

## EXECUTIVE

At a meeting of the Executive held on  
6 January 2010

**(Present)** Councillor Spencer (Chairman)  
Councillors W Ashcroft, Evans and Knight

**(Not Present)** Councillors Ferry, Kavanagh and Sims

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### 107 **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Ferry, Kavanagh and Sims.

### 108 **MINUTES**

\* Resolved that the minutes of the meeting of the Executive held on  
9 December 2009, be approved and signed.

### 109 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST FROM MEMBERS**

Item	Title	Member(s)	Interest
5	Budget Report 2010-2011 to 2012-2013	Councillors W Ashcroft, Evans, Knight and Spencer	Declared a personal interest in the item.
6	Corporate Financial Report	Councillors W Ashcroft, Evans, Knight and Spencer	Declared a personal interest in the item.

### 110 **BUDGET REPORT 2010-2011 TO 2012-2013**

A report was submitted which sought approval to the revised Portfolio Spending Plans, revisions to the balances position, agreement, in principle, to the Council Tax increase for 2010-2011 and approval to the Capital Investment Programme.

The Executive, at its meeting on 9 December 2009, considered the outcome of the 2010-2011 Revenue Support Grant Settlement and made key decisions on the final Portfolio cash limits.

Those decisions were to:-

1. establish a specific Earmarked Reserve of £3m to be used to mitigate the implications of short term demand fluctuations within the Care Services;
2. amend the Portfolio Cash Limits by £473k to reflect the reduction in Price inflation;
3. create a contingency against adverse variations in Levies/Council Tax base of £473k: and

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4. require Portfolios to absorb the revised remaining budget pressures highlighted in the report.

**\* Resolved that:**

- (1) the Portfolio Strategy Statements and Service Plans be approved;**
- (2) the additional spending commitments detailed at Paragraph 2.8 be approved;**
- (3) the efficiency plans be approved;**
- (4) the Capital Investment Programme for 2010-2011 to 2012-2013 be approved including the additional schemes detailed in Paragraph 5.7 to the report; and**
- (5) an 'in principle' Council Tax increase of ½% be approved.**

### **111 CORPORATE FINANCIAL REPORT**

A report was presented, the purpose of which was to update the Executive on the financial position of the Council for the current financial year 2009/10. The Corporate Financial Report was currently produced bi-monthly and the report provided an updated position and covered the period 1 October 2009 to 30 November 2009.

The main elements of the report were contained in the Commentary attached to the report on the Council's Financial Position as follows:-

- |           |   |
|-----------|---|
| Section A | Capital Programme 2009/10 to 2011/12 latest position  |
| Section B | Revenue Budget 2009/10 latest position  |
| Section C | Levels of Reserves and Balances including movements   |
| Section D | Treasury Management Review including activity in the period, adherence to the agreed strategy and the current levels and range of risks being run |
| Section E | Efficiency Plan 2009/10 latest position   |

**\* Resolved that the Council be recommended to:**

- (1) approve the latest Capital Programme as shown at Annex A including the increased capital allocation (£610k) in relation to the former UGB site;**
- (2) approve the revised General Fund Budget for 2009/10 (Annex B);**
- (3) note the Treasury Review and the latest Efficiency Plan; and**
- (4) note the latest capital receipts and reserves & balances position.**

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### 112 ANNUAL PERFORMANCE ASSESSMENT OF ADULT SOCIAL CARE 2008/09 FOR ST HELENS

A report was presented which informed Members that the Care Quality Commission had carried out an independent monitoring of Adult Social Care Departments and monitored performance through four main elements:

- A range of performance indicators (the Performance Assessment Framework and National Indicators);
- Evidence from inspections and regulatory activity;
- A self-assessment survey completed by local authorities in the Spring of each year; and
- Regular business meetings and a formal Annual Review Meeting between the Adult Social Care Department and partner agencies.

The Care Quality Commission had measured Adult Social Care performance based on the seven outcomes identified within the White Paper, 'Our Health, Our Care, Our Say'. They also made a written assessment about Leadership and Commissioning and the Use of Resources, which contributed towards the Council's overall Comprehensive Area Assessment.

Prior to completing the annual Performance Assessment, which was attached as Appendix 2 to the report, the Care Quality Commission prepared an Adult Social Services Performance Assessment Notebook (PAN), attached as Appendix 3 to the report. The notebook gave descriptions against each of the key outcomes.

The Annual Performance Assessment identified a significant number of strengths in relation to Adult Social Care in St Helens.

Following the scoring process the Council were awarded an overall grade of Performing Excellently for 2008/09.

**\* Resolved that:**

- (1) **the Care Quality Commission's summary report and judgement of 2008-09 Annual Performance Assessment of Adult Social Care for St Helens be noted;**
- (2) **the Adult Social Care Performance Assessment Notebook be noted; and**
- (3) **the Quality Assurance and Moderation Summary be noted.**

### 113 ISSUES ARISING FROM OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY

(i) Scrutiny Review of Portfolio Budget Strategy Statements

A report was submitted which set out the findings of a review undertaken by the Overview and Scrutiny Commission of the Draft Portfolio Spending Plans as part of its scrutiny of the 2010/11 budget setting process.

Responses had been received from each of the Portfolio Areas, based on detailed financial evaluation criteria.

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There were a number of outcomes from this exercise that the Overview and Scrutiny Commission asked the Executive to consider.

The review process was undertaken in the following stages:

- i. Consideration of the Executive response to the Commission's report on the Budget Strategy 2010-2013 (30 July 2009)
- ii. Recommendations from the Commission considered by the Executive at its meeting on 16 September.
- iii. Initial review of Draft Portfolio Spending Plans using standard Key Lines of Enquiry (September/October 2009). A Task Group was appointed and questions for each portfolio area devised.
- iv. The Commission then considered each of the above detailed Portfolio Reviews at its meeting of the 8 October 2009.
- v. Members of the Executive and Chief Officers attended meetings of the Commission on 22 October and 26 November to answer questions on the Draft Portfolio Budget Statements (Spending Plans).
- vi. The Task Group considered the overall findings.

The remaining issues were summarised in the Table at Appendix 1 to the report by Portfolio Area.

**\* Resolved that:**

- (1) the report of the Commission be noted; and
- (2) a report and action plan in response to the recommendations be submitted to a future meeting of the Executive.

### 114 **EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC**

**Resolved that the public be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the following item for the reason stated:**

<b><u>Minute</u></b>	<b><u>Reasons (under the Local Government Act 1972)</u></b>
<b>115</b>	<b>Information relating to relating to financial or business affairs of any particular person (Para 3 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972).</b>

Councillor Evans declared a personal and prejudicial interest in the following item and in accordance with the Code of Conduct here left the meeting

### 115 **REDEVELOPMENT OF THE FORMER UNITED GLASS SITE, PEASLEY CROSS**

A report was submitted which updated Members on the redevelopment of the former United Glass site, Peasley Cross.

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\* Resolved that:

Subject to the approval of the Council to increase the capital allocation in the Capital programme from £6,000,000 (Council 5<sup>th</sup> November 2008, Minute 47) to £6,610,000 that:-

- (1) the Council enter into a funding agreement with Langtree in respect of its contribution of £2,944,000 towards the land remediation of the former United Glass site.
- (2) the Council enter into a contract with Birse for the construction of a roundabout and access off the Linkway into the above site together with highway improvement to the Parr Street Roundabout. The cost of these works including fees is £2,136,000.
- (3) the Council agree to the budget cost of £1,530,000 to facilitate the construction of a footbridge across Linkway East to link the former United Glass site to the Town Centre.

Councillor Evans here returned to the meeting.

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