



Clerk: June Gurry
Telephone: 01803 207013
E-mail address: governance.support@torbay.gov.uk
Date: Friday, 19 February 2016

Governance Support
Town Hall
Castle Circus
Torquay
TQ1 3DR

Dear Member

COUNCIL - THURSDAY, 25 FEBRUARY 2016

I am now able to enclose, for consideration at the Thursday, 25 February 2016 meeting of the Council, the Mayor and Executive Lead for Business response to the Council's objections to the Revenue Budget, Capital Plan Budget and Corporate Plan.

Agenda No	Item	Page
8.	Revenue Budget 2016/2017	(Pages 225 - 228)
9.	Capital Plan Budget 2016/17	(Pages 229 - 233)
10.	Mayor's Response to Objection to the Current Corporate Plan - Libraries	(Pages 234 - 235)
11.	Executive Lead for Business Response to Objection to the Current Corporate Plan - Connections	(Pages 236 - 237)

Yours sincerely

June Gurry
Clerk

Record of Decisions

Mayor's Response to the Objections to the Revenue Budget 2016/2017

Decision Taker

Mayor on 19 February 2016

Decision

That the Mayor disagrees with the objection.

Reason for the Decision

To respond to the Council's objections to the Revenue Budget for 2016/2017. The Mayor disagrees with the Council's objection on the grounds that the Council's Financial Regulations covers the control of revenue expenditure and the budget proposals identify any specific budgeted amount and the relevant budget holder. The Council has already resolved to review the delivery of the Corporate Peer Challenge Action Plan which incorporates the Transformation Programme on a six monthly basis. In addition, the Overview and Scrutiny Board are able to monitor performance and progress as required.

Implementation

The Mayor's response to the Council's objection will be considered at the Council meeting on 25 February 2016.

Information

At the adjourned Council meeting on 11 February 2016, the Council formally objected to the Revenue Budget 2016/2017 proposals on the basis that the £600,000 allocated for Investment in Transformation has no clear control mechanisms for how decisions on the allocation of this money will be undertaken.

In accordance with paragraph F2.9 Standing Orders – Budget and Policy Framework, the Council required the Mayor to consider this objection by 10 am on 19 February 2016 and either:

- a) submit a revision of the estimates or amounts as amended by the elected Mayor with the reasons for any amendments made to the estimates or amounts, to the Council for its consideration; or
- b) inform the Council of any disagreement that the elected Mayor has with any of the Council's objections and the elected Mayor's reasons for any such disagreement.

The Mayor has considered the recommendation of the Council and his proposed response is set out above.

Alternative Options considered and rejected at the time of the decision

None

Is this a Key Decision?

Yes – Reference Number: I021319

Does the call-in procedure apply?

No

Declarations of interest (including details of any relevant dispensations issued by the Standards Committee)

None

Published

February 2016

Signed: _____
Mayor of Torbay

Date: 19 February 2016

Record of Decisions

Executive Lead for Business Response to Objection to Revenue Budget 2016/17

Decision Taker

Executive Lead for Business on 19 February 2016

Decision

- (i) that the Executive Lead for Business accepts the Council's objection; and
- (ii) that the Mayor's final budget proposals include a revised amount of £744,000 (an increase of £10,000) for Customer Services to enable an appointments system for face to face enquiries one day per week in Council libraries in Torquay and Brixham. The additional £10,000 funding for Customer Services to be allocated from the Grant Income and Contingencies budget. This revision updates recommendation 2.1 (c) of the original submitted report.

Reason for the Decision

To respond to the Council's objections to the Revenue Budget for 2016/2017. The Executive Lead for Business accepts the Council's objections and presents revised amounts to maintain a face to face presence in Torquay, Paignton and Brixham with Torquay and Brixham operating an appointments system for face to face enquiries one day per week.

Implementation

The Executive Lead for Business' revised proposals will be considered at the Council meeting on 25 February 2016.

Information

At the adjourned Council meeting on 11 February 2016, the Council formally objected to the Revenue Budget 2016/2017 in respect of the reduction to the Connections Service, on the basis that it is not clear how the savings will be achieved, despite significant opposition to change being indicated in the public consultation and the potential that any change could adversely affect senior citizens and the more vulnerable in society.

In accordance with paragraph F2.9 Standing Orders – Budget and Policy Framework, the Council required the Executive Lead for Business (as the Mayor has a pecuniary interest in the matter) to consider this objection by 10 am on 19 February 2016 and either:

- a) submit a revision of the estimates or amounts as amended by the elected Mayor with the reasons for any amendments made to the estimates or amounts, to the Council for its consideration; or
- b) inform the Council of any disagreement that the elected Mayor has with any of the Council's objections and the elected Mayor's reasons for any such disagreement.

As the Mayor an interest in this matter, the Executive Lead for Business has considered the recommendation of the Council and his proposed response is set out in this Record of

Decision.

Alternative Options considered and rejected at the time of the decision

None

Is this a Key Decision?

Yes – Reference Number: I021319

Does the call-in procedure apply?

No

Declarations of interest (including details of any relevant dispensations issued by the Standards Committee)

The Mayor has a pecuniary interest in this matter and has delegated his decision making powers to the Executive Lead for Business in respect of Connections.

Published

19 February 2016

Signed: _____
Executive Lead for Business

Date: 19 February 2016

Record of Decisions

Mayor's Response to the Objections to the Capital Plan Budget 2016/17

Decision Taker

Mayor on 19 February 2016

Decision

- (i) That the Mayor's funding proposals in relation to the Strand as outlined at recommendation 3.8 of the submitted report be withdrawn;
- (ii) That the Mayor accepts the objections of the Council in relation to Matrix Scoring Criteria whereby the prioritisation of unfunded capital projects by a Matrix Scoring Criteria is undertaken by the Executive Director – Operations and Finance and Chief Finance Officer in consultation with the Mayor and Group Leaders. The Matrix Scoring Criteria and the resulting prioritised list of unfunded capital projects will be included in future revisions of the Capital Strategy for consideration by the Council;
- (iii) That the Council's objections in relation to the criteria for the management of the Investment Fund be accepted;
- (iv) As a result of (i) to (iii), the Mayor's final budget proposals are set out below:
 - 1. That the latest position for the Council's Capital expenditure and funding for 2015/16 be noted.
 - 2. That 2016/17 Capital Strategy (set out at Appendix 1 of the submitted report) be approved.
 - 3. That prudential borrowing of £10 million for an Investment Fund to enable acquisition of properties for investment purposes to be funded from future rental income be approved. Criteria for the purchases within the Fund be presented to Council for approval in due course.
 - 4. That prudential borrowing of £3 million for essential capital repair works be approved with the cost of borrowing to be included in future year revenue budgets and that the allocation of the budget be agreed by the Executive Head – Business Services in consultation with the Chief Finance Officer and the Mayor and Group Leaders with the Overview and Scrutiny Co-ordinator being notified in advance of any decisions.
 - 5. That prudential borrowing of £0.350 million to upgrade and update the Council's CCTV equipment be approved with the cost of borrowing to be included in future year revenue budgets offset by any future external contributions and any resulting revenue savings.
 - 6. That prudential borrowing of £1.0 million for an IT Investment Fund for 2016/17 to 2019/20 be approved with the cost of borrowing to be included in future year revenue budgets and that the allocation of the Fund be agreed by Executive Director of Operations and Finance consultation with the Chief Finance Officer,

the Executive Head – Customer Services and the Executive Lead for Customer Services.

7. That the reallocation of £0.5m within the existing schools capital allocation to provide two mobile accommodation buildings at Paignton Community Sports Academy be approved to meet an immediate need for pupil places.
8. That the Council will not take up the option in 2016/17 of using capital receipts to fund one off revenue costs of transformation to meet future budget reductions.
9. That, subject to approval of 3. to 8. above, the budget forecast for 2016/17 to 2019/20 at Appendix 2 of the submitted report be approved as the Capital Plan.
10. That the Corporate Asset Management Plan for 2015 – 2019 (as set out in Appendix 4 of the submitted report) be approved.

Reason for the Decision

To respond to the Council's objections to the Capital Plan Budget for 2016/2017.

- (i) The Mayor has withdrawn the proposals in relation to the Strand improvements in response to the objections of the Council. The Mayor remains fully committed to the Scheme and supports the Council's original decision taken on 24 September 2015 for the approval of the Strand improvements. This decision applies to both of the Council's objections in relation to the Strand Improvements and Waterfront projects;
- (ii) The Mayor supports the Matrix Scoring Criteria as this reflects best practice. In line with the Council's Constitution, the involvement of the Overview and Scrutiny Co-ordinator is more appropriate in a notification role rather than a consultee and therefore, this element of the Council's objection has not been accepted by the Mayor;
- (iii) The Mayor accepts the Council's objections to the management of the Investment Fund and will present revised criteria for Council approval in due course.

Implementation

The Mayor's revised proposals will be considered at the Council meeting on 25 February 2016.

Information

At the adjourned Council meeting on 11 February 2016, the Council formally objected to the Capital Plan Budget 2016/2017 in respect of the following:

Strand:

1. That the Council formally objects to the Mayor's capital budget proposals on the basis of the allocation of £0.35 million to the improvements at the Strand in Torquay, as there has been no matrix applied to prioritise capital projects within Torbay.
2. That the Council formally objects to the Mayor's capital budget proposals on the basis that in light of the earlier objection in respect of the Capital project matrix scoring criteria, that the Strand scheme should be prioritised alongside other schemes using the matrix

and not treated as a standalone scheme.

3. That the Council formally objects to the Mayor's capital budget proposals on the basis that there is no mechanism for the Council to determine a choice of funding between the options set out in paragraph 3.8 of the submitted report.

Waterfront:

This Council notes that £10.5 million (£161 per capita) has been spent on Torquay waterfront projects, £20.1 million (£1,201 per capita) spent on Brixham waterfront projects and £0.6 million (£12 per capita) spent on Paignton waterfront projects within the last 9 years as per figures set out in the table below:

<u>Project</u>	<u>Total project cost</u> <u>£m</u>	<u>Approx. Dates</u>
Torquay		
Tqy Town Dock	1.20	2007/08-2008/09
Tqy Townscape Heritage	0.70	2008/09-2010/11
Mallock Memorial	0.20	2010/11
Princess Promenade	4.00	2011/12-2013/14
Haldon/Princess Piers	3.10	2009/10-2015/16
Princess Pier decking	0.40	2015/16
Inner Harbour pontoons	0.90	2013/14-2015/16
	10.50	
Paignton		
Paignton Geopark	0.60	2011/12-2012/13
	0.60	
Brixham		
Bxm Harbour Regen	19.70	2007/08-2012/13

Harbours Major Repairs	0.30	2013/14
Bxm Breakwater	0.05	2013/14
	20.05	

In light of the lack of investment in Paignton seafront and harbour side that the Mayoral project for Torquay seafront and harbour side be deleted and that public consultation be undertaken to ensure that appropriate projects are brought forward for the Paignton seafront and harbour side.

Matrix Scoring Criteria:

1. That the Council formally objects to the Mayor's capital budget proposals on the basis that a matrix scoring criteria (as referred to in the Capital Strategy at paragraph 2.5) is required for approval by Council as part of the Capital Strategy, to enable the Council to prioritise Capital Plan projects. This matrix to be used to approve and prioritise existing schemes on the reserve list and new schemes within the Capital Plan.
2. That the Executive Director – Operations and Finance and Chief Finance Officer (or their nominees) work with the Mayor, Group Leaders and Overview and Scrutiny Co-ordinator to prioritise current potential capital projects (with the aim that the prioritised list is available when the next Capital Plan Monitoring Report is presented).

Investment Fund:

That the Council formally objects to the Mayor's capital budget proposals on the basis that currently any spending in respect of the £10 million Investment Fund has no clear strategic direction, no set parameters and no requirement for clear business plans.

In accordance with paragraph F3.9 Standing Orders – Budget and Policy Framework, the Council required the Mayor to consider these objections by 10 am on 19 February 2016 and either:

- a) submit a revision of the estimates or amounts as amended by the elected Mayor with the reasons for any amendments made to the estimates or amounts, to the Council for its consideration; or
- b) inform the Council of any disagreement that the elected Mayor has with any of the Council's objections and the elected Mayor's reasons for any such disagreement.

The Mayor has considered the recommendations of the Council and his proposed response is set out above.

Alternative Options considered and rejected at the time of the decision

None

Is this a Key Decision?

Yes – Reference Number: I021319

Does the call-in procedure apply?

No

Declarations of interest (including details of any relevant dispensations issued by the Standards Committee)

None

Published

19 February 2016

Signed: _____
Mayor of Torbay

Date: 19 February 2016

Agenda Item 10

Record of Decision

Mayor's Response to Objection to the Current Corporate Plan - Libraries

Decision Taker

Mayor on 19 February 2016

Decision

- (i) That the Council's objections in relation to the Corporate Plan be accepted; and
- (ii) That the Council be recommended to revise the current Corporate Plan under 'Use reducing resources to best affect' as set out below (changes shown in bold red text):

Use reducing resources to best effect

Thinking for the future

We will continue to ensure we are working to maximise efficiencies, ensuring every pound and every hour of work is well spent but the scale of the budget gap means this alone will not be enough. Therefore we will need to think and act differently:

- We may stop providing some services.
- Some services will need to be provided differently with greater community support and/or with integrated working with our partners. **Including reviewing the delivery of libraries whilst maintaining libraries in Torquay, Paignton, Churston and Brixham.**

Reason for the Decision

To respond to the Council's objections to the current Corporate Plan. The Mayor accepts the Council's objections and presents a revision to the Corporate Plan accordingly.

Implementation

The Mayor's response to the Council's objection will be considered at the Council meeting on 25 February 2016.

Information

At the adjourned Council meeting on 11 February 2016, the Council formally objected to the current Corporate Plan on the basis that the following should be included:

The Council will maintain libraries in Torquay, Paignton, Churston and Brixham.

In accordance with paragraph F4.9 Standing Orders – Budget and Policy Framework, the Council required the Mayor to consider this objection by 10 am on 19 February 2016 and either:

- a) submit a revision of the Corporate Plan with the reasons for any amendments to the Council for its consideration; or

- b) inform the Council of any disagreement that the Executive has with any of the Council's objections and the Executive's reasons for any such disagreement.

The Mayor has considered the recommendation of the Council and his proposed response is set out in this Record of Decision.

Alternative Options considered and rejected at the time of the decision

None

Is this a Key Decision?

Yes – Reference Number: I021319

Does the call-in procedure apply?

No

Declarations of interest (including details of any relevant dispensations issued by the Standards Committee)

None

Published

19 February 2016

Signed: _____
Mayor of Torbay

Date: 19 February 2016

Agenda Item 11

Record of Decisions

Executive Lead for Business Response to Objection to Current Corporate Plan - Connections

Decision Taker

Executive Lead for Business on 19 February 2016

Decision

- (i) That the Council's objections in relation to the Corporate Plan be accepted; and
- (ii) That the Council be recommended to revise the current Corporate Plan under 'Use reducing resources to best effect' as set out below (changes shown in bold red text):

Use reducing resources to best effect

Thinking for the future

We will continue to ensure we are working to maximise efficiencies, ensuring every pound and every hour of work is well spent but the scale of the budget gap means this alone will not be enough. Therefore we will need to think and act differently:

- We may stop providing some services.
Including reducing the Connections Service in Torquay and Brixham, but maintaining an appointments system for face to face customer service presence for one day per week in Brixham and Torquay libraries, with any further changes made to the locations of face to face customer service being determined by Full Council.

Reason for the Decision

To respond to the Council's objections to the current Corporate Plan. The Executive Lead for Business accepts the Council's objections and presents a revision to the Corporate Plan accordingly.

Implementation

The Executive Lead for Business' response to the Council's objection will be considered at the Council meeting on 25 February 2016.

Information

At the adjourned Council meeting on 11 February 2016, the Council formally objected to the current Corporate Plan on the basis that the following should be included:

The Council will maintain a face-to-face customer service presence in Torquay, Paignton and Brixham for at least part of the week and before any change is made to the locations of face-to-face customer service a report be presented to Council for approval.

In accordance with paragraph F4.9 Standing Orders – Budget and Policy Framework, the Council required the Executive Lead for Business (as the Mayor had a pecuniary interest

in the matter) to consider this objection by 10 am on 19 February 2016 and either:

- a) submit a revision of the Corporate Plan with the reasons for any amendments to the Council for its consideration; or
- b) inform the Council of any disagreement that the Executive has with any of the Council's objections and the Executive's reasons for any such disagreement.

As the Mayor has an interest in this matter, the Executive Lead for Business has considered the recommendation of the Council and his proposed response is set out in this Record of Decision.

Alternative Options considered and rejected at the time of the decision

None

Is this a Key Decision?

Yes – Reference Number: I021319

Does the call-in procedure apply?

No

Declarations of interest (including details of any relevant dispensations issued by the Standards Committee)

The Mayor has a pecuniary interest in this matter and has delegated his decision making powers to the Executive Lead for Business in respect of Connections.

Published

19 February 2016

Signed: _____
Executive Lead for Business

Date: 19 February 2016