The Executive

Minutes of the meeting held on 11 January 2017

Present: Councillor– Leese in the Chair
Councillors Andrews, Battle, Flanagan, N Murphy, S Newman, B Priest and Rahman

Also present as Members of the Standing Consultative Panel:
Councillors Bridges, Manco, Rowles and Stogia

Exe/17/001 Minutes

Decision

To approve the minutes of the meeting held on 14 December 2016 as a correct record.

Exe/17/002 Outcome of the Budget Options Consultation

In July 2016 we had considered and endorsed the approach to be used to set the budgets for 2017/18 – 2019/20 (Minute Exe/16/089). The intention then was for three phases of consultation. The first phase “the Budget Conversation” had concluded in September 2016 and we had considered the outcome of that at a meeting in October 2016 (Minute Exe/16/118). Also in October 2016, the Council had published a set of draft budget proposals for a three-year budget for 2017/18 to 2019/20, commencing the second phase of the consultation. A set of revised budget proposals had then been made public on 3 January 2017, marking the start of the third and final stage of the budget consultation.

A report submitted by the City Solicitor explained the types of consultation that had been employed in stages 1 and 2, and the variety of media that had been used. The responses made during the second phase were analysed and described. In all 1,706 people had responded during the second phase. Appended to the report was a detailed analysis of those responses which examined the views expressed on a range of specific issues, as well as a summary of the demographic mix of the people who had responded.

We welcomed the new approaches and techniques that had been employed during both phases of the consultation, this had made the budget consultation one of the most extensive and wide ranging the Council had undertaken. The responses had been considered and used to help determine the Council’s budget priorities and the revisions to the budget proposals that had been made between October 2016 and January 2017.

Decision

To note the report.

Exe/17/003 Budget 2017/20: A Strategic Response

In October we had considered a report that presented a high-level overview of the progress that Manchester had made in recent years, the opportunities and challenges that lay ahead, and the budget strategy for the Council for the coming years (Minute Exe/16/117). The Chief Executive, the City Treasurer and the City Solicitor submitted an updated version of that report which reasserted the basis of the budget strategy and which now was also able to set out the implications for the Council of the Government's Provisional Finance Settlement for 2017/18. The report showed how the "Our Manchester" Strategy and the budget consultations had informed the development of the strategic framework which had guided the development of the Medium Term Financial Plan for 2016/17 to 2019/20 (Minute Exe/17/004 below) and the Capital Programme and Budget 2017/18 to 2021/22 (Minute Exe/17/005 below).

The report explained that the 2017/18 finance settlement had had little impact on the overall financial position of the Council as set out in the reports presented in October 2016. The most significant was that the Council Tax rate could be increased by up to 5% in 2017/18 and 2018/19 before triggering a referendum. The core principle of limiting general increases to 2% a year was to continue. In addition to that, social care authorities such as the City Council were being given the flexibility to increase the Social Care precept by up to 3% in 2017/18 and 2019/20. The expectation in October had been for a limit of 2% increases for the social care precept. The Council was now able to precept a 3% increase for 2 years instead of the 2% increase for 3 years. Therefore the effect of this was primarily a change in cash flow rather than an increase in overall funding. Each 1% increase in the social care precept would generate around £1.3m in additional council tax income. There was also to be an additional Adult Social Care grant of £240m nationally of which Manchester was to receive £2.7m.

The settlement had confirmed the intention to move to 100% business rates retention by authorities by 2020/21. That was to be piloted in a number of areas from 2017/18, including in Greater Manchester. The New Homes Bonus Grant paid to the Council was to be reduced. The effect of these changes in the grants was forecast to be a reduction in of £3.6m in the New Homes Bonus Grant 2017/18 and £1.2m in 2018/19 and 2019/20; and an increase of £2.7m from the Adult Social Care Support Grant in 2017/18 only. The net effect of these two adjustments in 2017/18 would be a reduction in funding of £0.9m. The ability to increase Council Tax by 5% in 2017/18 rather than 4% would result in additional income of £1.329m in 2017/18.

The report also explained that since October's budget proposals had been published there had been a full review of how the resources available to the Council were to be utilised to best effect. It was being proposed that an additional £8.374m from Manchester Airport Group share dividends be used to support the revenue budget. A change to the Council's approach on the funding of debt was predicted to make available a further £5m to support the revenue budget. Finally, commercial income generated from business rates activity was expected to continue to grow and this had also been incorporated into the budget planning.

The net result of the changes was that the budget gap to be filled was now £31.75m compared to the £60.02m that was predicted in the October 2016 reports. The summary of the financial position for the three years of the Budget Strategy was:

Predicted Financial Position	**2016/17** £'000	**2017/18** £'000	**2018/19** £'000	**2019/20** £'000
Resources Available				
• Revenue Support Grant	113,768	90,152	73,740	57,041
• Business Rates income	165,571	170,654	186,958	194,597
• Council Tax	136,617	141,664	150,195	157,013
• Grants including Public Health	78,128	76,210	79,645	87,674
• Dividends and Use of Reserves	34,432	46,471	44,471	44,471
Total Resources Available	**528,516**	**525,151**	**535,009**	**540,796**
Resources Required				
• Corporate Costs	122,504	122,318	124,786	126,335
Directorate Costs				
• Central Costs	12,740	12,340	12,240	12,240
• Directorate Budgets	393,272	385,119	383,255	383,255
• Budget Pressures	0	19,877	37,814	50,723
Total Directorate Costs	406,012	417,336	433,309	446,218
Total Resources Required	**528,516**	**539,654**	**558,095**	**572,553**
In-year Savings Required	0	14,503	8,583	8,671
Accumulating Budget Gap	0	14,503	23,086	31,757

The proposals for how to close the budget gap were set out in the other reports being put to the meeting, which are referenced below.

Decision

To note the impact of the Provisional Local Government Settlement 2017/18 and to agree to consider the Revenue Budget Reports 2017-2020 and Capital Strategy 2017-2022 that follow within the strategic context set out in this report.

Exe/17/004 Medium Term Financial Strategy 2016/17 to 2019/20

The Chief Executive and the City Treasurer presented a revised version of the proposed Medium Term Financial Strategy that we had previously considered in October 2016 (Minute Exe/16/119). As the previous report had outlined, the budget settlement that had been announced in December had not significantly changed the Council’s financial position. There had been a slight worsening of £1.2m over the three year period due to changes to grants, as noted above.

This updated report set out in greater detail the predictions and expectations for the resources that were to be available to the Council, and the planned use of those resources.

The previous version of the Medium Term Financial Strategy had outlined the then forecast for the budget gap and the savings and cuts the Council was going to have to make over the next three years. In October the budget gap had been predicted as being up to £60.02m, and the reports we had considered at that time set out potential savings and cuts totalling £57.792m, with the possible staffing implications then being the loss of 161FTE jobs. Since October there had been a review of how the resources available could best be utilised to support the financial position, including use of reserves and dividends, consideration of the updated Council Tax and Business Rates position, the financing of capital investment and the availability and application of grants. The updated version of the Financial Strategy was the product of that work and showed how the budget gap had reduced. The figures for each directorate were now:

Savings to close the budget gap	**2017/18 £,000**	**2018/19 £,000**	**2019/20 £,000**	**FTE Impact (Indicative)**
Adults	5,000	8,000	12,000	0
Children's	1,221	1,441	1,621	19
Corporate Core	5,481	8,406	10,566	54
Growth and Neighbourhoods	1,490	2,710	7,220	3
Strategic Development	350	350	350	1
Total Savings	**13,542**	**20,907**	**31,757**	**77**

The report described the on-going consultations on the general budget proposals, and on some specific changes that were being put forward. The final proposals for the Council's Medium Term Financial Strategy for the period 2016/17 to 2019/20 were to be considered at our next meeting in February.

Included in the budget strategy was a proposal to increases spending on support to address homelessness and rough sleeping in the City Centre, and to carry out a review to seek to improve the experience of the city centre. Aligned to the plan for a review was a proposal to establish a City Centre Review reserve of £3m. As part of that, a commitment was made at the meeting by the Executive to there being a zero-tolerance approach to on-street begging in the city in the future.

Decisions

1. To note the report and the anticipated financial position for the Authority for the period 2017/18 to 2019/20.

2. To note that the financial position has been based on the provisional Local Government finance settlement issued on 15 December 2016.

3. To note that there has been a review of how the resources available are utilised to support the financial position to best effect, including use of reserves and dividends, consideration of the updated Council Tax and Business Rates position, the financing of capital investment and the availability and application of grants.

4. To note that the report refers to savings proposals which are subject to consultation which will inform the final budget.

5. To note that budget reports from individual Directorates were to detail the savings proposals.

6. To note that formal budget consultation commenced on 3 November including statutory consultation on two of the options: reconfiguration of the Early Years new Delivery Model including Sure Start Centres; and the Council Tax Support Scheme, which ended on 10 January and 15 December respectively.

7. To note that the draft Capital Budget 2017/18 to 21/22 was also before the meeting for consideration.

8. To note that the full suite of budget reports that were put to the Executive in October, together with a covering narrative, was the Council's Efficiency Plan as submitted to Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) for the four-year funding settlement.

9. To note that DCLG had approved the four year settlement for the City Council.

Exe/17/005 Capital Programme (Budget 2017/18 to 2021/22)

The City Treasurer submitted a draft Capital Programme for the Council for 2017/18 to 2021/22. This proposed programme had been developed as part of the draft budget that was being considered at this meeting, and which was subject to on-going public consultation prior to being reconsidered again in February for the setting of the budgets and Council Tax for 2017/18 and beyond.

The proposals contained in the report would create a capital programme of £480.6m in 2017/18, £480.4m in 2018/19, £176.4m in 2019/20, £126.4m in 2020/21 and £288.0m in 2021/22.

The report described all the main projects that were included in the proposed programme. At the meeting particular reference was made to the proposed commitments to reducing carbon emissions through further investment in LED street lighting and an investment in a city heat network; to investment in the city’s parks; and a significant planned investment in the city’s highways.

To fund the proposed programme, the report explained that prudential borrowing of up to £783.9m would be needed over the five-year period. The breakdown of that by each year of the programme was:

2017/18	£192.3m
2018/19	£158.4m
2019/20	£108.0m
2020/21	£79.2m
2021/22	£246.0m

More than a third of the borrowing would relate to the project to refurbish the Town Hall (Minute Exe/16/142). That was expected to be £306.1m.

The programme also included proposals for a total of £289.7m of schemes over the five years to be carried out on behalf of Greater Manchester bodies. Each of the schemes proposed was funded by borrowing at relatively low risk to the Council. The funds would either be borrowed from Government, or were to have guarantees from the Combined Authority or other Greater Manchester authorities. We noted that should the Combined Authority receive borrowing powers for economic regeneration then these schemes would likely transfer across to the Authority and come out of the Council's capital programme in due course.

Decisions

1. To endorse the draft capital budget proposals as set out in the report.

2. To note that final budget proposals would be considered by the Executive on 8 February for recommendation to the Council.

Exe/17/006 Children's Services and Education and Skills Budget and Business Planning: 2017 - 2020

In October 2016 we had considered draft budget options for each of the Council's directorates, including the Children's Services and Education and Skills Budget (Minute Exe/16/121). The Director of Children's Services and Director of Education and Skills and now presented a report that set out revised proposals for the services which took into account the changes in the Council's financial strategy and the views expressed by consultees who had responded during the earlier rounds on consultation on the budget.

The report again examined the key services provided by the directorate and the financial and budget challenges that each was facing. With the changes to the forecast for the Council's overall position since October, the directorate's financial outlook had also been revised. With the reduction in the likely size of the budget gap the level of savings to be made within the directorate had been reduced, and the proposals now included the virement of funds into the directorate's budgets to help address some of the highest pressure areas in the coming years. The comparison in the figures being:

Budget savings proposed	**2017/18**	**2018/19**	**2019/20**
as at October 2016			
Efficiencies and Improvement savings Service Reductions	£2.357m £1.000m	£1.743m £0.400m	£1.019m £0.180m
Total	**£3.357m**	**£2.143m**	**£1.199m**
as at January 2017			
Efficiencies and Improvement savings Virement for budget pressures	£2.107m -£0.886m	£1.213m -£0.993m	£1.199m -£1.019m
Total	**£1.221m**	**£0.220m**	**£0.180m**

The proposed budget for 2017-20 for each of the directorate's business areas was appended to the report. It was explained that consultation was on-going on the overall budget proposals, with specific consultation underway on the proposal to cease the designation of eight Sure Start Children's Centres.

Decisions

1. To note and endorse the draft budget proposals contained within the report, which were subject to consultation as part of the overall budget setting process.

2. To note that final budget proposals would be considered by the Executive on 8 February for recommendation to the Council.

Exe/17/007 Adult Social Care Budget and Business Planning: 2017 - 2020

As with the Children's Services and Education and Skills Budget above, in October 2016 we had considered draft budget options for the Adult Social Care budget (Minute Exe/16/120). The Strategic Director Adult Social Services and the Joint Director Health and Social Care Integration now presented a report that set out revised proposals for the services which took into account the changes in the Council's financial strategy and the views expressed by consultees who had responded during the earlier rounds on consultation on the budget.

Appended to the report was a summary of the budget being put forward for each of the service areas. The report also set out the revised savings the directorate was proposing to make. In October 2016 the total savings for the directorate to make had been £27.064m over the three years of the budgets. Now the total savings to be made were £12.0m over the three years, to be achieved from the expansion of the pooled fund and the implementation of new care models.

We noted that the Health Scrutiny Committee had also considered this report at its recent meeting (Minute HSC/16/66).

Decisions

1. To note and endorse the draft budget proposals contained within the report, which were subject to consultation as part of the overall budget setting process.

2. To note that final budget proposals would be considered by the Executive on 8 February for recommendation to the Council.

Exe/17/008 Locality Plan - Financial Report - Closing the Funding Gap 2017/21 - Update: Three Year Budget Strategy 2017-20

The Joint Director Health and Social Care Integration, the City Treasurer and the Chief Finance Officer for Manchester Clinical Commissioning Groups submitted a joint report setting out proposal for the approach to be taken across health and social care organisations in Manchester to improve health and social care outcomes for residents. This was to be achieved by radically transforming the health and social care system, and in the process, to aim to close the funding gap of £134m that was forecast to exist by 2021. The strategy that was being developed was intended to close the funding gap. However, the failure of the Local Government Finance Settlement to recognise the growing pressures on social care and the impact of the NHS settlement and tariff changes meant that progress on closing the gap would not be as great as previously envisaged. Without additional funding for social care the gap would not be closed and there was a responsibility on all the partners involved to ensure that the position would be affordable. The report therefore explained that more work was underway to bridge the remaining gap in order that, before April 2017, a final balanced budget for the Council and Clinical Commissioning Groups could be presented for approval to the Council and Clinical Commissioning Group Boards.

We noted that the Health Scrutiny Committee had also considered this report at its recent meeting (Minute HSC/16/66). We accepted the committee's recommendation that we commend the benefits of the Single Hospital Service and of the Locality Plan as a whole to the NHS Improvement and the Competition and Merger Authority to support their consideration of the Single Hospital Service proposal.

Decisions

1. To note and endorse the draft budget proposals contained within the report, which were subject to consultation as part of the overall budget setting process.

2. To note that final budget proposals would be considered by the Executive on 8 February for recommendation to the Council.

3. To commend the benefits of the Single Hospital Service and of the Locality Plan as a whole to the NHS Improvement and the Competition and Merger Authority to support their consideration of the Single Hospital Service proposal.

Exe/17/009 Growth and Neighbourhoods Budget and Business Planning: 2017 - 2020

As with the two directorates referenced above, in October 2016 we had considered draft budget options for the Growth and Neighbourhoods budget (Minute Exe/16/123). The Deputy Chief Executive (Growth and Neighbourhoods) now presented a report that set out revised proposals for the services which took into account the changes in the Council's financial strategy and the views expressed by consultees who had responded during the earlier rounds on consultation on the budget.

The total savings proposals for the directorate for the three years of the budget were now £7.22m, down from the £9.441m that were being put forward as possible options in October 2016. Appended to the report was a breakdown of the proposed budget across the key services areas in the directorate, as well as schedules showing the savings, growth and other changes and the improvements and efficiencies and service reductions that were to be implemented to achieve the proposed level of savings. Further details on how the savings would be achieved was provided in the report.

The report explained that the budget proposals included growth for the Waste Levy of £5.118m over the three years. This growth had been based on estimates provided by the Greater Manchester Waste Disposal Authority. The final charge would however depend on Manchester's performance against its waste targets relative to other districts within the scheme. This was considered to be a high risk area and so a contingency sum of £2m had also been included within the Council's budget strategy to mitigate some of the risk on future waste disposal costs.

Decisions

1. To note and endorse the draft budget proposals contained within the report, which were subject to consultation as part of the overall budget setting process.

2. To note that final budget proposals would be considered by the Executive on 8 February for recommendation to the Council.

Exe/17/010 Strategic Development Budget and Business Planning: 2017 - 2020

The Strategic Director (Development) submitted a report providing a high level overview of the priorities to be delivered in Strategic Development throughout 2017-2020 alongside the Directorate's saving proposals. This report provided an update on the proposals for the directorate's budget compared to that which had been considered in October 2016 (Minute Exe/16/124). The revisions to the financial plans for the directorate took into account the changes in the Council's financial strategy and the views expressed by consultees who had responded during the earlier rounds on consultation on the budget.

The Strategic Development directorate would have the smallest net budget of the five directorates that made up the departmental spending plans of the Council. In that context, the October 2016 savings proposals had been for the directorate to save £0.4m over the three year budget. In the revised proposals now being put forward that was now a saving of £0.35m. Those would be achieved through efficiencies and improvements in estate management, and through some staffing reductions.

Decisions

1. To note and endorse the draft budget proposals contained within the report, which were subject to consultation as part of the overall budget setting process.

2. To note that final budget proposals would be considered by the Executive on 8 February for recommendation to the Council.

Exe/17/011 Corporate Core Budget and Business Planning: 2017 - 2020

This directorate budget proposal and revision report was a joint report submitted by the Deputy Chief Executive (People, Policy, Reform), City Treasurer, City Solicitor, and the Chief Information Officer. This report provided an update on the proposals for the directorate's budget compared to that which had been considered in October 2016 (Minute Exe/16/125). The revisions to the financial plans for the directorate took into account the changes in the Council's financial strategy and the views expressed by consultees who had responded during the earlier rounds on consultation on the budget.

The report explained the wide range of services and functional areas that made up the corporate core of the Council, providing overall strategic leadership, strategic analysis and core support services to the other directorates. The proposed savings targets for the directorate had been revised, taking account of the revisions to the Council's overall financial strategy for 2017/18 to 2019/20. The change was from an overall target saving of £14.188m to one of £10.566m. The breakdown of this was:

Budget savings proposed	**2017/18**	**2018/19**	**2019/20**	**Total**
As at October 2016				
Efficiency and Improvement	£4.451m	£1.575m	£0.660m	£6.686m
Service Reductions	£3.134m	£2.182m	£2.186m	£7.502m
Total	**£7.585m**	**£3.757m**	**£2.846m**	**£14.188m**
As at January 2017				
Efficiency and Improvement	£4.431m	£1.425m	£0.660m	£6.516m
Service Reductions	£1.050m	£1.500m	£1.500m	£4.050m
Total	**£5.481m**	**£2.925m**	**£2.160m**	**£10.566m**

Appended to the report was a breakdown of the proposed budget across the key services areas and functions across the Highways Department, Chief Executive's and Corporate Services of the Council. Also appended to the report were schedules setting out the savings, growth and other changes as well as the improvements, efficiencies and service reductions that were to be implemented to achieve the proposed level of savings.

Decisions

1. To note and endorse the draft budget proposals contained within the report, which were subject to consultation as part of the overall budget setting process.

2. To note that final budget proposals would be considered by the Executive on 8 February for recommendation to the Council.

Exe/17/012 Localised Council Tax Support Scheme 2017

In October 2016 we had considered and endorsed for public consultation a revised Council Tax Support Scheme that would, if adopted, come into effect from April 2017 onwards (Minute Exe/16/126). The City Treasurer presented a report that set out the outcomes of that consultation. The report also proposed a final version of the new support scheme, recommending that it be adopted by the Council at the end of January 2017. It was a statutory requirement that the Council's Council Tax Support Scheme for 2017/18 was in place by 31 January 2017.

The report explained how the consultation approved in October 2016 had been undertaken. The media used in that had included social media, posters, online and paper questionnaires. The consultation had generated a total of 1,996 returned questionnaires, including 1,742 paper questionnaires and 254 online questionnaires. Of this 916 had been from benefit claimants and 1,598 from Manchester residents. A further 398 responses were received from outside the city.

Appended to the report was a copy of the paper questionnaire that had been used, along with a detailed analysis of the consultation responses. The views of the consultees had been sought on three of the four options that had been set out in October 2016. The three were:

(1) reduce the maximum award from 85% to 80%,
(2) reduce the maximum award from 85% for all to 83% of what would be paid on a Band A property, or
(3) reduce the maximum award from 85% for all to 81% of what would be paid on a Band B property.

The majority (988 or 49% of all respondents) had preferred Option 1 which was also the Council's preferred option in October 2016. Only 24% had preferred Option 2 and 10% Option 3. The remaining 17% of respondents had not given an answer on this question.

As required by legislation, the Council had also consulted the Greater Manchester Fire and Rescue Service and the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner for Greater Manchester: neither had provided a response.

The consultation had been initiated before the Government's announcements of the ability for Council to increase the social care precept element of the Council Tax from 2% to 3% in 2017/19. That change would have an impact on all households in the city with a 4.99% increase in Council Tax rather than the 3.99% that had been anticipated when the consultation began. The cumulative impact of that and the proposed changes to Council Tax Support Scheme would therefore be greater for claimants than households that do not receive support under the Scheme.

To mitigate against the likely impact of a higher council tax and a lower level of support the Council had also considered the other option that had been included in October 2016, but which had not been included in the consultation materials. That was for the Scheme to pay awards for working age households based on a maximum of 82.5% of the Council Tax charge for the property (meaning that the maximum a household could receive would be 82.5% of the Council Tax due). All working age households would have to pay a minimum of 17.5% of the Council Tax due. That proposal was between the current support rate of 85%, and the Option 1 rate of 80% that had been the preference of the majority of the respondents in the consultation.

Operating the scheme at 82.5% instead of 80% was forecast to involve a further £1m of expenditure on the support scheme, over and above the costs that were predicted in October 2016. To lessen the impact of the change to the Support Scheme combined with the higher Council Tax increases in 2017/18, the report recommended that this option of 82.5% now be the preferred option. We accepted that recommendation.

An equality impact assessment had been carried out to evaluate the possible implications of the proposed changes and to consider the extent that it would be possible to remove or minimising any disadvantages that would be suffered by people due to their protected characteristics. The assessment had also considered what steps could be taken to meet the needs of people from protected groups where these would be different from the needs of other people. A copy of the assessment was appended to the report and we noted its findings and the actions set out in it.

Having considered the views of the consultees, and the equalities impact assessment, we agreed to recommend the Council adopt the Council Tax Support Scheme as appended to the report, based on paying awards for working age households based on a maximum of 82.5% of the Council Tax charge for the property.

We noted that the Resources and Governance Scrutiny Committee had also considered this report at its recent meeting (Minute RGSC/16/54) and had endorsed its recommendations.

Decisions

1. To note the impact of the government announcement to changes to Council Tax to fund adult social care services that, if approved by the Council, would mean Council Tax bills would be increasing by 4.99% across the board.

2. To note the outcomes of the consultation process and the Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) both of which have informed the final recommendations. Both the consultation and the EIA have supported the Council’s preferred approach which was to provide a maximum level of support against the Council Tax bill rather than other options that require differential rates based on Council Tax property bands.

3. To agree that the CTS scheme funding will be reduced by £1million rather than £2million, so as to mitigate the impact on working age CTS claimant households in the city.

4. To agree that the Council’s local CTS Scheme will be based on the following: The core scheme is amended and the Council would pay CTS based on all working age claimants receiving a maximum of 82.5% of the Council Tax that is due for the property (this means that the maximum a working age household could receive would be 82.5% of the Council Tax due). All working age households will have to pay a minimum of 17.5% of the Council Tax due. Pension age households will continue to receive up to 100% support.

5. To agree to align the CTS scheme to Housing Benefit and other DWP means tested benefits. The effect of which is:

   i. when working out entitlement to CTS the Council will disregard capital relating to payments made directly to a parent for the purposes of meeting their child's special educational needs;
   ii. the Council will use the date of change rather than Monday after for any award or increase of a DWP benefit;
   iii. the Council will increase the length of time that a claimant has to notify us of a beneficial change from three weeks to one month, if we are told after a month then we will pay any extra from the Monday after the date we were told;
   vi. when working out entitlement to CTS the Council will no longer include a family premium in the applicable amount for all new claims with dependants, or for existing claims without children where a first child is born or a child joins the household, aligning to Housing Benefit rules;
   v. when deciding eligibility for CTS the Council will reduce the period of time where a person is outside Great Britain for any reason and still treated as occupying the property from thirteen weeks to four weeks; and
   vi. when working out entitlement to CTS the Council will only take into account two children in the calculation. This will only affect anyone who has a child or responsibility for a new child after 1st April 2017, aligning to Housing Benefit rules.

6. To commend to Council the revised CTS Scheme and recommend it be adopted.

7. To recommend that Council delegate authority to the City Treasurer to continue to make minor technical changes to the CTS Scheme to provide for uprating of applicable amounts, disregards and non-dependant deduction levels and income bands.

Exe/17/013 Housing Revenue Account 2017/18 to 2019/20

A report by the Strategic Director (Development) and City Treasurer presented the proposed budget for the Housing Revenue Account (HRA) for 2017/18 and indicative budgets for 2018/19 and 2019/20.

The report set out the requirements placed on the Council with respect to the HRA budget:
- the Council had to formulate proposals or income and expenditure for the financial year which sought to ensure that the HRA would not show a deficit balance;
- to keep a HRA in accordance with proper practice to ensure that the HRA is in balance taking one year with another; and
- the HRA must, in general, balance on a year-to-year basis so that the costs of running the Housing Service must be met from HRA income.

Under a variety of arrangements, the Council owns and manage over 16,000 properties within the HRA. The arrangements included three PFI schemes and the stock managed by either Northwards Housing or other Registered Social Landlords. During 2016/17 the Council was anticipating selling around 160 properties under the Right to Buy scheme.

Included in the report was the forecast for the HRA in 2016/17 to have an in-year deficit of £6.221m. This was £1.682m less than the deficit originally budgeted, and the main reasons for that change were explained in the report.

The proposed budget reflected the latest information on implementation of recent legislation from the Housing and Planning Act 2016 and Welfare Reform Act 2016. This required social housing rents to be reduced by 1% each year for four years from April 2016. The 2017/18 to 2019/20 budget period were the last three years of that four year period. The mandatory 1% rent reduction had been reflected in the financial plan being put forward. The proposed rents levels included a reduction of 1% to all properties except for housing properties managed under a Private Finance Initiative (PFI) contract, where the rent would be increased by 2%.

The report explained that work had been undertaken during the past year to review communal heating systems across the Council's stock. The individual scheme charges had been reviewed in more detail and it was evident that whilst the overall cost of communal heating had reduced, the apportionment between those who pay as part of their weekly rent and those who use a prepayment meter needed to be adjusted. This had resulted in the need to increase the charge for those on prepayment meters and reduce the charge for those who pay through their rent. To remove the imbalance it would be necessary to increase the charge for those that pay using prepayment cards by an average of 58.3%, and to reduce the charge for those that pay via rent by an average of 36.8%. Rather than introduce a large increase next year, it was instead proposed that the full 36.8% reduction in charges for tenants paying via their rent is made from April 2017 and an increase for those that pay via prepayment cards is limited to 10% from April 2017. The 10% increase would not be sufficient to cover the costs of the gas used and so there was a forecast for the net cost to the HRA of this change to be £48,000 in 2017/18.

As noted in February 2016, as part of the 2016/17 fee discussions, Northwards Housing had advised that in order to maintain the existing level of service provision they would require a further increase of £300k in the fee to give a total fee of £21.474m. There would also be a further payment of £365k for Intensive Housing Management and a Key Complex Worker (Minute Exe/16/032). No agreement had been reached on the fee level for 2017/18 and beyond. To progress the setting of the fee for the next three years, a review was underway into how the City Council delivered its housing management services and the options that are open to it (Minute Exe/17/020 below). That review had already identified possible savings. The report explained that the intention was to conclude the review and bring forward to a meeting later in the year the proposals for the fees for 2017/18 to 2019/20.

In 2015/16 it had been agreed that garage rents should be brought in line with dwelling rents (Minute Exe/15/021). To achieve that, it was agreed that garage rents were to be increased by 3.92% on top of the increase applied to dwelling rents for the five year period 2015-2020. Given the reduction in rents, it was therefore proposed and agreed that garage rents increase by 2.92% in 2017/18.

The report also explained the other key changes in the HRA budget for 2017/18, and the full budget was presented as set out below.

	2016/17 (Forecast) £000	**2017/18 £000**	**2018/19 £000**	**2019/20 £000**
Income				
Housing Rents	(62,050)	(60,950)	(60,482)	(61,283)
Heating Income	(1,335)	(1,020)	(1,043)	(1,066)
PFI Credit	(23,597)	(23,600)	(23,600)	(23,600)
Other Income	(1,544)	(1,292)	(1,093)	(1,057)
Funding from General HRA Reserve	(1,299)	(18,430)	(8,088)	(662)
Total Income	**(89,825)**	**(105,292)**	**(94,306)**	**(87,668)**
Northwards R&M & Management Fee	21,839	20,646	20,813	21,063
PFI Contractor Payments	31,871	31,921	32,620	34,086
Communal Heating	1,267	1,069	1,092	1,116
Supervision and Management	5,598	5,354	5,354	5,417
Contribution to Bad Debts	750	922	1,220	1,545
Depreciation	13,037	13,286	13,617	13,960
Other Expenditure	1,352	1,299	1,264	1,416
RCCO	10,644	27,360	13,057	3,958
High Value Void Sales	0	0	2,000	2,044
Interest Payable and similar charges	3,467	3,434	3,269	3,063
Total Expenditure	**89,825**	**105,292**	**94,306**	**87,668**
General Reserve:				
Opening Balance	52,059	45,838	27,408	19,320
Funding (from)/to Revenue	(6,221)	(18,430)	(8,088)	(662)
Closing Balance	**45,838**	**27,408**	**19,320**	**18,658**

It was explained that the significant reduction in general reserves in 2017/18 was largely from the profiling of previously approved capital investment totalling £40m, and an anticipated use of a further £6.5m for a regeneration scheme in Collyhurst. That Collyhurst scheme had been included in the future capital programme considered earlier (Minute Exe/17/005 above).

It had also been agreed in 2015/16 that where rent was not at the level required for convergence, the rent be revised to the formula rent level when the property is re-let. The report proposed that the Council continue with this policy, and we agreed to keep the policy in place for 2017/18.

Decisions

1. To note the forecast outturn in 2016/17 as detailed in section 4 and Appendix 1 of the report.

2. To approve the 2017/18 HRA budget and note the indicative budgets for 2018/19 and 2019/20.

3. Approve the proposed 1% decrease to dwelling rents (subject to the exception described above for housing properties managed under a Private Finance Initiative contract).

4. To delegate authority for the setting of individual property rents to the Director of Housing and the City Treasurer, in consultation with the Executive Member for Housing and Regeneration and the Executive Member for Finance and Human Resources.

5. To approve the proposal that where the 2017/18 rent is still not at the formula rent level, the rent is revised to the formula rent level when the property is re-let.

6. To approve increased capital expenditure of £6.5m funded from the HRA for the Collyhurst Regeneration Scheme.

7. To approve the proposals for communal heating charges in 2017/18 as detailed in paragraph 5.14 and Appendix 2 of the report.

8. To approve the management fee to be paid to Northwards for 2017/18 as detailed in paragraphs 5.24 to 5.27 of the report.

9. To note that the Northwards fee for 2018/19 and 2019/20 is notional and will be reviewed during 2017.

10. To approve the proposed increase in garage rental charges as set out in paragraph 6.1 of the report.

Exe/17/014 Schools Budget and Dedicated Schools Grant
(Councillors Battle, Bridges, N Murphy and S Newman a declared personal interest in this item as a member the governing body of a Manchester school)

The budgets for schools are funded by the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG), a ring-fenced grant that can only be applied to meet costs that fall within the schools' budgets. Any under or over-spend of grant from one year must be carried forward and applied to the schools' budgets in future years. The DSG is provided by Government to local authorities and each local authority distributes the grant to the local educational establishments based on the local funding formula.

A report from the Director of Education and Skills explained that for 2017/18 it was estimated that Manchester was to receive a DSG of £497.3m, comprising the

Schools Block, the Early Years Block and the High Needs Block. In December 2016 the Manchester School Forum had agreed that the Council would be able to retain a small portion of the DSG to provide for central support services to schools (Minutes SF/16/21 and SF/16/22). Therefore the breakdown of the DSG in 2017/18 would be as set out below

	Schools £m	**Early Years £m**	**High Needs £m**	**Total £m**
DSG Provisional 2017/18	386.8	39.6	70.9	497.3
Retained Schools Budget	11.4	2.0	26.7	40.1
Balance for Individual Schools’ Budgets	375.4	37.6	44.2	457.2

The Government required notification of the individual schools’ budgets for 2017/18 by 20th January 2017. Given that the individual budgets were still being calculated we agreed to delegate authority to set these to the Director of Education and Skills and the City Treasurer, in consultation with the appropriate members of the Executive.

Decisions

1. To note the anticipated level of Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) funding in 2017/18

2. To note the statutory requirement for the Council to distribute school budgets by the end of February 2017.

3. To note the proposed allocation of the Schools’ Budget between the funding delegated to schools, known as the Individual Schools Budget (ISB), and the centrally retained schools budget (RSB).

4. To delegate authority to decide the final allocation of the DSG to the Director of Education and Skills and the City Treasurer in consultation with the Executive Member for Children’s Services and the Executive Member for Finance and Human Resources.

5. To delegate authority to revise the Early Years funding formula to the Director of Education and Skills and the City Treasurer in consultation with the Executive Member for Children’s Services and the Executive Member for Finance and Human Resources.

Exe/17/015 Manchester Parks Strategy 2017 - 2026

We considered a report that provided a summary of the proposed Ten-Year Manchester Parks Strategy. The draft Strategy set out a vision for the city parks as being:

- fully accessible, welcoming and visually appealing with some truly world-class destinations, great heritage, horticultural and tourist attractions;

- good for physical and mental health: a Natural Health Service where people can relax and feel safe as well as a space for sport and culture, with the relevant infrastructure in place for this to happen;
- high quality assets where people meet and community flourishes, providing high visitor satisfaction and promoting Manchester as a place to live, work and visit;
- loved by local people and organisations, visitors, users and people who work in them, making a positive difference to people's lives and a source of pride for everyone;
- net contributors to the city: reducing the effects of pollution; producing food and plants; providing learning, skills, training and job opportunities;
- supportive of the diverse range of wildlife by conserving natural habitats, improving air quality; mitigating climate change and flooding; allowing people to engage with and learn about nature;
- valued and understood through education, communication and effective partnerships where local people and organisations are involved, creating spaces where people can relax and feel safe; and
- well managed in partnership with internal council departments and external partners working together to ensure sustainable operation – both financially (by closing the gap between income and expenditure) and environmentally.

The report described the proposals for action to achieve that vision. These were set out under four strategic themes of:
- Parks at the Heart of Neighbourhoods
- Vibrant Parks, Vibrant Communities
- A Manchester Quality Standard
- Productive Parks and Green Spaces in Partnership

It was also explained that the process of drawing up the strategy had included extensive consultation and engagement with the public and with the users of the city's parks. The outcome of those consultations was set out in the report. They showed a very strong level of public support for parks in the city, with high levels of use from residents, and strong support for the proposals being put forward for inclusion in the 10-year strategy.

A timetable for completing and launching the Strategy was set out in the report and we agreed to delegate authority to the Strategic Lead (Parks, Leisure and Events) in consultation with the Executive Member for Culture and Leisure to complete the production of the Strategy, and to arrange for it to be published.

We noted that the Communities and Equalities Scrutiny Committee had also considered this report at its recent meeting (Minute CESC/16/39) and had endorsed its recommendations.

Decisions

1. To note the findings from the consultation on the Manchester Parks Strategy, noting the significance of parks in delivering other strategic priorities across the city and the weight of support from residents and stakeholders about the importance of parks.

2. To adopt the proposed vision, strategic priorities and actions to deliver the Strategy over the next 10 years.

3. To delegate authority to the Strategic Lead (Parks, Leisure and Events) in consultation with the Executive Member for Culture and Leisure to complete the production of the Strategy document for communication with residents, visitors, partners and businesses.

Exe/17/016 Manchester Tree Action Plan

We considered a report that presented the draft Tree Action Plan for the City. The report explained how the plan had been drawn up, and the consultation and engagement that had helped to formulate and refine the action plan. A copy of the proposed Action Plan was appended to the report.

The intention was for the Tree Action Plan to sit within the Green and Blue Infrastructure Strategy Stakeholder Implementation Plan under the headline action of 'Effective and appropriate tree and woodland management and planting'. It would then be an integral part of the Green and Blue Infrastructure Strategy Stakeholder Implementation Plan enabling more detail to be provided regarding how the City's tree assets were to be cared for.

The consultation that had been carried out in developing the draft action plan was detailed in the report and appended to the report was an analysis of the consultation responses.

We noted that the Neighbourhoods and Environment Scrutiny Committee had also considered this report at its recent meeting (Minute NESC/16/43) and had endorsed its recommendations.

Decision

To endorse the Manchester Tree Action Plan as an integral part of the Green & Blue Infrastructure Stakeholder Implementation Plan.

Exe/17/017 Correction of East Manchester - Proposed City of Manchester (A57 Hyde Road, Gorton) Compulsory Purchase Order 2016

In October 2016 we authorised the making of a Compulsory Purchase Order to enable a scheme to widen part of the A57, removing a traffic pinch-point under a narrow former railway bridge (Minute Exe/16/134). A report now submitted by the Chief Executive and the Director of Highways sought to amended one part of the October 2016 decisions to clarify the extent of the lands to be acquired.

Appended to this report were a copy of the report from October 2016 and the record of the decisions made. We agreed the change that was proposed.

Decision

To agree to amend the decisions made on 19 October 2016 (Minute Exe/16/134) replacing the first decision with:

“1. To authorise the making of a Compulsory Purchase Order under Sections 239, 240 and 250 of the Highways Act 1980 and the Acquisition of Land Act 1981, to secure the acquisition of the land and interests not in the City’s ownership as shown on the attached plan at Appendix 1 and described at paragraph 2 of the report submitted at the meeting of 19th October 2016”.

Exe/17/018 Updated Draft St. John’s Strategic Regeneration Framework and Factory Manchester

In July 2016 we had approved in principle an updated draft St. John’s Strategic Regeneration Framework (SRF) and had requested that the Chief Executive undertake public consultation in relation to that framework (Minute Exe/16/096). A report was now submitted to put forward the outcomes of that consultation.

The July 2016 report had also examined the proposals for the development of the art centre, Factory Manchester, and the funding of that project. The report submitted to this meeting explained the continued progress in taking forward those proposals with the centre planned to open at the beginning of 2020.

For consultation on the draft St. John’s Strategic Regeneration Framework letters had been sent to 3,496 local residents, businesses and stakeholders. The consultation had run up to 16th December 2016. In total there had been eight responses: 7 from residents and 1 from a stakeholder organisation.

Three residents from the St. John’s Gardens estate had raised concerns about the proposed future use of Upper Campfield Market as retail and leisure units and Lower Campfield as a multi-use space accommodating flexible workspace units, co-working space and event space. Residents had commented that the existing buildings lacked good sound insulation and the proposed uses were therefore likely to have a significant impact upon neighbouring properties. Residents were also concerned about the anti-social behaviour of future visitors. The report explained the steps that would be taken to addresses these concerns, particularly with regard to the development of the two Campfield buildings.

Allied London Properties had acquired Castlefield House lying between the two Market buildings, and the City Council owned the freehold of Upper and Lower Campfield Markets. Discussions had been held with Allied London Properties the of for both Market buildings so that the whole area could be brought forward as an integrated scheme. We supported that intention.

Historic England had also been a respondent in the consultation, welcoming the inclusion within the Framework area of the grade II Listed Market Buildings and Castlefield House on Liverpool Road.

Having assessed the responses of consultees the view of the presenting officer was that there was no requirement to alter the draft St. John's Strategic Regeneration Framework, and that it should be approved and adopted.

The meeting was addressed by Councillor Davies, a ward councillor for the City Centre Ward which included the St. John's area and the proposed site for the Factory Manchester. Councillor Davis spoke of a concern that had emerged for how the potentially large number of visitors to the neighbourhood, and the associated vehicular movements, parking, drop-off and pick-up, could harm the amenity of this area which was also an important residential area within the city centre.

Having considered the views expressed in the consultation we agreed to adopt the Strategic Regeneration Framework. We further agreed that the concerns raised by Councillor Davies should be taken into consideration by the Planning and Highways Committee in its future decision making relating to the area covered by the Framework

Manchester Quays Limited was the joint venture partnership between Allied London and the Council set up to take forward the St. Johns development and the Factory project. The report explained the opportunities that the SRF would provided for a range of locations across St. John's to accommodate public spaces and social amenity facilities, including the core development principle of making the River Irwell more accessible through new public realm and enhanced accessibility. We agreed to amendments to the Manchester Quays Limited (MQL) agreements in order to support the delivery of the Factory development and associated public realm.

On progress with the development of the Factory Manchester, the report explained that the project required an increase in the capital budget of £4.45m to fund land acquisitions and development costs associated with the wider Factory site. This increase was to be funded from capital receipts. We supported that proposal.

In July 2016 we had noted that that in order to underpin the wider funding package of the project it was necessary that the Council declare its funding commitment to the project, committing to a contribution of up to £20m to complete the funding plan. We now agreed to make that commitment. Progress with the other fundraising involved in the overall budget was explained including a stage one Lottery grant application for £7m and other charitable fundraising to achieve £5m.

The intention was for the Factory Manchester to be the new base for the Manchester International Festival (MIF). The report identified the need to transfer £141,000 (being £30,000 in 2016/17 and £111,000 in 2017/18) from the Factory capital budget to the revenue budget to cover costs associated with the development of the facility. This was to be advanced to the Festival by way of a grant to cover specific costs. We supported this proposal.

On the letting of the building contract for the arts centre, the report explained that two differing approaches were being evaluated: to split the projects into separate built and fit-out contracts that could be let to two different contractors with the appropriate expertise in each area of work. The other approach was for a single Design and Build lump sum contract or Management contacting for the whole of the project. The relative risks and benefits of these alternatives were still being evaluated and it was therefore proposed and agreed that the final decision on which procurement approach to use should be delegated to the Chief Executive, City Treasurer and the City Solicitor in consultation with the Leader and the Executive Member for Finance and Human Resources.

We noted that the Economy Scrutiny Committee had also considered this report at its recent meeting (Minute ESC/17/05) and had endorsed its recommendations.

Decisions

1. To note the consultation comments and responses to the draft St. John's SRF as set out in section 2 of the report and approve the final version of the updated SRF to guide and coordinate the future development of the area with the intention that it will be a material consideration in the Council's decision making as a Local Planning Authority.

2. To request of the Planning and Highways Committee that it also have regard to concerns raised by residents and a local councillor about visitor traffic potentially harming the residents' amenity.

3. To delegate authority to the Chief Executive, City Treasurer and the City Solicitor, in consultation with the Leader and the Executive Member for Finance and Human Resources, to agree amendments to the Manchester Quays Limited (MQL) agreements in order to support the delivery of the Factory development and associated public realm.

4. To approve an increase to the Capital budget by £4.45M to fund land acquisitions and public realm costs associated with the Factory and the wider site, funded by identified capital receipts.

5. To delegate authority to the Chief Executive, City Treasurer and the City Solicitor in consultation with the Leader and the Executive Member for Finance and Human Resources to finalise the leasing arrangements with Allied London Properties for both Lower and Upper Campfield Markets and authorise the City Solicitor to complete and execute the necessary legal documentation.

6. To welcome the progress of DCMS, HM Treasury and Arts Council England (ACE) in recommending the approval of the award of the remainder of the grant of £78M (£10.6M development funding previously approved), following the Government Gateway Review in November 2016.

7. To approve the Council contribution to the project of up to £20M to be funded from identified capital and non-recurring revenue receipts.

8. To note the progress made in identifying the additional project funding, including the submission of stage one application for a £7M grant to the ACE Capital Lottery Fund, with a decision expected in the summer of 2017.

9. To note the progress made with the £5M fundraising target that will be raised by an external fundraising charitable trust. Approve the Council underwriting of this amount to allow the project to move forward, recognizing that any Council contribution that is required will be funded from Capital Fund.

10. To note the progress to date in bringing forward revisions to the Manchester International Festival (MIF) organisational structure to enable it to become the Factory Operator. Approve a grant to MIF of £141,000 to be funded by a virement from the agreed capital budget to revenue budget in respect of the implementation and development of the Factory project in the period 2016/17 and 2017/18.

11. To delegate authority to the Chief Executive, City Treasurer and the City Solicitor in consultation with the Leader and the Executive Member for Finance and Human Resources, to finalise the form of the building contract, and to negotiate and complete all necessary contractual arrangements, subject to the final receipt of Government and ACE funding.

Exe/17/019 Water Street - Strategic Regeneration Framework

In July 2016 we had endorsed a draft Strategic Regeneration Framework (SRF) for the Water Street area of the city centre and agreed that the draft should be subject to public consultation (Minute Exe/16/095). The Chief Executive now presented a report setting out the outcome of the consultation and proposing that the Framework be adopted.

The Water Street area is bounded by the River Irwell, the Manchester to Liverpool Railway Viaduct, Regent Road/Dawson Street and the Cheshire Lines Railway Viaduct. It is approximately 10 hectares in extent, and is situated to the south west of the city centre. The draft SRF had proposed that the development should provide a new waterside amenity space, with soft and hard landscaped areas adjacent to the River Medlock. It also presented an opportunity to provide car parking to support the development planned for Water Street and the wider area, including serving the public car parking demand that were to be generated by events spaces at The Factory and Old Granada Studios.

The report explained consultation letters had been sent out to 3,464 local residents, businesses, and stakeholders. The consultation had closed on 16 December 2016. Two responses had been received: one from Historic England simply stating that it had no comment to made on the proposal; the second from a resident who had commented that the plans were poor quality and difficult to interpret as the maps had lacked street names.

With the amendment to add street names to the maps in the Framework, we agreed that the SRF should be adopted.

Decisions

1. To note the comments received on the regeneration framework and the response to these comments.

2. To endorse the principles in the Water Street Strategic Regeneration Framework and request that Planning and Highways Committee take the framework into account as a material consideration when considering planning applications in the Water Street area.

Exe/17/020 Housing Revenue Account and the Council's Housing Management Contracts

As had been noted in the previous item on the HRA budget (Minute Exe/17/013 above) the government had fundamentally changed the rent setting assumptions within the HRA budget planning by introducing a 1% rent cut for four consecutive years. Without corrective action that reduction in rental income was to take £24m out of the HRA over the four years period, with the longer-term impacts over the life of the HRA business plan eventually turning the account into deficit by 2031.

A report submitted by the City Treasurer and Strategic Director (Development) set out some of the possible means to address the long-term under-funding of the Account. Fundamental to this was the future role of the Northwards Housing Arms-Length Management Organisation (ALMO) which was the Council's largest housing management contractor, collecting £50m of the Council's £61m housing rental income with the remainder being collected by the other contractors in the city. Consultants had been retained to undertake a review of the future of Northwards, considered the merits of:
a) bringing the management of the properties managed by Northwards Housing back in-house in the Council;
b) retaining Northwards Housing and continue to focus on neighbourhood and housing management;
c) retaining Northwards Housing and look to add further Council or other services into it;
d) discussing with other Greater Manchester councils (Stockport, Wigan and Bury) the option to create a Super ALMO
e) transferring the stock to an existing Registered Provider; or
f) transferring the stock to a new Registered Provider.

In order to help the assessment and consideration of these options, a set of strategic objectives had been developed to guide the development of a vision for the future direction of the housing stock. These were:

> To determine the best model for housing management delivery that maximises HRA investment in order to:
> a) enable more new homes to be built which include a mix and range of tenures and prices;
> b) maintain our existing stock at the Decent Homes Plus standard where our asset management strategy supports such investment;
> c) identify regeneration opportunities within council housing estates to drive neighbourhood change;

d) use capital investment as the catalyst in engaging with and developing community; and
e) lever as much non-HRA capital as possible.

We endorsed these strategic objectives.

It had been explained and noted as part of the setting of the HRA budget for 2017/18 that the management arrangements and the level of the fee paid to Northwards Housing was to be reviewed during the coming year (Minute Exe/17/013 above). That review was already bringing about changes to the management operations and processes that were resulting in cost savings. We therefore agreed that authority be delegated to the City Treasurer and Director of Housing, in consultation with the Deputy Leader and Executive Member for Finance and Human Resources, to make any necessary adjustments to the Housing Revenue Account in order to ensure it remained viable.

Decisions

1. To note the report.

2. To approve the ongoing management arrangements described in Section 2 of the report, including the continuing arrangements with Northwards Housing for the purposes of improving housing management efficiency.

3. To approve the Strategic Objectives as described above.

4. To delegate authority to the City Treasurer and Director of Housing, in consultation with the Deputy Leader and Executive Member for Finance and Human Resources, to make the necessary adjustments to the Housing Revenue Account in order to ensure it remains viable.

Exe/17/021 Decisions of the Greater Manchester Combined Authority

Decision

To receive and note of the decisions made at the meeting of the Greater Manchester Combined Authority on 16 December 2016.

Exe/17/022 Decisions agreed at the joint meeting of the Greater Manchester Combined Authority and the Association of Greater Manchester Authorities Executive Board

Decision

To receive and note of the decisions made at the joint meeting of the Greater Manchester Combined Authority and the Association of Greater Manchester Authorities Executive Board on 16 December 2016.