

**SPECIAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE held at COUNCIL OFFICES  
LONDON ROAD SAFFRON WALDEN at 7.30 pm on 4 FEBRUARY 2002**

Present:- Councillor Mrs S V Schneider – Vice-Chairman in the Chair.  
Councillors R A E Clifford, A Dean, M L Foley, M A Gayler,  
P G F Lewis, R A Merrion, D J Morson and R J O'Neill.

Also present:- Councillor R P Chambers.

Also present at the invitation of the Chairman:- Councillor R J Copping

Officers in Attendance:- Mrs E C Forbes, J B Dickson and Mrs C Roberts.

**RE34 APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Mrs M A Caton and R B Tyler

**RE35 DRAFT LEASING AND CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2002/03 – 2005/06**

Members received a report on the draft Capital Programme 2002/03-2005/6.

The Director of Resources stressed that the Committee was empowered only to make recommendations on the Capital Programme for consideration by the Council on 12 February.

He also reminded Members that a decision not to have a leasing programme had been taken in the previous year. The report sought the Committee's approval of the urgent action taken by the Committee Chairman in approving a replacement cash receipting system. Councillor Chambers proposed the recommendations and this was duly seconded. He also asked that, in the context of the Capital Receipts Statement, the Director of Resources clarify the 2002/03 figure for other Capital Receipts required for funding. Councillor M A Gayler moved an amendment, which was duly seconded, requesting that the figures should include £15,000 as the Council's potential share of works to the sports hall roof at Great Dunmow; works of £35,000 to the wet change area at the Lord Butler Fitness and Leisure Centre, and a sum of £30,000 per annum in the years 2002/03 and 2003/04 for environmental works related to flooding. On being put to the vote, the amendment was carried, and it was therefore

RECOMMENDED that

- 1 the Chairman's urgent action in respect of the replacement/enhancement of the Council's cash receipting system be approved.
- 2 the following additions be made to the Capital Programme:-

£35,000 for works to the wet change area at the Lord Butler Fitness and Leisure Centre.

£15,000 as the Council's potential share of works to the sports hall roof at Great Dunmow, and

£30,000 per annum in the years 2002/03 and 2003/04 for environmental works related to flooding.

- 3 subject to the above amendments to the draft Capital programme including the now identified use of reserves for capital funding which will update, with neutral effect, summary revenue fund reports previously presented be approved for recommendation to full Council.

RE36

### **GENERAL FUND REVENUE ESTIMATES 2002/03**

Members received a report summarising the draft General Fund Revenue Budget for 2002/03.

The report took the budget recommendations of the Committee on 24 January 2002 as its starting point, together with further technical adjustments identified since then, and updated the proposed increase in Council Tax to take account of other developments including the Government's final settlement details received on 1 February 2002.

The position now was that a Council Tax increase of 6.5% was necessary if agreed service budgets were to be funded without reliance on unsustainable resources.

Councillor R P Chambers proposed, which was duly seconded, that in addition to the recommendations in the report, sums be included in the revenue estimates to cover the reinstatement of Voluntary Organisations Grants (£10,000) to be funded from interest on balances, and Ad-hoc Grants (£5,000) financed from income in connection with the micro chipping of animals.

Councillor A Dean expressed doubts that the increased income in relation to sponsorship and partnerships would be achievable. In the light of this, he wished to propose that the council tax increase be 6.5% as recommended, but to achieve this, that the budget be further amended for internal cost savings of £200,000, principally from planning and community leisure services. Councillor Dean's amendment was seconded, put to the vote and lost on the casting vote of the Chairman. Councillor Chambers' original proposal was then put to the vote and, on the casting vote of the Chairman, it was

RECOMMENDED that

- 1 the contributions to and use of earmarked reserves in 2001/02 and 2002/03 as detailed in Appendix REV3 to the report be approved as amended by the Capital Programme.

- 2 the General Fund Revenue Revised Estimates 2001/02 be approved and adopted.
- 3 the General Fund Revenue Estimates 2002/03 be approved and adopted.
- 4 Provision be made in the 2002/03 Revenue Estimates for the reinstatement of "Ad-hoc Grants" in the sum of £5,000 funded from increased income from the micro chipping of animals and £10,000 Voluntary Organisation Grants, to be financed from interest on balances.
- 5 A Council Tax increase of 6.5% be approved.

RE37

**COUNCILLOR MRS M A CATON – ILLNESS**

The Members of the Committee agreed that their sympathy and good wishes for her speedy recovery from shingles be conveyed to Councillor Mrs Caton.

The meeting ended at 9.18 pm.