

Full Council

Thursday 23rd February 2017

At 7:00 pm in the Council Chamber, George Street, Corby

Present: - Councillor Riley (Mayor), Addison, P Beattie, Beeby, Brown, Butcher, Caine, Colquhoun, Dady, Eyles, Goult, McEwan, McGhee, McKellar, McNab, Reay, Sims, Watt, Watts & Keane.

73. Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Councillors T Beattie, Rutt, Cassidy, Elliston, Latta, Petch, Pengelly, Rahman & Ferguson.

74. Declarations of Interest

Members were asked to declare any personal interests they may have in the business to be discussed and/or indicate whether this was prejudicial or non-prejudicial, the nature of the interest and whether they intended participating in the relevant agenda item.

No declarations were made.

75. Budget 2017/2018 – General Fund Revenue Budget and Council Tax Setting

The report before Members set out the proposed General Fund budget for 2017/18. This had been discussed by the One Corby Policy Committee at its meeting on 7th February 2017 and was being recommended to Full Council for approval. A Council Tax increase of £5 (2.8%) was being recommended. The proposed budget showed a balanced and sustainable position in line with the approved Medium Term Financial Strategy.

The proposed budget for 2017/2018 was detailed in Appendix A accompanying the report. A total budget of £8.658m was being proposed.

A modest amount of growth was being proposed; this was detailed within the report. An increase in the Council's reserves was also being proposed to mitigate against ongoing risks previously identified.

The proposals had been subject to public consultation.

Included within the Council Tax resolution were details from other precepting authorities e.g. Northamptonshire County Council, Police & Crime Commissioner, parish councils.

Councillor Addison MOVED the recommendations. Councillor Addison was pleased that the budget proposals included some growth, the protection of funding to frontline services and contribution to reserves. Whilst recognising that it was a difficult time for local government finances, Councillor Addison praised all involved for ensuring the budget proposals continued to support corporate priorities and provided a sustainable position. Councillor Addison did indicate that there were potential risks ahead but was happy to recommend adoption of the budget proposals for 2017/2018.

Councillor McNab SECONDED the recommendations.

Councillor McKellar indicated that he supported the proposed budget. He was particularly pleased that attention was being focused on the need to build-up reserves.

Councillors Butcher & McGhee wished it recorded that Members thanked officers for their hard work in compiling the budget proposals and thanked them for ensuring that frontline services were protected and that the budget continued to support the Council's growth agenda.

RESOLVED that:-

- i) The 2017/2018 Budget as set out in Appendix A be approved;
- ii) A 2017/2018 Council Tax for Corby Borough Council of £184.50, an increase of £5 over 2016/2017; and
- iii) The Council Tax resolution be approved.

Those voting for the recommendations – Addison, P Beattie, Beeby, Brown, Butcher, Caine, Colquhoun, Dady, Eyles, Gault, Keane, McEwan, McGhee, McKellar, McNab, Reay, Riley, Watt & Watts.

Those voting to abstain – Councillor Sims.

There were no votes recorded against the recommendation.

COUNCIL TAX RESOLUTION: 2017/18
(inc. 5% increase by Corby Borough Council)

The Council has received notification of the amounts required by the County Council and the Police Authority that results in the following overall position:

	Band A			Band D			Increase %
	2016/17 £	2017/18 £	Increase £	2016/17 £	2017/18 £	Increase £	
Corby Borough Council	119.67	123.00	3.33	179.50	184.50	5.00	2.79
Northamptonshire County Council	740.83	777.73	36.90	1,111.25	1,166.59	55.34	4.99
Northamptonshire Police & Crime Commissioner	136.64	139.36	2.72	204.96	209.04	4.08	1.99
Total	997.14	1,040.09	42.95	1,495.71	1,560.13	64.42	4.31

The resolution for 2017/18 is as follows:

1. That it be noted that the Director of Corporate Services has calculated the following Council Tax Base amounts for the year 2017-18 as follows:

(a) For the whole Council area as 18,336 (Item T in the formula in Section 31B of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, as amended (the Act)), and

(b) Cottingham	368
East Carlton	117
Gretton	555
Middleton	193
Rockingham	52
Stanion	1,003
Weldon	1,446

for dwellings in those parts of its area to which a Parish precept relate (Tax base for parish).

2. That the Council Tax requirement for the Council's own purposes for 2017/18 (excluding Parish precepts) is £3,382,992.
3. That the following amounts be now calculated for the year 2017-18 in accordance with Sections 31 to 36 of the Act.

£

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|-----|------------|---|
| (a) | 46,226,258 | Being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 31A (2) of the Act.
<i>(Gross expenditure, parish expenses, any contingencies, any provision for reserves)</i> |
| (b) | 39,037,765 | Being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 31A (3) of the Act.
<i>(Gross income, any use of reserves)</i> |
| (c) | 7,188,493 | Being the amount by which the aggregate at 3(a) above exceeds the aggregate at 3(b) above, calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 31A of the Act, as its Council Tax requirement for the year. (Item R in the formula in Section 31B of the Act). |
| (d) | 3,616,757 | Being the aggregate of the sums which the Council estimates will be payable for the year into its General Fund in respect of redistributed non-domestic rates, revenue support grant, additional grant or relevant special grant 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 directions under section 98 (4) of the Local Government Finance Act 1988. <i>(Business Rates, Government grant, relevant special grant, any surplus or deficit from the council tax collected)</i> |
| (e) | 194.79 | Being the amount at 3(c) above less the amount at 3(d) above, all divided by the amount at 1(a) above, calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 31B of the Act, as the basic amount of its Council Tax for the year. <i>(Net expenditure including parish precepts, less Business Rates, grants etc, divided by tax base = an average council tax which includes parishes.)</i> |
| (f) | 188,744 | Being the aggregate amount of the special items referred to in Section 34(1) of the Act. <i>(Total amount of parish precepts)</i> |

(g) 184.50 Being the amount at 3(e) above less the result given by dividing the amount at 3(f) above by item T (1(a) 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 Parish precept relates. (*This Council's own Council Tax at Band D.*)

(h) - Being the amounts given by adding to the amount at 3(g) above the amounts of the special item or items relating to dwellings in those parts of the Council's area mentioned above divided in each case by the at 1(b) above, 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 item relates. (*Council Tax at Band D for those parishes that have issued a precept added to this Council's council tax*)

229.82 Cottingham Parish Council

227.66 East Carlton Parish Council

204.32 Gretton Parish Council

206.06 Middleton Parish Council

214.79 Rockingham Parish Meeting

209.53 Stanion Parish Council

271.06 Weldon Parish Council

(i) Part of the Council's area:

Parish Valuation Bands

Valuation Bands

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Corby Borough	123.00	143.50	164.00	184.50	225.50	266.50	307.50	369.00
Cottingham Parish Council	153.21	178.75	204.28	229.82	280.89	331.96	383.03	459.64
East Carlton Parish Council	151.77	177.07	202.36	227.66	278.25	328.84	379.43	455.32
Gretton Parish Council	136.21	158.92	181.62	204.32	249.72	295.13	340.53	408.64
Middleton Parish Council	137.37	160.27	183.16	206.06	251.85	297.64	343.43	412.12
Rockingham Parish Meeting	143.19	167.06	190.92	214.79	262.52	310.25	357.98	429.58

Stanion Parish Council	139.69	162.97	186.25	209.53	256.09	302.65	349.22	419.06
Weldon Parish Council	180.71	210.82	240.94	271.06	331.30	391.53	451.77	542.12

Being the amounts given by multiplying the amounts at 3(g) and 3(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. *(This Council and each Parish Council Council's combined council tax for each Council Tax Band and which will appear on the council tax bill).*

4. That it be noted that for the year 2017-18 Northamptonshire County Council (NCC) and Northamptonshire Police and Crime Commissioner (NPCC) have stated the following amounts in precepts issued to the Council, in accordance with Section 40 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, for each of the categories of dwellings shown below:

	Valuation Bands							
	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
NCC	777.73	907.35	1036.97	1166.59	1425.83	1685.07	1944.32	2333.18
NPCC	139.36	162.59	185.81	209.04	255.49	301.95	348.40	418.08

5. That, having calculated the aggregate in each of the amounts at 3(i) and 4 above, the Council, in accordance with Sections 30 and 36 of the Local Government and Finance Act 1992, hereby sets the following amounts as the amounts of Council Tax for the year 2017-17 for each of the categories of dwellings shown below: *(Total council tax in each band for each parish)*

Total - Valuation Bands

Valuation Bands

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Corby Borough	1040.09	1213.44	1386.78	1560.13	1906.82	2253.52	2600.22	3120.26
Cottingham Parish Council	1070.30	1248.69	1427.07	1605.45	1962.21	2318.98	2675.75	3210.90
East Carlton Parish Council	1068.86	1247.01	1425.15	1603.29	1959.57	2315.87	2672.16	3206.58
Gretton Parish Council	1053.30	1228.86	1404.40	1579.95	1931.04	2282.15	2633.25	3159.90

Middleton Parish Council	1054.47	1230.21	1405.95	1581.69	1933.18	2284.67	2636.16	3163.39
Rockingham Parish Meeting	1060.28	1237.00	1413.70	1590.42	1943.84	2297.27	2650.70	3180.84
Stanion Parish Council	1056.78	1232.91	1409.03	1585.16	1937.42	2289.68	2641.94	3170.33
Weldon Parish Council	1097.80	1280.77	1463.72	1646.69	2012.62	2378.56	2744.49	3293.39

76. Budget 2017/2018 – Housing Revenue Account (HRA) and Rent Setting

The report set out the proposed HRA Budget for 2017/2018 as recommended by the One Corby Policy Committee at its meeting on 7th February 2017. An average rent reduction of 1% was being recommended in line with Government policy. The proposed budget showed a balanced and sustainable position in line with the Medium Term Financial Strategy albeit with a significantly reduced contribution to the Capital Programme.

The proposed budget for 2017/2018 for the HRA was detailed in Appendix A accompanying the report and showed a projected net surplus of £58k. This was roughly in line with the amount allowed for within the Medium Term Financial Strategy. This was only the case as £700k had been removed from the annual contribution to the Capital Programme. Further similar reductions would also be made in each of the next 3 years and ultimately this would effect the long-term viability of the housing stock.

Modest growth was included within the budget proposals; this was detailed within the report.

Councillor Eyles MOVED the recommendations. Councillor Eyles raised concerns regarding the long-term ability of the Council to invest in its housing stock. Whilst he welcomed the fact that the Council could continue to offer low rents in comparison with both other local authority providers and particularly the private sector, there were concerns regarding the future. It was important that the Council could continue to provide its tenants with a good service. Councillor Eyles also drew Full Council's attention to the development & new build programme being undertaken by the Council. He welcomed this and hoped that Government would allow local authorities to do more to address the ever increasing demand for rental properties.

Councillor McNab SECONDED the recommendations.

Councillor McKellar indicated his support for the recommendations. He was pleased that tenants would benefit from a further rent decrease and also welcomed the opportunities through Right-to-Buy (RTB) for people to get onto the property ladder. Councillor McKellar noted that there was some staffing growth included within the budget proposals; he had questioned this previously but hoped that this would produce quantifiable improvements in service delivery.

Councillor Butcher indicated her concerns at the level of private sector rents and the behaviour of some private landlords. The Council should be able to build more social housing which would undermine the behaviour of some in the private sector.

Councillor McGhee agreed that more social housing was required to meet the demand. He also raised concerns regarding the behaviour of some in the private sector. The Council should be allowed by Government to build more housing.

Councillor Colquhoun spoke against RTB which he regarded as privatisation of social housing. The Government were doing nothing to support social housing and were forcing people into the private sector and in some cases sub-standard accommodation.

Councillor McKellar concluded the debate by again indicating his support for the rent reduction and the continued benefits, in his opinion, of RTB.

RESOLVED that:-

- i) The budget for 2017/2018 as set out in Appendix A be approved; and
- ii) An Average Rent Reduction of 1% for 2017/2018 be approved.

Those voting for the recommendations – Addison, P Beattie, Beeby, Brown, Butcher, Caine, Colquhoun, Dady, Eyles, Goult, Keane, McEwan, McGhee, McKellar, McNab, Reay, Riley, Sims, Watt & Watts.

There were no votes against the recommendations or abstentions.

77. Budget 2017/2018 – Capital Programme and Funding Strategy

The report before Members set out the proposed Capital Programme for both the General Fund and the Housing Revenue Account (HRA) for 2017/2018 and the next 4 years. This had been discussed by the One Corby Policy Committee at its meeting on 7th February 2017 who were recommending approval. The current General Fund Capital Programme was substantially reduced from previous years and only covered essential or grant-funded expenditure.

In terms of the HRA there was a significant reduction in the annual programme, following the reduction in rents by 1% and Members would need to prioritise work going forward within a reducing budget.

The current economic downturn and Government policy created substantial pressures on the Council's finances, specifically in terms of generating capital resources. No further funds were available to finance General Fund capital expenditure other than those that were committed, unavoidable or externally funded.

Whilst a significant investment continued within the housing stock it was not sufficient to maintain and improve the condition of the stock over the next 30 years. Specific schemes therefore needed to be prioritised until or if additional funding did become available.

Councillor Addison **MOVED** the recommendations. Councillor McNab **SECONDED** the recommendations.

Councillor McGhee welcomed the report and was particularly pleased that £200,000 had been earmarked to address the problem of mould & dampness in some Council properties. This had been a concern to him for some time and he was grateful that officers had included this within the budget proposals.

RESOLVED that:-

- i) The Capital Programme for 2017/2018 to 2021/2022 as set out in the report and the Housing Improvement Programme (Appendix A) be approved; and
- ii) The funding strategy for the Capital Programme for 2017/2018 to 2021/2022 as set out in the report be approved.

Those voting for the recommendations – Addison, P Beattie, Beeby, Brown, Butcher, Caine, Colquhoun, Dady, Eyles, Goult, Keane, McEwan, McGhee, McKellar, McNab, Reay, Riley, Sims, Watt & Watts.

There were no votes against the recommendations or abstentions.

78. Pay Policy Statement

The Statement was being submitted to Full Council in accordance with the Council's obligations under section 38(1) of the Localism Act 2011. The aim of Pay Policy Statement was to provide transparency around chief and senior officer remuneration in local government. The attached statement was not a policy in itself but a statement summarising the Council's various remuneration policies as previously agreed. Since its introduction, Pay Policy statement must be formally approved by Full Council; approved by the end of March each year and could be amended in year.

RESOLVED that:-

- i) The Pay Policy Statement 2017/2018 be approved.

79. Designation of Polling Place

Full Council was being requested to add the Corby Irish Centre, Patrick Road, Corby to the approved Polling Places list, to be used by the local Returning Officer for the siting of polling stations at election time. The Deputy Returning Officer had visited the Centre and deemed it suitable for use as a polling station.

Councillor McGhee wondered whether it was possible for polling stations in different Divisions to be accommodated in the same Polling Place. Officers confirmed that polling stations needed to be located in their appropriate Division.

RESOLVED that:-

- i) Corby Irish Centre, Patrick Road, Corby be designated as a Polling Place on the approved list.

80. Close of Meeting

Meeting closed at 7:43 pm.