanked the Finance team for their hard work. He highlighted that negative RSG would be a significant challenge facing the Council in the future. He reminded colleagues that earmarking funding to specific reserves does not at this stage, commit the monies to detailed proposals but it represents good governance and prudent financial planning.

The Leader then moved to the recommendations which were agreed unanimously.

RESOLVED

Cabinet recommend to Council:

- i. That grant income as set out in paragraph 15-17 of this report be transferred to Specific Reserve;
- ii. that grant income as set out in paragraph 18-19 of this report be transferred to General Reserve;
- iii. that balance of interest totalling £344,000 as set out in paragraph 23 is transferred to the General Reserve;
- iv. that Dividend income totalling £29,590 as set out in paragraph 26 is transferred to the General Reserve;
- v. that the 2018/19 capital programme be increased by £2,045,000 as a result of slippage of some 2017/18 capital projects as detailed in Table 3.
- vi. that the revenue underspending in 2017/18 be transferred to Reserves as follows:
 - a) £50,000 be transferred to Reserves as set out in Table 1;
 - b) £300,000 be transferred to Specific Reserves as set out in Table 2;
 - c) £6,000 balance to be transferred to General Reserve

- vii. that £13m be transferred from General Reserve to Specific Reserve as set out in para 27-35 of this report;
- viii. that £15,229 be transferred to General Reserve as detailed in Appendix C General Reserve Table note 5.

Chairman.