

Minutes

Ordinary Council (Budget) 5 March 2014

Membership/Attendance

- | | |
|--------------------|---------------------|
| * Cllr Aspinell | * Cllr Kerslake |
| * Cllr Baker | * Cllr Le-Surf |
| * Cllr Mrs Beeston | * Cllr Lloyd |
| * Cllr Braid | * Cllr McCheyne |
| * Cllr Carter | * Cllr Mrs McKinlay |
| Cllr Chilvers | * Cllr Morrissey |
| * Cllr G Clark | * Cllr Mrs Murphy |
| * Cllr N Clarke | * Cllr Mynott |
| * Cllr Mrs Coe | * Cllr Dr Naylor |
| * Cllr Mrs Cohen | * Cllr Parker |
| Cllr Mrs Cornell | * Cllr Mrs Pound |
| * Cllr Mrs Davies | * Cllr Quirk |
| * Cllr Ms Golding | * Cllr Reed |
| * Cllr Mrs Henwood | * Cllr Russell |
| * Cllr Hirst | * Cllr Sapwell |
| * Cllr Mrs Hones | * Cllr Sleep |
| * Cllr Hossack | * Cllr Sparling |
| * Cllr Keeble | * Cllr Tee |
| * Cllr Kendall | |

*present

Officers Present

Alison Crowe - Managing Director
Ashley Culverwell – Head of Borough Safety, Health and Localism
Jo-Anne Ireland – Director of Strategy and Corporate Services
Paul Knight – Head of Business Transformation
Malcolm Knights – Head of Housing
David Lawson – Monitoring Officer
Roy Ormsby – Head of Streetscene
Tony Pierce – Interim Head of Planning
Jean Sharp – Governance and Member Support Officer

385. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs Mrs Beeston and Mrs Cornell.

The Mayor advised that the debate at the meeting was to be conducted in accordance with Standing Order 8.3.5. and that the recommendations for the budget framework reports would be moved together.

Cllr Mrs McKinlay MOVED and Cllr Hirst SECONDED the recommendations in agenda items 2. (The Medium Term Financial Plan (General Fund) 2014/15 – 2016/17), 4. (Capital Programme 2014/15), 5. Treasury Management Strategy Statement 2014/15 and 7. (Council Tax) which were voted on en bloc.

Cllr Mrs McKinlay introduced the budget and the leaders of the opposition groups addressed Members regarding the recommendations.

One amendment had been received in relation to the Capital Programme 2014/15 report.

For clarity, the reports are considered separately below.

386. The Medium Term Financial Plan (General Fund) 2014/15 – 2016/17

The Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP) set out the key financial management principles and budget assumptions. It was then used as the framework for the detailed budget setting process to ensure that the Council's resources were managed effectively in order to meet its statutory responsibilities and delivers the priorities of the Council, over the medium term.

The report before Members considered the latest funding projections following confirmation of the Local Government Finance Settlement and outlined the progress made with the Council's Transformation Programme.

The report also outlined the proposed new areas on investment, together with a proposal for a Council Tax reduction of 1.5% for 2014/15.

Cllr Mrs McKinlay reminded Members of the resolution made by the Strategy and Policy Board at its meeting which had taken place immediately before the Ordinary Council meeting when the Board had resolved to ask Ordinary Council to agree the following recommendations for the 2014/15 budget:

- 1.1 To recommend a proposed Council Tax reduction of 1.5% for 2014/15.
- 1.2 To note the key assumptions that underpin the Medium Term Financial Plan and the associated risks.

- 1.3 To note the projected outturn for a balanced budget in 2013/14.
- 1.4 To recommend to Council the new investment areas for 2014/15 of:
- i. Street Scene and Environment - £90,000
 - ii. A Prosperous Borough - £181,500
 - iii. Localism - £30,000
 - iv. A Safe Borough - £25,000
- 1.5 To recommend to Council that any costs arising from the development of William Hunter Way (up to a maximum of £1.2 million) will be met from the General Fund Working Balance, subject to the Working Balance not falling below the £2.5 million level.
- 1.6 To agree that a report be presented to Council should the minimum balance of £2.5 million be breached.
- 1.7 To take into consideration the Section 151 Officer's Assurance Statement on the robustness of the estimates and adequacy of the reserves.

Cllr Mrs McKinlay MOVED and Cllr Hirst SECONDED the recommendations in the report before Members.

Following a full discussion, pursuant to the Local Authorities (Standing Orders) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2014, voting on the motion was recorded.

Cllr Mrs Beeston had left the meeting before the vote was taken.

For: Cllrs Braid, Clarke, Mrs Coe, Ms Golding, Mrs Henwood, Hirst, Mrs Hones, Hossack, Kerslake, McCheyne, Mrs McKinlay, Mrs Murphy, Dr Naylor, Parker, Mrs Pound, Reed, Russell, Sleep, Sparling and Tee (20)

Against: Cllrs Aspinell, Baker, Carter, Clark, Mrs Cohen, Mrs Davies, Keeble, Kendall, Mynott and Sapwell. (10)

Abstain: Cllrs Le-Surf, Lloyd, Morrissey and Quirk (4)

The Motion was CARRIED and it was
RESOLVED:

1. To approve a Council Tax reduction of 1.5% for 2014/15.
2. To note the key assumptions that underpin the Medium Term Financial Plan and the associated risks.
3. To note the projected outturn for a balanced budget in 2013/14.
4. To approve the new investment areas for 2014/15 of:
 - i. Street Scene and Environment - £90,000
 - ii. A Prosperous Borough - £181,500
 - iii. Localism - £30,000
 - iv A Safe Borough - £25,000
5. To approve that any costs arising from the development of William Hunter Way (up to a maximum of £1.2 million) will be met from the General Fund Working Balance, subject to the Working Balance not falling below the £2.5 million level.
6. To approve that a further report be presented to Council should the minimum balance of £2.5 million be breached.
7. To take into consideration the Section 151 Officer's Assurance Statement on the robustness of the estimates and adequacy of the reserves.

387. Capital Programme 2014/15

The report before Members outlined the Capital Programme and supporting Strategy for the period 2014/15 – 2016/17.

Cllr Mrs McKinlay MOVED and Cllr Hirst SECONDED the recommendation in the report.

Cllr Aspinell had submitted an amendment prior to the meeting to the recommendations and MOVED and Cllr Kendall SECONDED the following:

That with regard to the Crossrail development, the Council designate funding within the £1.6m capital budget to enhance Brentwood and Shenfield Station approaches, and public realm facilities therein.

Cllr Aspinell wished to add more specific working to the amendment at the meeting but the Monitoring Officer advised this was not permissible.

A vote was taken on a show of hands and the AMENDMENT was LOST.

Returning to the substantive motion, pursuant to the Local Authorities (Standing Orders) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2014, voting on the motion was recorded.

Cllr Mrs Beeston had left the meeting before the vote was taken.

For: Cllrs Braid, Clarke, Mrs Coe, Ms Golding, Mrs Henwood, Hirst, Mrs Hones, Hossack, Kerslake, McCheyne, Mrs McKinlay, Mrs Murphy, Dr Naylor, Parker, Mrs Pound, Reed, Russell, Sleep, Sparling and Tee (20)

Against: Cllrs Aspinell, Baker, Carter, Clark, Mrs Cohen, Mrs Davies, Keeble, Kendall, Mynott and Sapwelll. (10)

Abstain: Cllrs Le-Surf, Lloyd, Morrissey and Quirk (4)

The Motion was CARRIED and it was
RESOLVED:

To approve the proposed Capital Programme and Funding for 2014/15 – 2016/17.

388. Treasury Management Strategy Statement 2014/15

The report before Members outlined the Treasury Management Strategy for 2014/15 and associated Prudential Indicators.

Cllr Mrs McKinlay MOVED and Cllr Hirst SECONDED the recommendations within the report .

Following a full discussion, pursuant to the Local Authorities (Standing Orders) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2014, voting on the motion was recorded.

Cllr Mrs Beeston had left the meeting before the vote was taken.

For: Cllrs Braid, Clarke, Mrs Coe, Ms Golding, Mrs Henwood, Hirst, Mrs Hones, Hossack, Kerslake, McCheyne, Mrs McKinlay, Mrs Murphy, Dr Naylor, Parker, Mrs Pound, Reed, Russell, Sleep, Sparling and Tee (20)

Against: Cllrs Aspinell, Baker, Carter, Clark, Mrs Cohen, Mrs Davies, Keeble, Kendall, Mynott and Sapwelll. (10)

Abstain: Cllrs Le-Surf, Lloyd, Morrissey and Quirk (4)

The Motion was CARRIED and it was
RESOLVED:

1. That the Treasury Management Strategy and Prudential Indicators for 2014/15 – 2016/17 be approved.
2. That the Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP) Statement be approved.
3. That the framework and criteria for determining counterparties and the Schedule of Approved Bodies for Investment be approved.

389. Council Tax

Members were reminded that the Council was the billing authority for the Borough of Brentwood and was required to set a Council Tax that would not only cover its own requirements, but also those of Essex County Council, Police and Crime Commissioner, Fire Authority and the Parish Councils.

The precept requirements for 2014/15 were:-

	2013/14 £	2014/15 £
Brentwood Borough Council	5,265,580	5,194,416
Essex County Council	33,522,977	33,573,402
Police and Crime Commissioner	4,364,234	4,456,991
Fire Authority	2,048,858	2,051,940
Parishes	281,611	301,626

A schedule of the Parish Precepts was attached as Appendix 2 to the report.

Cllr Mrs McKinlay MOVED and Cllr Hirst SECONDED the recommendations in the report.

Following a full discussion, pursuant to the Local Authorities (Standing Orders) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2014, voting on the motion was recorded.

Cllr Mrs Beeston had left the meeting before the vote was taken.

For: Cllrs Braid, Clarke, Mrs Coe, Ms Golding, Mrs Henwood, Hirst, Mrs Hones, Hossack, Kerslake, McCheyne, Mrs McKinlay, Mrs Murphy, Dr Naylor, Parker, Mrs Pound, Reed, Russell, Sleep, Sparling and Tee (20)

Against: Cllrs Aspinell, Baker, Carter, Clark, Mrs Cohen, Mrs Davies, Keeble, Kendall, Mynott and Sapwell. (10)

Abstain: Cllrs Le-Surf, Lloyd, Morrissey and Quirk (4)

The Motion was CARRIED and it was

RESOLVED:

1. That the Council be approve the formal Council Tax resolution contained in Appendix 1 to the report..

2. That it be noted that for the year 2014/15 Essex County Council, Essex Police and Crime Commissioner and Essex Fire Authority have stated the following in precepts issued to the Council, in accordance with Section 40 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 ("the Act") for each of the categories of dwellings (valuation band) shown below:

Valuation Band	Essex County Council £	Essex Police and Crime Commissioner £	Essex Fire Authority £
A	724.50	96.18	44.28
B	845.25	112.21	51.66
C	966.00	128.24	59.04
D	1,086.75	144.27	66.42
E	1,328.25	176.33	81.18
F	1,569.75	208.39	95.94
G	1,811.25	240.45	110.70
H	2,173.50	288.54	132.84

3. That having calculated the aggregate in each case of the amounts calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 36(1) of the Act, as the amounts to be taken into account for the year in respect of categories of dwellings listed in different valuation bands and the amounts in 2. above, the Council, in accordance with Section 40 of the Act, hereby sets the amounts below as the amounts of Council Tax for the year 2014/15 for each of the categories of dwellings shown:

	Band A £	Band B £	Band C £	Band D £	Band E £	Band F £	Band G £	Band H £
Blackmore	996.38	1,162.46	1,328.52	1,494.58	1,826.70	2,158.84	2,490.96	2,989.16
Doddinghurst	1,005.29	1,172.84	1,340.39	1,507.94	1,843.03	2,178.13	2,513.22	3,015.87
Herongate	991.72	1,157.01	1,322.30	1,487.58	1,818.15	2,148.73	2,479.30	2,975.16
Ingatestone and Fryerning	1,006.26	1,173.97	1,341.68	1,509.39	1,844.80	2,180.23	2,515.64	3,018.78
Kelvedon	996.40	1,162.47	1,328.54	1,494.60	1,826.73	2,158.87	2,491.00	2,989.21
Mountnessing	999.48	1,166.07	1,332.65	1,499.23	1,832.39	2,165.55	2,498.71	2,998.46
Navestock	991.72	1,157.01	1,322.30	1,487.58	1,818.15	2,148.73	2,479.30	2,975.16
Stondon Massey	997.40	1,163.64	1,329.88	1,496.11	1,828.57	2,161.05	2,493.51	2,992.22
West Horndon	1,010.57	1,179.00	1,347.43	1,515.85	1,852.71	2,189.57	2,526.42	3,031.71
Unparished	977.05	1,139.90	1,302.74	1,465.58	1,791.26	2,116.95	2,442.63	2,931.16

390. Medium Term Financial Plan (Housing Revenue Account) 2014/15

The report before Members considered the medium term Housing Revenue Account budget. It included results of the tenants' consultation, consideration of the Community Services Committee and the recommendation of Strategy and Policy Board concerning the proposed level of rent increase for 2014/15.

Cllr Mrs Pound MOVED and Cllr Parker SECONDED the recommendation in the report.

Following a full discussion, pursuant to the Local Authorities (Standing Orders) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2014, voting on the motion was recorded.

Cllr Baker had left the meeting before the vote was taken.

For: Cllrs Braid, Mrs Coe, Ms Golding, Mrs Henwood, Hirst, Mrs Hones, Hossack, Kerlake, McCheyne, Mrs McKinlay, Mrs Murphy, Dr Naylor, Parker, Mrs Pound, Reed, Russell, Sleep, Sparling and Tee (19)

Against: Cllrs Aspinell, Carter, Clark, Clarke, Mrs Cohen, Mrs Davies, Keeble, Kendall, Le-Surf, Lloyd, Morrissey, Mynott, Quirk and Sapwell. (14)

Abstain: None.

The Motion was CARRIED and it was
RESOLVED:

1. That the Council approves a level of rent increase for 2014/15 based on the Government formula of RPI + 0.5% + £2 per week (for rents that have not yet converged) as detailed in the report.
2. To note the Section 151 Officer's Assurance Statement on the robustness of the estimates and adequacy of the reserves.

391. Pay Policy

The Council was requested to agree the draft Pay Policy 2014/15 as appended to the report in accordance with Section 38 (1) of the Localism Act 2011.

Cllr Mrs McKinlay MOVED and Cllr Hirst SECONDED the recommendation in the report.

Following a full discussion a vote was taken on a show of hands and it was
RESOLVED

To agree the draft 2014/15 Pay Policy Statement as set out in Appendix 1 to the report.