

North Ayrshire Council
27 February 2019

IRVINE, 27 February 2019 - At a Meeting of North Ayrshire Council at 2.00 p.m.

Present

Ian Clarkson, Robert Barr, John Bell, Timothy Billings, Joy Brahim, Marie Burns, Joe Cullinane, Scott Davidson, John Easdale, Todd Ferguson, Robert Foster, Scott Gallacher, Alex Gallagher, Margaret George, John Glover, Tony Gurney, Alan Hill, Shaun Macaulay, Tom Marshall, Jean McClung, Ellen McMaster, Ronnie McNicol, Louise McPhater, Davina McTiernan, Jimmy Miller, Jim Montgomerie, Ian Murdoch, Donald Reid and Donald L. Reid.

In Attendance

C. Hatton, Chief Executive; L. Friel, Executive Director and M. Boyd, Head of Service (Finance) (Finance and Corporate Support); K. Yeomans, Executive Director (Economy and Communities); S. Brown, Director (Health and Social Care Partnership); A. McClelland, Head of Service (Learning, Teaching and Curriculum) (Education and Youth Employment); Y. Baulk, Head of Service (Physical Environment) (Place); and A. Fraser, Head of Democratic Services, A. Craig, Senior Manager (Legal Services), M. Gilmour, Senior Communications Officer (Media and Internal Communications); E. Gray and D. McCaw, Committee Services Officers and M. Anderson, Committee Services Team Leader (Chief Executive's Service).

Chair

Provost Clarkson in the Chair.

Apologies

Anthea Dickson, Christina Larsen, Angela Stephen and John Sweeney.

1. Provost's Remarks

The Provost welcomed those present to the meeting and dealt with preliminary matters, which included an announcement that the Council meeting would be webcast.

2. Apologies

The Provost invited intimation of apologies for absence, which were recorded.

3. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest in terms of Standing Order 10 and Section 5 of the Councillors' Code of Conduct.

There were no declarations of the Party Whip.

4. General Services Revenue Estimates 2019/20 to 2021/22

Submitted report by the Executive Director (Finance and Corporate Support) on the Council's revenue spending requirements and anticipated funding for 2019/20 to 2021/22; the level of reserves and fund balances held by the Council; and options to address the funding gap.

Members were invited to note the correction of a small typographical error at Section 2.4 of the report where the financial year referred to within the section heading should read "2018/19" and not "2019/20".

Councillor Cullinane thanked officers for their work in preparing the report and addressed the meeting on the Administration's budget proposals.

Thereafter, Councillor Cullinane, seconded by Councillor Bell, moved that the Council approve the proposals set out in the report and approve a Council Tax increase in 2019/20 of 4.79%.

Councillor Burns then addressed the Council on behalf of the Opposition, thanking officers for their work and local residents for their contribution to the budget consultation and reporting on the Group's budget proposals.

As an amendment, Councillor Burns, seconded by Councillor Macaulay, moved that the Council approve the recommendations set out in the report, subject to the amendments noted below:

Narrative	Reference	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22
Council Tax increase 3.7%		0.576	0.594	0.612
Reduce hscp additional funding in line with SG settlement terms	NAC additional contribution noted in appendix 1 (£1.389m) - final decision on allocation of resources taken by IJB	-£0.277	-£0.277	-£0.277
Remove contingency from Community Investment Fund	SP - EC - 19-62	-£0.312		
Additional investment		£0.013	-£0.013	
Total Additional Savings		-£0.576	-£0.277	-£0.277
(surplus) / gap		£0.000	£0.317	£0.335

Councillor Marshall then addressed the Council on behalf of the Conservative and Unionist Group, thanking officers for their support and reporting on the Group's budget proposals.

As a further amendment, Councillor Marshall, seconded by Councillor Ferguson, moved that the Council approve the recommendations set out in the report, subject to the amendments noted below:-

Narrative	Reference	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22
Council Tax increase 3%		0.951	0.979	1.009
Remove contingency from Community Investment Fund	SP - EC - 19 - 62	-£0.312		
Review Primary and Secondary school staffing formula	SP - EY - 19 - 01	-£0.291	-£0.473	-£0.473
Suspension of recruitment to Modern Apprentice programme	SP - EC - 19-63	-£0.348	-£0.348	-£0.348
Total Additional Savings		-£0.951	-£0.821	-£0.821
(surplus) / gap		£0.000	£0.158	£0.188

There being no further amendments, the Provost invited questions of clarification in terms of Standing Order 14.7 and, thereafter, intimated a short recess at 3.05 p.m. to allow Members to consider the terms of the motion and amendments.

The meeting reconvened at 3.30 p.m. with the same Members and Officers present and in attendance.

The Provost sought and received confirmation that there were no further amendments and no alteration or withdrawal of the motion or any amendment in terms of Standing Order 14.5.

On a point of order, Councillor Burns sought and received confirmation that, in terms of Standing Order 15.7, no Member would be permitted to speak more than once during debate.

The Provost then afforded Members a further opportunity to ask any questions of clarification.

Following debate and summing up, on a division, there voted for the amendment by Councillor Burns and seconded by Councillor Macaulay, 9, and for the motion 11.

There then voted for the amendment proposed by Councillor Marshall and seconded by Councillor Ferguson, 6, and for the motion 20. The motion was declared carried.

Accordingly, the Council, having considered the equality and socio-economic impact of proposed changes, agreed the proposals detailed in the report as follows:-

- (a) to note the anticipated funding available to meet expenditure requirements;
- (b) to approve the Council's expenditure requirements for 2019/20 and note the indicative requirements for 2020/21 and 2021/22;
- (c) to note the level of reserves and fund balances held by the Council and approve any contributions to/from these;
- (d) to approve the application of capital receipts to fund transformation as noted at section 2.4.2 of the report;
- (e) to approve the additional contribution to the IJB noted at section 1.9 of the report;
- (f) to approve efficiencies and savings to ensure a balanced budget for 2019/20, consequential and new proposals in future years;
- (g) to approve increases to Council fees and charges, as detailed in the report
- (h) to approve a Council Tax increase of 4.79% in 2019/20;
- (i) to note the anticipated funding gap for 2020/21 and 2021/22; and
- (j) to approve the budget matrix for 2019/20.

5. Capital Investment Programme 2019/20 to 2027/28

Submitted report by the Executive Director (Finance and Corporate Support) on the draft Capital Investment Programme to 2027/28.

Councillor Cullinane thanked officers for their work in preparing the report.

Thereafter, Councillor Cullinane, seconded by Councillor Bell, moved that the Council approve the recommendations set out in the report. There being no amendment, the motion was declared carried.

6. Revenue Estimates 2019/20 - Common Good Funds and Trusts

Submitted report by the Executive Director (Finance and Corporate Support) on the anticipated annual income and expenditure of the Common Good Funds and Trusts administered by North Ayrshire Council and seek approval for the level of grant funding to be made available for disbursement in 2019/20.

Members asked questions on the following elements of the report:-

- the capital expenditure from Largs Common Good, referred to within the report;
- the names of the 'Dalry' and 'Beith and Gateside' Charitable Trusts; and
- the potential for putting out to tender grounds maintenance works in respect of Irvine Common Good land at Berry Drive and Gault Avenue, Irvine.

The Executive Director (Finance and Corporate Support) undertook to investigate whether grounds maintenance works for Irvine Common Good land, currently carried out by the Council, could be subject to a tendering exercise.

Councillor Cullinane, seconded by Councillor Bell, moved that the Council approve the recommendations set out in the report. There being no amendment, the motion was declared carried.

7. Treasury Management and Investment Strategy 2019/20

Submitted report by the Executive Director (Finance and Corporate Support) on the proposed Strategy for Treasury Management and Investment activities within the Council for the financial year 2019/20.

Councillor Cullinane, seconded by Councillor Bell, moved that the Council approve the recommendations set out in the report. There being no amendment, the motion was declared carried.

The meeting ended at 4.05 p.m.