

Minutes

Ordinary Council (Budget) Wednesday, 27th February, 2019

Attendance

Cllr Mrs Murphy (Mayor)	Cllr McCheyne
Cllr Parker (Deputy Mayor)	Cllr McLaren
Cllr Aspinell	Cllr Mrs McKinlay
Cllr Barrell	Cllr Mrs Middlehurst
Cllr Barrett	Cllr Morrissey
Cllr Bridge	Cllr Mynott
Cllr Chilvers	Cllr Naylor
Cllr Clarke	Cllr Nolan
Cllr Cloke	Cllr Poppy
Cllr Mrs Davies	Cllr Mrs Pound
Cllr Mrs Fulcher	Cllr Reed
Cllr Haigh	Cllr Ms Rowlands
Cllr Hirst	Cllr Russell
Cllr Mrs Hones	Cllr Ms Sanders
Cllr Hossack	Cllr Mrs Slade
Cllr Keeble	Cllr Trump
Cllr Kendall	Cllr Tumbridge
Cllr Kerlake	Cllr Wiles

Apologies

Cllr Tierney

Officers Present

Phoebe Barnes	-	Interim Financial Controller
Philip Drane	-	Director of Strategic Planning
Paula Harvey	-	Corporate Governance Solicitor, Legal Services
Chris Leslie	-	Executive Director of Commercial Services
Claire Mayhew	-	Corporate and Democratic Services Manager
Philip Ruck	-	Chief Executive
Jean Sharp	-	Governance and Member Support Officer
Lorne Spicer	-	Business Development and PR Manager
Steve Summers	-	Chief Operating Officer
Jacqueline Van Mellaerts	-	Chief Financial Officer

337. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Mrs Tierney.

338. Declarations of Interest

Cllr Hirst declared a non-pecuniary interest in items related to the Special Constabulary.

Cllr Mrs McKinlay declared a prejudicial interest in the proposed motions relating to libraries since, as a member of the Essex County Council cabinet, she would be involved in the decision-making relating to libraries.

Cllrs Aspinell and Kendall each declared a non-pecuniary interest being Essex County Councillors and members of the Place Setting Committee which would be discussing the library consultation returns.

339. Urgent Business

The Mayor advised that in view of residents' attendance at the meeting she proposed to consider an item of urgent business at this point and **MOVED** that Procedure rule 2.3 (*when considering the budgetary framework at its February meeting, no other business will be considered by Council other than the budget and related proposals*) be suspended in order that two motions relating to Shenfield and Ingatestone Libraries could be considered. She had accepted these as urgent business in view of the time constraints permitting input into the Essex County Council decision making process and advised that the time allowed for debate and summing up would be limited to one hour. Cllr Tumbridge **SECONDED** the motion and it was **RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY** accordingly.

Cllr Mrs McKinlay had declared a prejudicial interest in relation to the proposed motions and left the room taking no part in the discussion or vote.

Cllr Ms Rowlands **MOVED** and Cllr Tumbridge **SECONDED** the following motion:

"This Council is concerned about the methodology and information relied on by the County Council to list Shenfield Library as tier 3. We call on Essex County Council to reconsider its findings and recognise that Shenfield Library should be listed as tier 2."

Cllr Kendall **MOVED** and Cllr Aspinell **SECONDED** an **AMENDMENT** as follows:

"This Council is concerned about the methodology and information relied on to list Shenfield and Ingatestone Libraries as Tier 3. We call on Essex County Council to reconsider its findings and recognise that both Shenfield and Ingatestone libraries should be listed as Tier 2. We also call on the County

Council to drop any plans to reduce the opening hours at Brentwood Library”

The **AMENDMENT** was **NOT ACCEPTED** by Cllr Ms Rowlands and was therefore debated. After a full discussion a recorded vote was taken in accordance with Procedure Rule 9.5 and Members voted as follows:

FOR: Cllrs Aspinell, Barrett, Chilvers, Clarke, Mrs Davies, Ms Fulcher, Haigh, Keeble, Kendall, Morrissey, Mynott and Naylor (12)

AGAINST: Cllrs Barrell, Bridge, Cloke, Hirst, Mrs Hones, Hossack, Kerslake, McCheyne, McLaren, Mrs Middlehurst, Mrs Murphy, Nolan, Parker, Poppy, Mrs Pound, Reed, Ms Rowlands, Russell, Ms Sanders, Ms Slade, Trump, Tumbridge and Wiles (23)

ABSTAIN (0)

The **AMENDMENT** was **LOST**.

The **SUBSTANTIVE MOTION** was debated and a recorded vote taken in accordance with Procedure rule 9.5. Members voted as follows:

FOR: Cllrs Aspinell, Barrell, Barrett, Bridge, Chilvers, Clarke, Cloke, Mrs Davies, Ms Fulcher, Haigh, Hirst, Mrs Hones, Hossack, Keeble, Kendall, Kerslake, McCheyne, McLaren, Mrs Middlehurst, Morrissey, Mrs Murphy, Mynott, Naylor, Nolan, Parker, Poppy, Mrs Pound, Reed, Ms Rowlands, Russell, Ms Sanders, Ms Slade, Trump, Tumbridge and Wiles (35)

The **MOTION** was **CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**.

Cllr Cloke **MOVED** and Cllr Bridge **SECONDED** the following **MOTION**:

“ This Council supports the level of response from the local community in regards to Ingatestone Library, including on questioning the information in the consultation document and calls upon ECC to give detailed consideration to all responses, including those which have challenged the underpinning data. Furthermore, it should be remembered that that the library is used out of library hours by the local community and the parish council. And that proper use of the available assets has not been considered.”

Following a full discussion a recorded vote was taken in accordance with Procedure Rule 9.5. Members voted as follows:

FOR: Cllrs Aspinell, Barrell, Barrett, Bridge, Chilvers, Clarke, Cloke, Mrs Davies, Ms Fulcher, Haigh, Hirst, Mrs Hones, Hossack, Keeble, Kendall, Kerslake, McCheyne, McLaren, Mrs Middlehurst, Morrissey, Mrs Murphy, Mynott, Naylor, Nolan, Parker, Poppy, Mrs Pound, Reed, Ms Rowlands, Russell, Ms Sanders, Ms Slade, Trump, Tumbridge and Wiles (35)

The **MOTION** was **CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**.

Cllr Mrs McKinlay returned to the meeting and Cllr Chilvers left.

339. Medium Term Financial Plan 2019/20 - 2021/22

The Draft Medium-Term Financial Plan (MTFP) was considered by Policy, Projects and Resources Committee on 20 November 2018, which gave Members an update on the various significant changes that would impact on the Council's financial position.

The Final Medium-Term Financial Plan (MTFP) was considered by Policy, Projects and Resources Committee on 5 February 2019 and was recommended to Ordinary Council for consideration and approval.

The fundamental principles of the Council's MTFP were to:

- (i) Maintain a sustainable financial position against a background of unprecedented financial uncertainty and reduced government funding, including the delivery of efficiency targets.
- (ii) Support the vision of our Borough through appropriate identification of resources required to deliver the key priorities outlined in the 'Vision for Brentwood'.
- (iii) Maximise opportunities and mitigate risks associated with the fundamental change to the way in which local government was financed.

This report considered:

- (i) The General Fund budget proposals for 2019/20 to 2021/22.
- (ii) The Housing Revenue Account (HRA) budget proposals for 2019/20 onwards.
- (iii) The Capital Programme 2019/20 to 2021/22.
- (iv) The Treasury Management Strategy for 2019/20.
- (v) Section 151 Officers Assurance Statement.

Cllr Mrs McKinlay **MOVED** and Cllr Kerslake **SECONDED** the recommendations in the report and following a full discussion a recorded vote was taken in accordance with Local Authorities (Standing Orders) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2014).

The Mayor proposed a separate vote be taken on recommendations relating to the Housing Revenue Account therefore on recommendations relating to the General Fund Members voted as follows:

FOR: Cllrs Barrell, Bridge, Cloke, Hirst, Mrs Hones, Hossack, Kerslake, McCheyne, Mrs McKinlay, McLaren, Mrs Middlehurst, Mrs Murphy, Nolan, Parker, Poppy, Mrs Pound, Reed, Ms Rowlands, Russell, Ms Sanders, Ms Slade, Trump, Tumbridge and Wiles (24)

AGAINST: Cllrs Aspinell, Barrett, Clarke, Mrs Davies, Ms Fulcher, Haigh, Keeble, Kendall, Morrissey, Mynott and Naylor (11)

ABSTAIN: (0)

The Motion was **CARRIED** and it was **RESOLVED**:

General Fund:

1. **To approve the General Fund - Revised MTFP for 2019/20 as shown in Table 9 which includes the proposed policy initiatives, presenting £185k Funding Gap for 2019/20, to be funded from working balances.**

Capital programme

2. **To approve the Existing and New Schemes of the proposed Capital Programme for 2019/20 to 2021/22 as set out in Table 19 of this report.**

Treasury Strategy

3. **To approve the Treasury Management Strategy as set out in Section 12 of this report.**

Section 151 Officer's Assurance Statement

4. **To note the Section 151 Officer's Assurance Statement as set out in Section 13 of this report.**

Council Tax 2019/20

5. **To approve a Council Tax increase of 2.99% (Band D of £188.63) for 2019/20.**

A recorded vote was taken on recommendations relating to the Housing Revenue Account and Members voted as follows:

FOR: Cllrs Barrell, Bridge, Cloke, Hirst, Mrs Hones, Hossack, Kerslake, McCheyne, Mrs McKinlay, McLaren, Mrs Middlehurst, Mrs Murphy, Nolan, Parker, Poppy, Mrs Pound, Reed, Ms Rowlands, Russell, Ms Sanders, Ms Slade, Trump, Tumbridge and Wiles (24)

AGAINST: Cllrs Aspinell, Barrett, Clarke, Mrs Davies, Ms Fulcher, Haigh, Keeble, Kendall, Morrissey, Mynott and Naylor (11)

ABSTAIN; (0)

The Motion was **CARRIED** and it was **RESOLVED**:

Housing Revenue Account (HRA)

1. To approve the HRA Business Plan for 2019/20 and beyond as shown in Appendix C of this report.

2. To approve a 1% decrease in rents for 2019/20 and to note rents will increase by CPI plus 1% from 2020/21.

3. To recommend to apply the formula rent to all new tenancies from April 2019/20.

Cllrs Clarke, Morrissey and Tumbridge left the meeting before the next item was considered.

340. Council Tax Resolution 2019-2020

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 (ECC), Police, Fire & Crime Commissioner for Essex (PFCC), and Essex Police Fire & Crime Commissioner Fire and Rescue Authority (EPFCCFRA) and the Parish Councils.

The Council's Chief Finance Officer advised that the Essex County Council Demand Precept Notice had now been received which confirmed the figures within the report. This had been received since publication of the agenda.

Cllr Mrs McKinlay **MOVED** and Cllr Kerslake **SECONDED** the recommendations in the report and following a full discussion a recorded vote was taken in accordance with Local Authorities (Standing Orders) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2014). Members voted as follows:

FOR: Cllrs Barrell, Bridge, Cloke, Hirst, Mrs Hones, Hossack, Kerslake, McCheyne, Mrs McKinlay, McLaren, Mrs Middlehurst, Mrs Murphy, Nolan, Parker, Poppy, Mrs Pound, Reed, Ms Rowlands, Russell, Ms Sanders, Ms Slade, Trump and Wiles (23)

AGAINST: Cllrs Aspinell, Barrett, Mrs Davies, Ms Fulcher, Haigh, Keeble, Kendall, Mynott and Naylor (9)

ABSTAIN: (0)

The **MOTION** was **CARRIED** and it was **RESOLVED**:

1. The net Council Tax requirement of £ 6,198,985 for 2019/20 after taking into account a redistributed surplus from the Collection Fund of £43,717.
2. The average requirement for Council Tax for borough purposes for 2019/20 be £188.63 Band D equivalent as set out in Appendix A (2.99% increase).
3. The Council approve the formal Council Tax resolution for Brentwood Borough Council and Parishes as contained in Appendix A.
4. That it be noted that for the year 2019/20 Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner for Essex and Essex Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner Fire and Rescue Authority have issued the following precept requirements to the Council, in accordance with Section 40 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 (as amended) (“the Act”) for each of the categories of dwellings (valuation band) shown in Table 2.
5. It be noted that for the year 2019/20 Essex County Council has not yet issued their precept requirement to the Council, at the time of publication, in accordance with Section 40 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 (as amended) (“the Act”) for each of the categories of dwellings (valuation band) as shown in Table 2.

Table 2 - Precept Schedule

Valuation Band	Essex County Council £	Police and Crime Commissioner £	Essex Fire Authority £
A	846.96	128.64	48.30
B	988.12	150.08	56.35
C	1,129.28	171.52	64.40
D	1,270.44	192.96	72.45
E	1,552.76	235.84	88.55
F	1,835.08	278.72	104.64
G	2,117.40	321.60	120.75
H	2,540.88	385.92	144.90

6. 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 Table 2 above, the Council, in accordance with Section 40 of the Act, hereby sets the amounts in Table 3 as the amounts of Council Tax for the year 2019/20 for each of the categories of dwellings shown:

Table 3 - 2019/20 Council Tax for Each Categories of Dwellings

	Band A	Band B	Band C	Band D	Band E	Band F	Band G	Band H
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Blackmore	1,186.23	1,383.94	1,581.64	1,779.35	2,174.76	2,570.18	2,965.58	3,558.70
Doddinghurst	1,189.47	1,387.72	1,585.96	1,784.21	2,180.70	2,577.20	2,973.68	3,568.42
Herongate	1,174.73	1,370.52	1,566.31	1,762.10	2,153.68	2,545.26	2,936.83	3,524.20
Ingatestone and Fryerning	1,197.69	1,397.31	1,596.92	1,796.54	2,195.77	2,595.01	2,994.23	3,593.08
Kelvedon	1,196.65	1,396.09	1,595.54	1,794.98	2,193.87	2,592.75	2,991.63	3,589.96
Mountnessing	1,190.93	1,389.42	1,587.91	1,786.40	2,183.38	2,580.36	2,977.33	3,572.80
Navestock	1,210.03	1,411.70	1,613.38	1,815.05	2,218.40	2,621.74	3,025.08	3,630.10
Stondon Massey	1,191.46	1,390.03	1,588.61	1,787.19	2,184.35	2,581.50	2,978.65	3,574.38
West Horndon	1,181.74	1,378.69	1,575.65	1,772.61	2,166.53	2,560.44	2,954.35	3,545.22
Unparished	1,149.65	1,341.26	1,532.87	1,724.48	2,107.70	2,490.92	2,874.13	3,448.96

341. Pay Policy 2019/20

Members were requested to agree the Pay Policy 2019/20 as attached to the report as Appendix A in accordance with Section 38 (1) of the Localism Act 2011.

Cllr Mrs Mckinlay **MOVED** and Cllr Kerslake **SECONDED** the recommendation in the report and a vote was taken on a show of hands.

It was **RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY**

That the 2019/20 Pay Policy Statement as set out in Appendix A is agreed.

342. Capital Strategy 2019/20

The Council was required by Regulation to have regard to the Prudential Code published by the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA) when carrying out duties under Part 1 of the Local Government Act 2003. Following consultation during 2017, CIPFA published a revised Prudential Code (2017 Edition) and Treasury Management Code of practice (2017 Edition) in January 2018. One of the main aspects of the revised code was to bring together elements of capital expenditure with the treasury management strategy into a single Capital and Investment Strategy, for approval by Ordinary Council. This strategy document therefore set out the capital, investment and treasury management strategy for 2019/20.

Cllr Mrs McKinlay **MOVED** and Cllr Kerslake **SECONDED** the recommendation in the report and Members voted on a show of hands.

It was **RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY:**

That Members agree the Capital Strategy 2019/20 detailed in Appendix A.

343. Urgent Business

There was no further urgent business but the Mayor said that the Leader of the Council wished to make a statement.

Cllr Mrs McKinlay advised that she would be standing down as Leader at the end of the municipal year but would remain Ward Member for Hutton North. She thanked Members and Officers for their support during her 10 years in her role as Leader.

The meeting ended at 10.00pm