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To all Members of the Council

**MEETING OF THE COUNCIL**

Your attendance is requested at a Meeting of the Council to be held in the Council Chamber, Pippbrook, Dorking on **TUESDAY 18<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY 2014 at 7.00pm** for the transaction of the business set out in the following Agenda.

*AM Griffiths*

Corporate Head  
Monday 10<sup>th</sup> February 2014

**The Chairman would like to remind Members that they have the opportunity to ask Officers questions, in respect of issues concerning matters of detail or for further clarification, prior to the meeting.**

**AGENDA**

**1. MINUTES**

To confirm the minutes of the meeting held on 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2013 as a correct record.

**2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

To receive apologies for absence.

**3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Members should declare interests that they have with respect to any item on the agenda and state whether they are personal or prejudicial and the nature of the interest.

**4. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**5. SERVICE SHIELD PRESENTATION FROM SURREY FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE**

The Chairman will accept on behalf of the Council a Service Shield from Eddie Roberts, Area Commander - East of the Surrey Fire and Rescue Service, for assistance given during the recent flooding.

## 6. **PLANNING FOR 2014/15 – CORPORATE PLAN AND BUDGET PROPOSAL**

The Executive at its meeting on 4<sup>th</sup> February 2014 agreed to make the following recommendations to the Council for approval:

### **RECOMMENDED TO COUNCIL: That**

1. the 2014/15 Corporate Plan be approved.
2. the proposed budget for 2014/15 be set at £10,064,000.
3. the Council Tax Freeze Grant, offered by Government, be rejected for 2014/15.
4. on the basis of agreeing 1, 2 and 3 above, the Band D Council Tax for 2014/15 be set at £157.47 representing a 1.9 per cent increase in Council Tax for 2014/15.
5. a cost of living pay award of 1.4% be approved for staff, with a minimum addition of £505 pa to provide a higher award for lower paid staff.
6. a capital programme of £3,182,000 be approved for 2014/15.
7. the Section 151 Officer's statement regarding the 2014/15 budget and medium term financial outlook for the Council be noted.
8. the level of Members' Allowances be considered in the light of the report by the Independent Remuneration Panel to be presented to the Council on 18 February 2014.

Following consideration of the above, the Council is asked to approve the Council Tax resolutions for 2014/2015 (set out at pages 55 to 58 of the agenda).

A copy of the report considered by the Executive on 4<sup>th</sup> February 2014 is attached at pages 5 to 53. **Please note there is a revised version of Appendix B to this report attached at page 54.**

## 7. **REPORT OF THE INDEPENDENT REMUNERATION PANEL – MEMBERS' ALLOWANCES SCHEME**

To receive the report of the Independent Remuneration Panel, as set out on pages 59 to 80 of the agenda.

The Council is asked to decide if it wishes to accept the recommendations of the Independent Remuneration Panel to come into effect from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2014, as set out on pages 67 to 69.

## 8. **PETITION**

A petition has been received with 1974 signatures in the following terms:

'We petition Mole Valley District Council to (as our elected representatives) comply with government 'National Planning Policy Framework' (NPPF) which emphasises that building on the Metropolitan Green Belt can only happen 'in very exceptional circumstances', and to provide evidence that use of brown field sites across Mole Valley District Council (MVDC) as a whole has been exhausted.'

The organiser of the petition can speak on the petition for up to five minutes. A response will be given by the Leader or appropriate Portfolio Holder.

## 9. **RECOMMENDATIONS OF COMMITTEES**

(i) Audit Committee – 28<sup>th</sup> November 2013 – Treasury Management Mid Year Monitoring Report 2013/14

'The Committee considered a report, on pages 56 to 70 of the agenda that outlined the performance of the Treasury Management function of the Council for the six months ending 30<sup>th</sup> September 2013.

This report provided an update on the current economic conditions affecting Treasury Management decision making and looked ahead to future reporting requirements.

With reference to Table 4.3 as set out on page 62 of the previously circulated agenda, the Committee noted that capital expenditure had been funded from capital reserves of which capital receipts form a significant part. For future reference, the term “capital reserves” would be used in the table and this encompasses capital receipts, government grants and other grants and contributions.

The Committee noted that a significant part of the capital programme had slipped from 2012/13 to 2013/14 and this would be fully funded from capital reserves in the year.

**RESOLVED:** That the Treasury Management Mid Year Monitoring Report for the period ended 30<sup>th</sup> September 2013 be received and noted.'

**RECOMMENDED TO COUNCIL: That the Treasury Management Mid Year Monitoring Report 2013-2014 be commended.**

The report considered by the Audit Committee is set out at pages 81 to 96 of the agenda.

**The Council is asked to accept the recommendation of the Audit Committee.**

(ii) Audit Committee – 28<sup>th</sup> November 2013 – Treasury Management Strategy Report 2014/15 – 2016/17

'The Committee considered a report, on pages 71 to 103 of the agenda, that set out the Council's prudential indicators for 2014/15 to 2016/17, together with the expected treasury operations for this period.

During consideration of this item, the Committee commented on Prudential Indicator 8 – Interest Rate Exposures and sought clarification on whether the % figures indicated on page 89 of the report reflected the right balance. The Senior Accountant explained that these were based on “cap and collar” investments, i.e. fixed and then reverting to variable interest rates. 35% represented the upper limit on variable interest rate loans the Council could go up to; at the moment, the Council was operating at 8%. Following this clarification the Committee went on to

**RECOMMEND TO COUNCIL: that**

- (1) **the capital expenditure Prudential Indicators and Limits for 2014/15 to 2016/17 be approved.**
- (2) **the Minimum Reserve Position (MRP) Statement that sets out the Council's policy on MRP be approved.**
- (3) **the Treasury Management Strategy 2014/15 to 2016/17 and the treasury Prudential Indicators be approved.**
- (4) **The Investment Strategy 2014/15 contained in the Treasury Management Strategy and the detailed criteria be approved.**

The report considered by the Audit Committee is set out at pages 97 to 130 of the agenda.

**The Council is asked to accept the recommendations of the Audit Committee.**

## **10. LEADERS' STATEMENT**

The Leader will speak to the Council for up to 5 minutes.

## 11. REPORTS OF PORTFOLIO HOLDERS

To receive reports from Portfolio Holders.

## 12. QUESTIONS TO MEMBERS OF THE EXECUTIVE

The following questions have been received from Members of the Public:

1. Question from Mr Stephen Crabtree

'What allowances have been made for "windfall" sites up to 2026 (as permitted in the NPPF, para 48) when assessing the need for future development sites, up to 2026?'

2. Question from Mrs Carol Jull

'Are the council aware of anything that would change the current housing target of 1300 dwellings needed across Mole Valley by 2026, before the end of this planning period – that is before 2026?'

## 13. MOTIONS

The following motion has been submitted by Councillor David Preedy:

### **Motion 1/2014**

#### Future of Headley Court

'This Council has a proud record of supporting the Defence Military Rehabilitation Centre at Headley Court, including the grant of the Freedom of Mole Valley in 2010 and the Military Covenant signed there in 2013. We recognise the development of the DMRC into a world-class centre of excellence, based in part on the facilities in the Help for Heroes Rehabilitation Centre opened in 2010 following £8.5m raised by public subscription.

We understand that the Ministry of Defence will shortly be deciding on the future role of Headley Court and that the complete closure of the establishment is being seriously considered. Local residents are concerned that complete closure would potentially leave the buildings derelict. Broader concerns are the potential loss of expertise if some experienced personnel should decide not to relocate elsewhere, and the redundancy of expensive purpose-built facilities.

This Council calls on the Minister to work with local representatives to ensure that all efforts are made to explore alternative uses for the facilities at Headley Court, including for civilian uses, before a decision is made to close the establishment. It also asks the local Members of Parliament to lobby the Minister in support of this approach.'

## 14. URGENT ITEMS

To consider any items which the Chairman considers to be urgent.

If you require a copy of this agenda, any of the reports within it or a large print version of the agenda, please telephone Victoria Foreman on 01306 879355 or e-mail: [victoria.foreman@molevalley.gov.uk](mailto:victoria.foreman@molevalley.gov.uk)