

Report of the Cabinet

The CABINET reports and recommends as follows:-

1. Review of Members' Allowances Scheme by the Independent Remuneration Panel

That they have given consideration to the attached joint report of the Chief Executive and the Executive Director of Commercial and Corporate Services (copy attached) on the outcome of the Independent Remuneration Panel's Review of Members' Allowances.

The Cabinet recommends the Council to approve the recommendations of the Independent Remuneration Panel that:-

- (i) the current Allowances Scheme be amended to include a Special Responsibility Allowance for the lead Member role on the Council's Fostering Panel equivalent to those attached to the Member leads on the Adoption and Permanency Panels (equivalent to 20% of the Allowance attached to a Cabinet Portfolio Holder - £4,184) and the Deputy Mayor's Allowance be increased from £3,827 to £5,735, to take effect, if approved by the Council, from the date of such approval,
- (ii) the Scheme, as amended, also be applied in the financial year commencing 1 April 2014,
- (iii) other than in respect of the amendments referred to above, the Scheme of Allowances, including the associated terms and conditions, remain unchanged, and
- (iv) in line with the approach previously supported by the Council, the Scheme be reviewed on an annual basis.

2. Council Tax Base 2014/2015

That they have given consideration to a report of the Head of Financial Resources (copy attached) seeking approval to the calculation of the Council Tax Base for 2014/2015 in accordance with the Local Government Finance Act 1992 and recommend to Council that:-

- (i) The report for the calculation of the Tax Bases for the City Council and Hetton Town Council for 2014/2015 be approved.

- (ii) That pursuant to the report and in accordance with the Local Authorities (Calculation of Tax Base) Regulations 1992, as amended by Local Authorities (Calculation of Council Tax Base) (Amendment) (England) Regulations 2012 the amount calculated by Sunderland City Council as its Council Tax Base for the year 2014/2015, shall be £64,559 and for the area of Hetton Town Council shall be £3,230.

3. Business Rates Income Forecast 2014/2015 and Projected Business Rates Income Outturn 2013/2014

That they have given consideration to a report of the Head of Financial Resources (copy attached) detailing the arrangements for estimating the forecast outturn for business rates income for 2013/2014 and the business rates income for 2014/2015 to be included in the NNDR 1 return which must be submitted to Government by 31st January 2014 in accordance with the Non Domestic Rating (Rates Retention) Regulations 2013, following approval by Council.

Accordingly the Cabinet is seeking Council approval to the NNDR1 form (final form circulated separately as Appendix A) for submission to government, and which sets out

- the forecast outturn for business rates income for 2013/2014
- total estimated business rates income before transitional arrangements for the year 2014/2015

in accordance with regulations, and which will form the basis of the necessary apportionment of the estimated total business rate income for 2014/2015 in the following proportions:

- 50% to the Government
- 1% to the Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue Authority
- 49% to the Council

4. Revenue Budget 2014/2015 Proposals and Provisional Revenue Support Settlement 2014/2015

That they have given consideration to a joint report of the Chief Executive and Head of Financial Resources (copy attached) on the provisional budget proposals 2014/2015 and provisional Revenue Support Settlement, as a basis for the continuation of consultation, prior to the receipt of the final Local Government Finance Settlement.

They also referred the report to the Scrutiny Committee for further advice and consideration.

The Scrutiny Committee resolved that it was satisfied with the information provided on the Revenue Budget proposals and Revenue Support Settlement and had no additional comment to make.

Accordingly the Cabinet recommends the Council to approve the provisional budget proposals, as a basis for the continuation of budget consultation, prior to the receipt of the final Local Government Finance Settlement 2014/2015.

5. Capital Programme – Third Review 2013/2014, Provisional Resources 2014/2015 and Treasury Management Review 2013/2014

That they have given consideration to a report of the Head of Financial Resources which detailed the re-profiling of projects since the Second Capital Review for 2013/2014 was approved in October 2013, the inclusion of additional schemes and revisions to costs and resourcing for 2013/2014 since the Second Capital Review was reported, the allocation of capital resources for 2014/2015 subject to any adjustments required when final resource announcements are made and the progress in implementing the Treasury Management Strategy for 2014/2015.

They also referred the report to the Scrutiny Committee for advice and consideration in the context of inclusion of the additional schemes for 2013/2014 costing over £250,000 which are set out in the attached extract. The Scrutiny Committee resolved that it was satisfied with the capital budget scheme variations and had no additional comment to make.

Accordingly, the Cabinet recommends the Council to approve the inclusion of the additional schemes for 2013/2014 and associated resourcing of the Capital Programme since the Second Review of the Capital Programme was approved by Council in October 2013.

