

Eden District Council

Cabinet Minutes

Date: 18 January 2022 Venue: Council Chamber, Town Hall, Penrith Time: 6.00 pm

Present:

Chairman: Councillor V Taylor

Vice Chairman: Councillor M Robinson

Councillors: J Derbyshire L Sharp
M Rudhall M Tonkin

Officers Present: Ian Frost, Interim Chief Executive
Les Clark, Deputy Chief Executive
Paul Sutton, Interim Director of Resources
Lisa Tremble, Assistant Director Legal and Democratic Services
Fergus McMorrow, Assistant Director Development

Democratic Services Officer: Lewis Powell

CAB/79/01/22 Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Councillor Greenwood

CAB/80/01/22 Minutes

Proposed by Councillor Taylor
Seconded by Councillor Rudhall

and **RESOLVED** that the public minutes Cab/70/12/21 to Cab/78/12/21 of the meeting of the Cabinet held on 21 December 2021 be confirmed and approved by the Chairman as a correct record of those proceedings.

CAB/81/01/22 Declarations of Interest

No declarations of interest were declared at this meeting.

CAB/82/01/22 Questions and Representations from the Public

Mr J Davies submitted the following question. In his absence Councillor Ryland delivered the question.

Can the Leader please explain how as the Leader of Eden Council you and Eden Council have issued a statement both in the press and via the council's own social media accounts regarding the council's budget and council tax saying no tax increase for residents, and the council own social media accounts stating Council Tax freeze for all residents, these statements all made ahead of this cabinet and full council approving the budget and setting of the council tax for 2022/23.

Does the leader feel these statements may show a level of predetermination yet again by the administration in the setting of the budget and the council tax?

The Leader gave the following reply:

The democratic decision making process is being followed absolutely correctly. Every councillor in the administration have been elected by Eden residents and we propose policies and develop actions to benefit them, to the best of our abilities and our consciences. Just as the Chancellor of the Exchequer stands in the steps on number 11 with his dispatch box, submitting his or her budget to the people to permit discussion, and to Parliament for decision-making, so we have published EDC's 2022/23 budget. Proposals have to be made in order to be discussed and voted on: making them public is a necessary step in that process. The statements and report tonight make it absolutely clear that these are not decisions but draft proposals for consultation and scrutiny. The Budget and Setting of Council Tax are for Full Council to decide on 24th February.

Councillor Ryland asked the following supplementary question on behalf of Mr Davies:

I thank the leader for the response to my question.

Could the leader please explain how Eden council will deliver "No Council Tax Rise for Eden Residents" as has been stated publicly or is the leader and the council setting false expectation for Eden council taxpayers given Eden council only set a part of the total council tax bill residents will receive and other precepting authorities have already said they will be forced to increase their ask of the council tax this year.

Meaning the council tax bill of Eden residents will rise contrary to the statement made by the leader and Eden council that it would not.

So how will the leader and Eden council deliver "No Council Tax Rise for Eden Residents" or does the leader wish to withdraw the public statements made and instead issue a correction to say "No Increase of the Eden portion of the council tax bill"?

The Leader gave the following reply:

I think that this is something of a sophistry from Mr Davies, we cannot possibly undertake to make other peoples decisions on their own proportion of council tax, and we have never done so. If a reporter has omitted to clarify that fine point than you will have to take it up with the reporter.

CAB/83/01/22 Questions from Members

No questions on notice were received from Members under Rule 5 of the Cabinet Procedure Rules of the Constitution.

CAB/84/01/22 Development Management Review

Members considered Report No: DCE04/ 22 of the Assistant Director Development which informs Members about the recent peer review of the Council's planning service carried out by the Planning Advisory Service (PAS) attached at Appendix 1. The recommendations from the review are set out in full in Appendix 2 along with the Council's response to them which forms a plan to deliver related improvements. The financial implications of the plan are also set out for Members' consideration and approval.

Proposed by Councillor Taylor
Seconded by Councillor Robinson

and **RESOLVED** that:

1. The findings and the recommendations are noted.
2. That the action plan in the attached Appendix is approved.
3. That Cabinet endorse the costs of implementing the proposed action plan set out in paragraph 6 and recommend their inclusion in the Medium Term Financial Plan subject to Council approval.

CAB/85/01/22 ICT Shared Service Contract

Members considered Report No: DoR02/22 of the Interim Director of Resources

Local Government Reorganisation will result in the activities of both Eden District Council and South Lakeland becoming the responsibilities of the new unitary council from 1st April 2023. This will remove the need for the Shared Service arrangement. Accordingly, South Lakeland District Council will confirm with Eden District Council that the current agreement to provide IT services will not be renewed on its expiry of the 31st March 2023.

Proposed by Councillor Robinson
Seconded by Councillor Sharp

and **RESOLVED** that Cabinet:

1. Approve that in light of Local Government Reorganisation (LGR) Eden District Council accept that the IT Shared Service Agreement will not be renewed following the expiry of the current agreement on the 31 March 2023.
2. Approve that in the event that the Structural Changes Order is not made for any reason or is delayed so as to set the vesting day for the new authorities later than 1 April 2023, that SLDC discuss with Eden District Council an extension of the shared service

arrangement to ensure service continuity and enable both Councils to review options for the future delivery of IT services.

CAB/86/01/22 Draft Budget Proposals 2022/23 & Impact on Medium Term Financial Plan

Members considered Report No: DoR01/22 of the Interim Director of Resources which detailed the draft Budget Proposals for 2022/23 for consultation, and the current Medium Term Financial Plan for 2022/23 – 2024/25.

Proposed by Councillor Taylor
Seconded by Councillor Rudhall

and **RESOLVED** that:

1. the implications of the Provisional Local Government Finance Settlement as set out in section 5 of the report be noted;
2. Consider and recommend the draft Revenue Budget 2022/23 be considered and recommended for consultation as set out at Appendix 2;
3. the revised Medium Term Financial Plan 2022/23 – 2025/26 at Appendix 3 be noted;
4. the General Fund and Revenue Reserves movements for 2021/22 to 2025/26 at Appendix 4 be noted; and
5. the Capital Programme 2022/23 to 2025/26, as set out at Appendix 5 be noted.

CAB/87/01/22 Any Other Items which the Chairman decides are urgent

No urgent items of business were raised at this meeting.

CAB/88/01/22 Date of Next Scheduled Meeting

The date of the next scheduled meeting of the Cabinet was confirmed as 22 February 2022.

The meeting closed at 6.31 pm

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