



RHONDDA CYNON TAF

RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

RECORD OF DECISIONS OF THE EXECUTIVE

DECISION MADE BY: Cabinet DATE DECISION MADE: 12th February, 2014

Agenda Item 1

SUBJECT:
The Council's 2014/2015 Revenue Budget

Cabinet Members Present County Borough Councillors:

A.Christopher (Chairman), P.Cannon, R.Bevan, (Mrs.)A.Davies,
M.Forey, (Mrs.)E.Hanagan, C.Middle, A.Morgan, M.Webber and
C.J.Willis

Other Members in Attendance County Borough Councillors:

(Mrs.)C.Leyshon and R.K.Turner

1. DECISION MADE:

Agreed –

- To propose the draft 2014/15 revenue budget as detailed on Appendix 1 to the report to Council on the 26th February, 2014 and to also include a sum of £400,000 to be used to improve the road network by using prudential borrowing and that the Council's second car be removed.

Noted: Members received County Borough Councillor R.K.Turner, Chair of Overview and Scrutiny Committee who presented the feedback on the budget consultation process which was undertaken with the Overview and Scrutiny Committee and the four Service Scrutiny Committees.

He indicated that whilst the budget settlements in recent years had been challenging, this year took it to a whole new level as a result of the cuts imposed by the Westminster Government which will see a £1.7 billion reduction in the Welsh budget by 2015/16. This against a backdrop of increased service demands especially in the area of social services. There is a duty on the Council to produce a balanced budget and this year more than ever, it has been necessary to take difficult decisions.

Councillor Turner further stated that, as usual, there was a great deal of debate at all of the Scrutiny Committees with a wide range of views expressed and the comments of the Scrutiny Members were outlined in Appendix 4 to the report.

There was concern amongst Members that the drive for more and more efficiency savings is not sustainable and will impact on services.

Councillor Turner reported that there was an acceptance of the need to maintain the Schools budget but once again a strong theme which came through during the consultation within the Committees, the need for assurance that schools would be advised that they also have a duty to make efficiencies where they can and that these savings be put to constructive use.

Scrutiny was only too aware that the limited resources can only be stretched so far and that there was a reluctant acceptance of the need to increase Council Tax along with Fees and Charges. It was understood that it is a difficult economic climate for the residents of Rhondda Cynon Taf but if there was a wish to protect vital services to the most vulnerable then there was no option.

Finally, Councillor Turner thanked the Cabinet for giving him the opportunity to address the meeting today.

2. REASON FOR THE DECISION BEING MADE:

- Following the meeting of Cabinet held on the 21st January, 2014, the need for Cabinet Members to give consideration to the second stage of the consultation process, in order that the draft budget strategy can be amended, if necessary prior to the budget proposals being presented to Council on the 26th February, 2014.

3. CONSULTATION UNDERTAKEN PRIOR TO DECISION BEING MADE:

- Report to Cabinet – 21st January, 2014.
- Scrutiny Committees, School Budget Forum and online consultation as identified in Appendices 3, 4 and 5 of the report.

4. PERSONAL INTERESTS DECLARED:

None

5. DISPENSATION TO SPEAK (AS GRANTED BY STANDARDS COMMITTEE):

N/A

6. (a) IS THE DECISION URGENT AND NOT TO BE THE SUBJECT OF ANY CALL-IN BY THE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE:

YES NO

Note: This decision will not come into force and may not be implemented until the expiry of 5 clear working days after its publication i.e. **Monday, 24th February, 2014** to enable it to be the subject to the Call-In Procedure in Rule 17.1 of the Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rules.

6. (b) IF YES, REASONS WHY IN THE OPINION OF THE DECISION-MAKER THE DECISION IS URGENT:

N/A

6. (c) SIGNATURE OF MAYOR OR DEPUTY MAYOR OR HEAD OF PAID SERVICE CONFIRMING AGREEMENT THAT THE PROPOSED DECISION IS REASONABLE IN ALL THE CIRCUMSTANCES FOR IT BEING TREATED AS A MATTER OF URGENCY, IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY PROCEDURE RULE 17.2:

N/A

.....
(Mayor)

.....
(Dated)

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of several loops and a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

.....
(Proper Officer)

13th February, 2014

.....
(Dated)