

## LEGAL AND DEMOCRATIC SERVICES

### COMMITTEE DECISION SHEET

#### URGENT BUSINESS COMMITTEE - TUESDAY, 31 JANUARY 2017

Please let the Committee Officer know as soon as possible if you do not agree with any action proposed in this decision sheet. These are decisions of the Committee and there is an expectation that action will be taken. If for any reason it is apparent that you will not be able to act on these instructions in full or in part or that there will be a delay, please let the Committee Officer know as it may be necessary to advise the Committee or seek further instructions from the Committee.

	Item Title	Committee Decision	Services Required to take action	Officer to Action
1	<u>Determination of Urgent Business</u>	<p><b><u>The Committee resolved:</u></b></p> <p>(i) to agree that the first urgent motion by Councillor Laing was of an urgent nature and required to be considered this day, as a result of the revised business rates due to be introduced on 1 April 2017, and potentially a number of actions to be undertaken prior to then and reported to the Council Budget meeting on 22 February 2017;</p> <p>(ii) to agree that the second urgent motion by Councillor Laing was of an urgent nature and required to be considered this day, in order that consideration be given to sending the letter to the relevant households as soon as possible to help them prepare for paying their Council Tax from April 2017, and make them aware of the option to apply for low income household relief where applicable;</p> <p>(iii) to agree that the SDPA report was of an urgent nature and required to be considered this day, to enable the</p>		

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		<p>Committee to determine the matter at the earliest opportunity to provide clarity to the SDPA with regard to the appeal; and</p> <p>(iv) to agree that the Bond Authorisation Limit report was of an urgent nature and required to be considered this day, to enable to Committee to determine its position at the earliest opportunity and authorise the Head of Finance to act accordingly.</p>		
2	<b><u>Determination of Exempt Business</u></b>	<p><b><u>The Committee resolved:</u></b> in terms of Section 50(A)(4) of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973, to exclude the press and public from the meeting during consideration of the SDPA item so as to avoid disclosure of exempt information of the class described in paragraph 12 of Schedule 7(A) of the Act.</p>		
3	<p><b><u>Urgent Motion by Councillor Laing</u></b></p> <p>“That the Committee notes that the revised business rates due to be introduced on 1 April 2017 will result in large business rates increases for many Aberdeen businesses.</p> <p>Notes the representations already made to Derek Mackay, Cabinet Secretary for Finance and the Constitution, by the Council Leader, Finance Convener, Aberdeen &amp; Grampian Chamber of Commerce and other business leaders in</p>	<p><b><u>The Committee resolved:</u></b> to approve the terms of the urgent motion.</p>	Office of Chief Executive	Angela Scott

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	<p>the city.</p> <p>Instructs the Chief Executive to work in partnership with the Scottish Government to explore all options in order to find a solution that will assist Aberdeen businesses in dealing with the planned changes in business rates.</p> <p>Instructs the Chief Executive to provide as part of the Council's budget report on 22 February 2017 details of the success or otherwise of the options explored, along with the financial implications of any potential scheme or schemes."</p>			
4	<p><b><u>Urgent Motion by Councillor Laing</u></b></p> <p>"That the Committee notes that the Scottish Government has legislated to change the Council Tax multipliers for properties in Bands E-H which has undermined the principal of local accountability and autonomy.</p> <p>Instructs the Chief Executive to send the attached letter to all Band E-H households as soon as possible so that those households within Band E-H households can prepare for paying their Council Tax from April 2017."</p>	<p><b><u>The Committee resolved:</u></b></p> <p>(i) to approve the terms of the urgent motion subject to the Head of Finance checking whether the legislation had been introduced and amending the first sentence of the letter if required; and</p> <p>(ii) to note that the cost of sending the letters of approximately £15,000 would be met from the contingency budget.</p>	<p>Office of Chief Executive</p> <p>Corporate Governance</p>	<p>Angela Scott</p> <p>Steve Whyte</p>

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5	<b><u>Funding the SDPA Leave to Appeal regarding the Strategic Transport Fund</u></b>	<b><u>The Committee resolved:</u></b> (i) to note that the Strategic Development Planning Authority (SDPA) had requested that Aberdeen City Council and Aberdeenshire Council make a joint funding contribution to pursue an appeal at the Supreme Court on behalf of the Strategic Transport Fund; (ii) to note that the funding commitment requested by the SDPA was to be shared equally between the two Councils; and (iii) to approve this Council's funding contribution for the SDPA legal challenge to be funded from the Council's contingency budget.	Communities, Housing and Infrastructure	Eric Owens
6	<b><u>Bond Authorisation Limit</u></b>	<b><u>The Committee resolved:</u></b> to approve the recommendations contained within the report.	Corporate Governance	Steve Whyte/ Sandra Buthlay  Fraser Bell

If you require any further information about this decision sheet, please contact Martyn Orchard 01224 523097 or email [morchard@aberdeencity.gov.uk](mailto:morchard@aberdeencity.gov.uk)