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CABINET

18 February 2009 – 6.00 pm

PRESENT:

Councillor B Coleman (in the Chair); Councillors Ames, Peck, Plant, Shrimplin and Stone.

Councillors Castle, Walker and Williamson attended by invitation.

Mr R Packham (Managing Director), Mr P Hardy (Executive Director – Economy and Environment), Mr D Gilbert (Director of Community Housing), Mr S Duncan (Head of Financial Services), Mr P Warner (Head of Planning and Development) and Mr R Hodds (Member Services Manager and Scrutiny Officer).

1. MINUTES

The minutes of 21 January 2009 were confirmed.

2. ISSUES ARISING FROM SCRUTINY, ADVISORY GROUPS AND REGULATORY COMMITTEES

No issues to report.

3. FORWARD PLAN – 1 FEBRUARY TO 31 MAY 2009

Cabinet received the Forward Plan for the period 1 February to 31 May 2009.

4. AMENDMENT TO THE CORE STRATEGY DEVELOPMENT PLAN DOCUMENT (LOCAL DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK)

Cabinet considered the Head of Planning and Development's report with regard to the amendment to the Core Strategy Development Plan Document (Local Development Framework). Members were advised that the amendment to the Core Strategy Development Plan Document sets out the overall vision and spatial planning strategy for the Borough to 2021 and includes options to locate a housing requirement shortfall of 800 dwellings to 2025.

In discussing the Head of Planning and Development's report, Cabinet agreed that the words "and improved community facility" should be included in the text relating to option one relating to Great Yarmouth, Gorleston, Bradwell and Martham after the words A12/A143 link road.

RESOLVED:

That, subject to the above amendment, Council be recommended to agree that the document "Amendment to the Core Strategy" is published for consultation under Regulation 25 of the Town and Country Planning (Local Development) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2008.

5. HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT BUDGET ESTIMATES 2009/10

Cabinet considered the report of the Director of Community Housing on the draft Housing Revenue Account Budget for 2009/10. The report sets out the reasons for requesting an increase in rents and service charges for Council dwellings and garages.

The Director of Community Housing tabled an addendum to his report which highlighted changes with regard to the percentage to be applied to the rent increases and service charges in order to comply with Government guidelines for rent restructuring. The Director of Community Housing reported that it was essential that the revised figure from 6.2% to 6.83% was applied in order to ensure that the Council not only meets the Government's requirement for rent restructuring but also to avoid an on-going loss of rental income of £124,000 each year in the future.

RESOLVED:

That Council be asked to:-

- (i) Approve the Housing Revenue Account (HRA) (Great Yarmouth Community Housing Service Plan) 2008/09 Revised and 2009/10 Original Budget Estimates.
- (ii) Approve the three year budget forecast for the Housing Revenue Account for the year 2010/11, 2011/12 and 2012/13.
- (iii) Make any amendments it thinks appropriate.
- (iv) Approve an average dwelling rent increase of £3.82 which is the equivalent of an average increase of 6.83% in accordance with the Government Rent Restructuring Formula.
- (v) Approve that the charges for garages be increased by 5%.
- (vi) Approve that service charges for the caretaking service be increased by 6.83%.
- (vii) Approve that the service charge for the maintenance of OAP gardens be increased by 6.83% from £1.60 to £1.71 (plus VAT).
- (viii) Approve that the service charge for communal heating be increased by 111% from £4.50 to £9.50.
- (ix) Approve that the service charges for the warden service be increased by 3%.
- (x) Note that the Officers will undertake a review of the HRA Budget and services commencing in July 2009, in order to identify savings and efficiencies for implementation during the budget estimate exercise for 2010/11.

6. HOUSING MAJOR WORKS PROGRAMME 2009/10 TO 2012/13

Cabinet considered the Director of Community Housing's report on the Housing Major Works Programme 2009/10 to 2012/13. The report presents the proposed HRA Major Works Programme for 2009/10, together with an explanation of the finances available to support it.

RESOLVED:

That Council be recommended to:-

- (i) Approve the levels of funding to support the Housing Major Works Programme for 2009/10 as set out in the Director of Community Housing's report.
- (ii) Agree the inclusions of the schemes, as set out in the Director of Community Housing's report in the 2009/10 programme.
- (iii) Agree over-programming in order to accommodate slippage of 7.5%.
- (iv) Authorise the Director of Community Housing to modify the programme, by way of extensions, additions or deferrals, should the need arise during the year, in order to achieve the appropriate programme spend.
- (v) Note the draft Housing Major Works Programmes for subsequent years.

7. MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL STRATEGY 2009/10 TO 2011/12

Cabinet considered the Head of Financial Services' report on the Medium Term Financial Strategy for the period 2009/10 to 2011/12.

RESOLVED:

That Council be recommended to:-

- (i) Approve the Medium Term Financial Strategy 2009/10 to 2011/12.
- (ii) Approve the Policy on the Level and Nature of Reserves as set out in the Head of Financial Services' report.

8. CAPITAL PROGRAMME AND PRUDENTIAL INDICATORS 2009/10

Cabinet considered the Head of Financial Services' report which presented the proposed capital programme for 2008/09 to 2011/12, together with the proposed approach to the overall financing of this programme for the next three years. The report also outlined the Council's Prudential Indicators for 2008/09 to 2011/12 which is required by the CIPFA Prudential Code for Capital Finances in Local Authorities. In accordance with the Capital Finance Amendment Regulations, the report contained a statement of the policy the Council will follow with regard to the calculation of the Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP) for 2009/10.

RESOLVED:

That Council be recommended to:-

- (i) Approve the Capital Programme and its associated financing for 2009/10 to 2011/12.

- (ii) Adopt the Prudential Indicators and Limits for 2008/09 to 2011/12.
- (iii) Approve the Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP) Statement which sets out the Council's policy on MRP.

9. **TREASURY MANAGEMENT STRATEGY 2009/10**

As part of CIPFA's Prudential Code, and the CIPFA Code of Practice on Treasury Management Requirements, Cabinet was asked to consider the Head of Financial Services' report on the Treasury Management Strategy which included both the investment and borrowing strategies for the forthcoming year.

RESOLVED:

That Council be recommended to:-

- (i) Approve the Treasury Management Strategy 2009/10, and the Treasury Prudential Indicators.
- (ii) Approve the Investment Strategy 2009/10 contained in the Treasury Management Strategy and the detailed criteria relating to specified and non-specified investments.
- (iii) That delegated authority is given to the Head of Financial Services in the conjunction with the Cabinet Member (Resources) to amend the Treasury Management Strategy following advice from the Council's Treasury Management Advisors, or in response to changes in market conditions.

10. **BUDGET 2009/10 TO 2011/12 AND COUNCIL TAX 2009/10**

Cabinet considered the Head of Financial Services' report which set out the Budget for 2009/10 to 2011/12, together with Council Tax for 2009/10.

RESOLVED:

That Council be recommended to approve:-

- (i) That the Budget for 2009/10, as detailed in the Head of Financial Services' report be approved.
- (ii) That the estimates for 2010/11 – 2011/12 be noted, as detailed in the Head of Financial Services' report.
- (iii) That the Fees and Charges for 2009/10 as detailed in the Head of Financial Services' report be approved.
- (iv) That the amounts being calculated by the Council in accordance with Regulation 6 of the Regulations as the amount of Council Tax Base for the year for dwellings in those parts of its area to which one or more special items relate, be agreed as detailed in the Head of Financial Services' report.
- (v) That the following amounts are now calculated by the Council for the year 2008/09 in accordance with Sections 32 to 36 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992.

- (a) £71,590,549 Being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 32(2)(a) to (e) of the Act.
- (b) £51,625,027 Being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 32(3)(a) to (c) of the Act.
- (c) £19,965,522 Being the amount by which the aggregate at (a) above exceeds the aggregate at (b) above, calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 32(4) of the Act, as its budget requirement for the year.
- (d) £15,184,270 Being the aggregate of sums which the Council estimates will be payable for the year into its general fund in respect of redistributed business rates and revenue support grant increased by the amount of the sums which the Council estimates will be transferred in the year from its collection fund to its general fund in accordance with Section 97(3) of the Local Government Finance Act 1988 and increased by the amount of any sum which the Council estimates will be transferred from its collection fund to its general fund pursuant to the Collection Fund (Community Charges) directions under Section 98(4) of the Local Government Finance Act 1988, as amended by the Collection Fund (General) (England) Direction 2002.
- (e) £152.82 Being the amount at (c) above less the amount at (d) above, all divided by the amount at Recommendation 3 above, calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 33(1) of the Act, as the basic amount of its Council Tax for the year.
- (f) £283,890 Being the aggregate amount of all special items referred to in Section 34(1) of the Act.
- (g) £143.75 Being the amount at (e) above less the result given by dividing the amount at (f) above by the amount in Recommendation 4 above, calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 34(2) of the Act, as the basic amount of its Council Tax for the year for dwellings in those parts of its area to which no special items relates.
- (h) Being the amounts given by adding to the amount at (g) above the amounts of the special items or items relating to dwellings in those parts of the Council's area mentioned in Appendix C divided in each case by the amount at Appendix C, calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 34(3) of the Act, as the basic amounts of its Council Tax for the year for dwellings in those parts of its area to which one or more special items relate.

- (i) Being the amounts given by multiplying the amounts at (g) and (h) above by the number which, in the proportion set out in Section 5(1) of the Act, is applicable to dwellings listed in a particular valuation band divided by the number which in that proportion is applicable to dwellings listed in valuation band D, calculated by the Council in accordance with Section 36(1) of the Act, as the amounts to be taken into account for the year in respect of categories of dwellings listed in different valuation bands.

11. ISSUES DETERMINED BY THE CABINET UNDER THE TERMS OF THE CONSTITUTION

- (a) Wheeled bins on the highway.

12. CLOSURE OF MEETING

The meeting ended at 6.35 pm.