

DUMFRIES AND GALLOWAY COUNCIL

Meeting of Thursday 8 February 2007
at 10.30am in Council Offices, English Street, Dumfries

Members

Thomas K Sloan (Convener)	- Stranraer North
David J McKie (Depute Convener)	- Lincluden
John Agnew	- Rhins North
Andrew R Campbell	- Castle Douglas – Urr
Christopher H Carruthers	- Hoddom and Kinmount
James H Dempster	- Sanquhar and District
Michael Dickie	- Lochmaben
Grahame A Forster	- Rhins South
John W Forteach	- Marchmount
Patsy Gilroy	- Kirkcudbright – Tarff
Beth Gordon	- Lochar
Allan Graham	- Solway Border
Roger B Grant	- Moffat
Alfred Hannay	- Maxwelltown
Robert J Higgins	- Stranraer East
Bruce Hodgson	- Criffel
Thomas E Holmes	- Loreburn
Ivor A Hyslop	- Nithsdale East
Moses O Kungu	- Kirkconnel
William Little	- Caerlaverock
Sean W Marshall	- Chapelcross
Thomas A McAughtrie	- Troqueer
George L McBurnie	- Palmerston
Marjory O McQueen	- Lockerbie and Upper Annandale
Denis R Male	- Langholm and Upper Eskdale
Jane S Maitland	- Kirkcudbright – Bengairn
Joan Mitchell	- Cree
Fred B Murray	- Luce
Ronnie Nicholson	- Lochside
Ronald E Ogilvie	- Annan East
Wilma R Paterson	- Annan West
Jock Purdie	- Castle Douglas – Dee
Willie Scobie	- Stranraer South
Tony Turner	- Annan Central
Lavinia Vaughan	- Dryfe and Lockerbie East
Lord Vaux of Harrowden	- Stewartry West
Allan G Wright	- Cairn Valley

Apologies

Helen F Bell - Dalbeattie – Milton
Ian Callander - Lochvale
Kenneth Cameron - Heathhall
Brian D Conchie - Georgetown
Kathleen Davidson - Dalbeattie – Craginair
Alistair Geddes - Whithorn
Ian Lindsay - Canonbie and Kirtle
Sandra McDowall - Wigtown
Neil McKay - Mid Nithsdale
George N Prentice - Stewartry North

Alex Haswell

Group Manager Corporate Support & Governance

0.1 SEDERUNT AND APOLOGIES

37 Members present, 10 apologies.

1. COUNCIL TAX AND COMMUNITY CHARGES RESTRICTIONS ON VOTING – Report dated 23 January 2007 by Group Manager, Corporate Support and Governance

Decision

NOTED the provisions of Section 112 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 which placed the onus of disclosure on the individual member and removed a member's voting rights on Council Tax and Community Charge matters in certain specified circumstances.

2. THE BUDGET AND COUNCIL TAX 2007/08 - Report dated 2 February 2007 by Director of Finance

2.1 PROCEDURE - Meeting adjourned at 10.45am to allow Members to consider the budget proposals which had been tabled by the Administration , Alliance Coalition and Conservative Groups and reconvened at 11.15 am with 37 Members present being:- Thomas K Sloan , David J McKie, John Agnew, Andrew R Campbell Christopher H Carruthers, Michael Dickie, Grahame A Forster, John W Forteath, Patsy Gilroy, Beth Gordon, Allan Graham, Roger B Grant, Alfred Hannay, Robert J Higgins, Bruce Hodgson, Thomas E Holmes, Ivor A Hyslop, Moses O Kungu, William Little, Thomas A McAughtrie, George L McBurnie, Neil McKay, Marjory O McQueen, Jane S Maitland, Denis R Male, Sean W Marshall, Joan Mitchell, Fred B Murray, Ronnie Nicholson, Ronald E Ogalvie, Wilma R Paterson, Jock Purdie, Tony Turner, Lavinia Vaughan, Willie Scobie, Tony Vaux and Allan G Wright.

2.2 PROCEDURE - the Director of Finance as Proper Officer responsible for financial affairs of the Council in terms of Section 95 of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973 set out the context to the Council's budgetary position and confirmed that the budgets presented were legal budgets and demonstrated prudential financial management in the medium term.

2.3 Following debate the Conservative Group withdrew their budget proposals.

Decision**VOTE**

2.4 MOTION by **THOMAS K SLOAN** seconded by **DAVID J MCKIE** that the Administration Group Budget for 2007/08 with a consequent Council tax increase of 3% over the current financial year be adopted. (**Appendix 1**)

2.5 AMENDMENT by **JOAN MITCHELL** seconded by **JANE MAITLAND** that the Alliance Coalition Group Budget for 2007/08 with a consequent Council tax increase of 4.4% over the current financial year be adopted. (**Appendix 2**)

2.6 On a vote being taken by roll call, Members voted as follows:-

Motion– 24 votes being: –

Thomas K Sloan, David J McKie, Christopher H Carruthers, James H Dempster, Grahame A Forster, John W Forteath, Patsy Gilroy, Allan Graham, Roger B Grant, Alfred Hannay, Bruce Hodgson, Ivor A Hyslop, Thomas A McAughtrie, George L McBurnie, Marjory O McQueen, Denis R Male, Sean W Marshall, , Ronnie Nicholson, Ronald E Ogilvie, Wilma R Paterson, Willie Scobie Lavinia Vaughan, Tony Vaux and Allan G Wright.

Amendment – 13 votes being:–

John Agnew, Andrew R Campbell, Michael Dickie, Beth Gordon, Robert J Higgins, , Thomas E Holmes, Moses O Kungu, William Little, Jane S Maitland, Joan Mitchell, Fred B Murray, Jock Purdie and Tony Turner

Decision

2.7 **NOTED** the information provided as part of determining the planned level of expenditure on Council Services and associated Council Tax for financial year 2007-08; and

AGREED

2.8 that the Administration Group Budget for the financial year 2007/08 with a consequent Council tax increase of 3% over the current financial year be adopted (**Appendix 1**);

2.9 that progress reports on the Financial Efficiency Strategy be brought forward to all future meetings of the Finance Sub Committee or a suitable succeeding forum if the Committee arrangements were revised after the May elections;

2.10 that the financial arrangements for financing the connectivity of Broadband be the subject of a report to the Finance Sub Committee once the arrangements had been finalised with Scottish Borders Council; and

2.11 that a Natural Wastage/Redevelopment Efficiency Programme be developed by Asset Management and Corporate Policy Committees as part of the More with Less component of the Financial Efficiency Strategy.

3. CAPITAL INVESTMENT STRATEGY AND PRUDENTIAL INDICATORS 2007/08 TO 2009/10 – Report dated 2 February 2007 by Director of Finance

Decision

AGREED

3.1 the updated Prudential Indicators; and

3.2 that these be set as an underlying framework in support of the Council's capital investment strategy.