

Report of the Cabinet

The CABINET reports and recommends as follows:-

1. Annual Audit Letter 2014/2015

That they submit for consideration by Council a report of the Interim Head of Paid Service and Director of Finance (copy attached) on the Annual Audit Letter from the external Auditors Mazars, covering the year 2014/2015 together with a copy of the Audit Letter which summarises findings from the audit of the Council's financial statements and the results of the external auditor's work undertaken as part of the assessment of the Council's arrangements for securing value for money in its use of resources.

Accordingly the Cabinet recommends the Council to note the contents of the report.

2. Council Tax Base 2016/2017

That they have given consideration to a report of the Director of Finance (copy attached) seeking approval to the calculation of the Council Tax Base for 2016/2017 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 2016/2017 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 2016/2017, shall be £67,556 and for the area of Hetton Town Council shall be £3,451.

3. Revenue Budget 2016/2017 Proposals and Provisional Revenue Support Settlement 2016/2017

That they have given consideration to a report of the Interim Head of Paid Service and Director of Finance (copy attached) on the provisional budget proposals 2016/2017 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. The Committee recognised the difficult

financial situation that the Council was facing and wished to acknowledge the work of Members and Officers and in particular that of the Finance Team in preparing the provisional budget proposals.

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 2016/2017.

4. Capital Programme - Third Capital Review 2015/2016, Provisional Resources 2016/2017 and Treasury Management Review 2015/2016

That they have given consideration to a report of the Director of Finance which detailed the re-profiling of projects since the Second Capital Review for 2015/2016 was approved in October 2015, the inclusion of additional schemes and revisions to costs and resourcing for 2015/2016 since the Second Capital Review was reported, the allocation of capital resources for 2016/2017 subject to any adjustments required when final resource announcements are made, and the progress in implementing the Treasury Management Strategy for 2015/2016.

They referred the report to the Scrutiny Committee to note the variation to the Capital Programme 2015/2016 with an estimated cost variance of £250,000 or more, details of which are set out in the attached extract Appendix A. 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 note the variation to the Capital Programme for 2015/2016.

5. Local Council Tax Support Scheme

That they have given consideration to a report of the Director of Finance (copy attached) on an update on the consultation results for the Local Council Tax Support Scheme and to recommend that the Local Council Tax Support Scheme set out in the report be implemented with effect from 1 April 2016.

Accordingly, the Cabinet recommends the Council to:-

- (i) Consider feedback received during the consultation period from the public,
- (ii) Approve the Council's Local Council Tax Support Scheme as set out in the report for the financial year 2016/17, which is unchanged from the current scheme, and

- (iii) Authorise the publication of the approved Scheme on the council's website and in any additional manner determined by the Director of Finance in consultation with the Leader of the Council and Cabinet Secretary.

6. Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014

That they have given consideration to a joint report of the Assistant Chief Executive, the Executive Director of Commercial Development and the Head of Law and Governance (copy attached) on the new powers available to the Council and other bodies under the Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014 (the Act), the authorisation of officers to exercise powers under the Act, including the issue of fixed penalty notices and to set the level of the fixed penalty notices.

The Cabinet authorised the use of the full range of powers available under the Act as set out in the Report and also agreed that the level of the fixed penalty notices issued under Section 52 and 68 of the Act be set at £75 (discounted to £50 if paid within 10 days).

Accordingly, the Cabinet recommends the Council to authorise the Head of Law and Governance, in consultation with the Leader, to amend the Constitution to reflect the delegation of functions set out in paragraph 8 of the Report and to make such other consequential amendments as are appropriate.

