

Minutes

Ordinary Council Wednesday, 4th March, 2015

Attendance

Cllr Mrs Davies (Mayor)	Cllr Le-Surf
Cllr Keeble (Deputy Mayor)	Cllr Lloyd
Cllr Aspinell	Cllr McCheyne
Cllr Baker	Cllr Mrs McKinlay
Cllr Barrett	Cllr Morrissey
Cllr Carter	Cllr Mrs Murphy
Cllr Chilvers	Cllr Mynott
Cllr Clark	Cllr Dr Naylor
Cllr Cloke	Cllr Newberry
Cllr Mrs Cohen	Cllr Parker
Cllr Mrs Coe	Cllr Quirk
Cllr Mrs Henwood	Cllr Reed
Cllr Hirst	Cllr Russell
Cllr Mrs Hones	Cllr Ms Sanders
Cllr Hossack	Cllr Sapwell
Cllr Mrs Hubbard	Cllr Sleep
Cllr Kendall	Cllr Mrs Squirrel
Cllr Kerlake	Cllr Tee

Apologies

Cllr Faragher

Officers Present

Ashley Culverwell	Head of Borough Health Safety and Localism
Graham Farrant	Chief Executive
Gordon Glenday	Head of Planning & Development
Chris Leslie	Financial Services Manager
Roy Ormsby	Head of Street Scene
John Parling	Strategic Asset Manager
Chris Potter	Monitoring Officer & Head of Support Service
Phil Ruck	Contract & Corporate Projects Manager
Jean Sharp	Governance and Member Support Officer
Steve Summers	Head of Customer Services

476. Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Cllr Faragher.

The Mayor introduced the Council's new Chief Executive, Graham Farrant. Mr Farrant advised Members that Ms Ireland, Director of Strategy and Corporate Services and Section 151 Officer, had brought forward her date of resignation to 4 March 2015.

477. Variation in the order of the agenda

At the request of Cllr Mrs McKinlay, the Mayor proposed and it was **RESOLVED** that Item 6 – Council Tax 2015/16 - be considered as the first item of business.

478. Council Tax 2015/16

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 2015/16 were:-

	2014/15 £	2015/16 £
Brentwood Borough Council	5,194,416	5,238,503
Essex County Council	33,573,402	33,858,348
Police and Crime Commissioner	4,456,991	4,584,546
Fire Authority	2,051,940	2,069,354
Parishes	301,626	361,474

A schedule of the Parish Precepts was attached to the report.

Cllr Lloyd MOVED and Cllr Aspinell SECONDED the recommendations in the report and it was RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY that:

- 1. The Council approve the formal Council Tax resolution contained in Appendix 1 to the report.**
- 2. It be noted that for the year 2015/16 Essex County Council, Essex Police and Crime Commissioner and Essex Fire Authority had 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	98.10	44.28
B	845.25	114.45	51.66
C	966.00	130.80	59.04
D	1,086.75	147.15	66.42
E	1,328.25	179.85	81.18
F	1,569.75	212.55	95.94
G	1,811.25	245.25	110.70
H	2,173.50	294.30	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 2.2 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 2015/16 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	999.64	1,166.25	1,332.86	1,499.46	1,832.67	2,165.89	2,499.10	2,998.92
Doddinghurst	1,009.12	1,177.32	1,345.50	1,513.69	1,850.06	2,186.44	2,522.81	3,027.38
Herongate	1,001.64	1,168.58	1,335.52	1,502.46	1,836.34	2,170.22	2,504.10	3,004.92
Ingatestone and Fryerning	1,018.97	1,188.81	1,358.63	1,528.46	1,868.11	2,207.78	2,547.43	3,056.92
Kelvedon	998.32	1,164.71	1,331.10	1,497.48	1,830.25	2,163.03	2,495.80	2,994.96
Mountnessing	1,002.05	1,169.07	1,336.07	1,503.08	1,837.09	2,171.12	2,505.13	3,006.16
Navestock	996.97	1,163.14	1,329.30	1,495.46	1,827.78	2,160.11	2,492.43	2,990.92
Stondon Massey	1,002.30	1,169.36	1,336.41	1,503.46	1,837.56	2,171.67	2,505.76	3,006.92
West Horndon	1,012.20	1,180.90	1,349.60	1,518.30	1,855.70	2,193.10	2,530.50	3,036.60
Unparished	978.97	1,142.14	1,305.30	1,468.46	1,794.78	2,121.11	2,447.43	2,936.92

REASON FOR DECISION

The Council had a legal requirement to set the Council Tax for its area by 11 March 2015.

479. Medium Term Financial Plan (General Fund) 2015/16 - 2017/18, Treasury Management Strategy Statement 2015/16 and Capital Programme 2015/16 - 2017/18

The Mayor proposed that item 2 – Medium Term Financial Plan (General fund) 2015/16 – 2017/18, item 4 – Treasury Management Strategy Statement 2015/16 and item 5 – Capital Programme 2015/16 – 2017/18 be considered en bloc.

Cllr Mrs McKinlay advised that a figure included in the Conservative Group's proposed amendment to the Medium Term Financial Plan (General Fund) 2015/16 – 2017/18 had been validated on several occasions by the Section 151 Officer (Ms Ireland) but had been subsequently identified as an error shortly before the deadline for submission of amendments.

The Section 151 officer present (Mr Leslie) advised that figures included within the reports before Members were robust and fit for Members to make a decision.

Cllr Mrs McKinlay MOVED and Cllr Hirst SECONDED that items 2-5 be deferred to a future meeting to allow an independent assessment to take place of the figures in the reports before Members.

Following a discussion a vote was taken on a show of hands and the MOTION was LOST.

Cllr Mrs McKinlay advised that the Conservative Group's proposed amendment, which had been circulated to Members, would not be put forward.

Cllr Lloyd MOVED and Cllr Aspinell SECONDED the recommendations in items 2, 4 and 5 en bloc and following a full discussion, in accordance with Rule 9.6 of the Council's procedure rules, a recorded vote was taken since the decision related to the budget.

Cllr Cloke left the Chamber during voting.

For: Cllrs Aspinell, Baker, Barrett, Carter, Chilvers, Clark, Mrs Cohen, Mrs Davies, Mrs Hubbard, Keeble, Kendall, Le-Surf, Lloyd, Morrissey, Mynott, Newberry, Quirk, Sapwell, and Mrs Squirrell (19)

Against: Cllrs Mrs Coe, Mrs Henwood, Hirst, Mrs Hones, Hossack, Kerlake, McCheyne, Mrs McKinlay, Mrs Murphy, Dr Naylor, Parker, Reed, Russell, Ms Sanders, Sleep and Tee (16)

Abstain: 0

The MOTION was CARRIED and it was RESOLVED as follows:

In relation to Item 2 - Medium Term Financial Plan (General Fund) 2015/16 – 2017/18: the report set out the key financial management principles and budget assumptions which were used as the framework for the detailed budget setting process. This would ensure that the Council's resources were managed effectively to meet its statutory responsibilities and delivered the priorities of the Council over the medium term.

RESOLVED:

- 1. To note the key assumptions that underpin the Medium Term Financial Plan and the associated risks.**
- 2. To note the projected outturn of an estimated deficit of £17,000 for 2014/15.**
- 3. To approve the spending requirement for 2015/16 as shown in the table at para 4.38 which includes:**
 - 3.1 The sum of £163,850 for new developments**
 - 3.2 The sum of £545,000 for anticipated savings**
 - 3.3 The sum of £361,634 to be taken from the Working Balance**
 - 3.4 The sum of £350,000 to be earmarked for the WHW Development.**
- 4. To approve the Section 151 Officer's Assurance Statement on the robustness of the estimates and adequacy of the reserves.**
- 5. That regular reports are presented to Finance & Resources Committee on the progress on delivery of the savings.**

REASON FOR DECISION:

To ensure the Council's resources were managed effectively to meet its statutory responsibilities and deliver the priorities of the Council over the medium term.

In relation to Item 4 – Treasury Management Strategy Statement 2015/16 which also outlined associated Prudential Indicators, it was RESOLVED:

- 1. That the Treasury Management Strategy and Prudential Indicators for 2015/16 – 2017/18 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.**

REASON FOR DECISION

The Local Government Act 2003 required the Council to adopt the CIPFA Prudential Code and produce Prudential Indicators.

In relation to Item 5 – Capital Programme 2015/16 – 2017/18 the report regarding which considered the Capital Programme and supporting strategy for the period 2015/16 - 2017/18 it was RESOLVED:

- 1. To approve the proposed Capital Programme and funding totalling £21.5 million, for 2015/16 – 2017/18.**

REASON FOR DECISION

The Council was required to approve the Capital Programme as part of the Budget and Policy Framework.

480. Medium Term Financial Plan (Housing Revenue Account) 2015/16 - 2017/18

The report before Members considered the Medium Term Housing Revenue Account (HRA) budget.

The report included results of the tenant consultation, the consideration of the Housing and Health Committee and the recommendation of the Finance and Resource Committee concerning the proposed level of rent increase for 2015/16.

Cllr Carter MOVED and Cllr Mrs Davies SECONDED the recommendations within the report and officers and Tenants Talkback were thanked for their assistance and support in preparation of the Medium Term HRA Budget.

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

- 1. That the Council approves a level of rent increase for 2015/16 based on the Government formula of CPI + 1% per week, for all rents as detailed in the report.**
- 2. That the Council agrees to freeze the proposed Service Charges for 2015/16 for tenants, however any decrease to service charges, will be passed onto the tenant.**

3. **That the Council agrees that Leaseholder Service Charges be calculated in line with the current reconciliation policy.**
4. **That the Council agrees to applying the formula rent to all new tenancies from April 2015/16.**
5. **To approve the Section 151 Officer's Assurance Statement on the robustness of the estimates and adequacy of the reserves.**

REASON FOR DECISION

1. Effective financial management underpinned all of the priorities for the Council.
2. The Council was required to compile a budget which collated all the income and expenditure relating to the Council's housing stock. The Council was also required to agree the rent levels and notify tenants of any increases.

481. Urgent Business

There were no items of urgent business.
