

BROMSGROVE DISTRICT COUNCIL

MEETING OF THE CABINET

WEDNESDAY, 20TH FEBRUARY 2013 AT 3.00 P.M.

PRESENT: Councillors R. Hollingworth (Leader), Mrs. M. A. Sherrey JP (Deputy Leader), M. A. Bullivant and C. B. Taylor

Officers: Mr. K. Dicks, Ms. J. Pickering, Mr. J. Godwin, Ms. J. Willis, Ms. S. Morgan, Mrs S. Sellers and Ms. R. Cole.

112/12 **APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Dr. D. W. P. Booth JP and M. J. A. Webb.

113/12 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

No declarations of interest were received.

114/12 **MINUTES**

The minutes of the meeting of the Cabinet held on 6th February 2013 were submitted.

RESOLVED that the minutes be approved as a correct record.

115/12 **FEES AND CHARGES 2013/2014**

The Cabinet considered a report on proposed Fees and Charges in respect of a range of Council services for 2013/2014. It was noted that in general the overall increase was 3% although this varied slightly between services.

Following discussion it was

RESOLVED that the Fees and Charges for 2013/2014 as contained in Appendix A to the report be approved.

116/12 **MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL PLAN 2013/2014 - 2015/2016**

Consideration was given to the report on the Medium Term Financial Plan for 2013/2014 to 2015/2016 relating to revenue and capital expenditure.

The Leader and the Executive Director for Finance and Corporate Resources referred to the background to the Medium Term Financial Plan and the detailed work undertaken by officers and Members as part of the budget process. The Leader stated that this year there had been an extremely challenging background to the production of the Medium Term Financial Plan.

Following discussion it was

RECOMMENDED:

- 1) that the Council determines the level of Council Tax discount to be applied to the prescribed classes of dwellings as defined by the Council Tax (Prescribed Classes of Dwellings) (England) Regulations 2003 (as amended) for
 - a) Class A [“second homes with planning restriction”] be set at 0% - no discount;
 - b) Class B [“second homes without planning restriction”] be set at 0% - no discount; and
 - c) Class C [vacant dwellings] be set at:
 - a. Where the dwelling appears in the Valuation List for the first time and it has been continuously unoccupied and substantially unfurnished since the effective date of entry into the list:
 - i. for the first 3 months from the date of entry into the list 100%
 - ii. for periods of more than 3 months and for less than 6 months 50%
 - iii. for periods of 6 months or more 0% - no discount
 - b. Where the dwelling has been unoccupied and substantially unfurnished for a continuous period of less than 6 months 50%
 - c. where the dwelling has been continuously unoccupied and substantially unfurnished for 6 months or more 0% - no discount
 - d. For the purposes of Class C when considering whether a dwelling falls within the class any period of occupation, not exceeding 6 weeks, during which it was not unoccupied and substantially unfurnished shall be disregarded.
 - d) Class D [uninhabitable dwellings] be set at 100%
- 2) that the powers to reduce the Council Tax payable on a case by case basis , as provided by Section 13A 1(c) of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, be delegated to the Executive Director of Finance and Resources and the Revenue Services Manager;

- 3) that authority be delegated to the Head of Legal, Equalities and Democratic Services to amend the Scheme of Delegation to Officers to implement (2) above;
- 4) that the high revenue bids and unavoidable pressures of; 2013/14 £561k as detailed in Appendix 1 be approved;
- 5) that the use of balances totalling £97,000 for 2013/14 be approved;
- 6) that an increase in Council Tax of 1.9% for 2013/14 be approved;
and
- 7) that the Pay Policy as set out in Appendix 2 be approved.

The meeting closed at 3.21 p.m.

Chairman