

## COUNCIL

### MINUTES OF MEETING Wednesday, 26<sup>th</sup> February 2020

**PRESENT:** Councillor Sheerin (the Mayor in the Chair); Councillors Ali Ahmed, Iftikhar Ahmed, Shakil Ahmed, Daalat Ali, Sultan Ali, Besford, Blundell, Brett, Cocks, Dale, Davidson, Dearnley, Neil Emmott, Susan Emmott, Emsley, Gartside, Hartley, Heakin, Holly, Hornby, Howard, Hussain, Joinson, Kelly, Martin, Massey, Meredith, Nolan, O'Neill, O'Rourke, Rana, Rashid, Rowbotham, Rush, Angela Smith, Susan Smith, Sullivan, Taylor, Wardle, Wazir, West, Donna Williams, Peter Williams, Winkler, Wraighte, Zaheer and Zaman.

**OFFICERS:** S. Rumbelow (Chief Executive), N. Thornton (Director of Resources), D. Wilcock (Assistant Director – Legal, Governance, Workforce/Monitoring Officer), J. Murphy (Chief Finance Officer), D. Bowler (Assistant Director – Place), D. Brierley (Head of Communications), J. Hollamby (Neighbourhoods Directorate), M. Garraway, C. Mills, S. Smith and P. Thompson (Resources Directorate).

**ALSO IN ATTENDANCE:** Eight members of the public.

#### 16 APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Bamford, Beswick, Boriss, Burke, Dutton, Farnell, McCarthy, Malcolm, Mir, Nickson, Paolucci and Robinson.

#### 17 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interests.

#### 18 MINUTES

Resolved:

That the minutes of the meetings of Council (Ordinary meeting and Extraordinary meeting), held 18<sup>th</sup> December 2019, be approved as correct records.

#### 19 DISCRETIONARY BUSINESS RATE SCHEME 2020/21

The Council considered the recommendations of Cabinet in relation to an expectation that the Government in the March 2020 Budget would announce additional Discretionary Business Rate Relief's which will require the Council's Policy to be amended for 2020/21.

A draft 2020/21 Policy document was attached at appendix 1 to the report. This currently assumes that all the recommendations are adopted, but this document will only be finalised after the budget on 11<sup>th</sup> March 2020.

Resolved:

1. The Council notes an increase to 50% of Retail Relief from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2020, which is due to be announced by the Government in the 2020 budget and will be fully funded by Section 31 grant.
2. The Council notes the introduction of Pub Relief from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2020. This will be announced by Government in the 2020 budget and will be fully funded by Section 31 grant.
3. The Council notes the extension of the £1,500 business rate discount for local newspapers' office space for 2020/21. This will be announced by Government in the 2020 budget and will be fully funded by Section 31 grant.
4. The Chief Finance Officer, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Finance, be granted delegated authority to finalise the 2020/21 Discretionary Business Rate Relief Policy following the Government's 2020 budget, which is expected to take place on 11<sup>th</sup> March 2020; this will include the specific items in paragraphs 2.1, 2.2 and 2.3 of the report and any other announcements that may need to be incorporated.
5. The Council grants approval to the relief of £90 to qualifying businesses who experienced a large increase in their rateable value following the 2017 revaluation - this scheme was introduced by Government in the 2017 budget for a period of four years from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2017, which will be fully funded in accordance with Section 31.

## **20 SAVINGS PROGRAMME 2020/21 TO 2021/22**

The Council considered the recommendations of Cabinet in relation to the results of consultation on a proposed Savings Programme 2020/21 - 2021/22.

Resolved:

1. The Council approves the following savings proposals:
  - a. To cease delivery of non-statutory wider tobacco control work, following the completion of the workforce consultation (NH-2020-21-002).
  - b. Bowling Pavilions utility charges to users - smart meters (NH-2020-21-013).
2. The Council agrees to withdraw the savings proposal to relocate Milnrow Youth Club (CS-2020-21-003).

## **21 DISCRETIONARY FEES & CHARGES**

The Council considered the recommendations of Cabinet in relation to proposed discretionary fees and charges for 2020/2021. Various Council services had been requested to review the level of their charges to identify any opportunities to increase charges above nil inflation, in order to contribute towards bridging the budget gap and a report thereon had been submitted to the Cabinet on 12<sup>th</sup> February 2020.

Resolved:

1. The Cabinet approves the updated Discretionary Fees and Charges for 2020/21 following consultation, including the additional exemptions requested in section 4.3 of the submitted report.

2. The Director of Neighbourhoods be requested to submit a report to a future meeting of the Cabinet regarding proposals, including potential charges, for replacement bins.

## **22 BUDGET 2020/21 - 2022/23 - LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 2003 REQUIREMENTS**

The Council considered a report of the Chief Finance Officer relating to the requirements under the Local Government Act 2003. It is a legal requirement under Section 25 of the Local Government Act 2003 for this report to be presented to Council for consideration immediately prior to setting the Budget and Council Tax. The recommendations aimed to ensure that Council was aware of the opinion of the Chief Finance Officer regarding the robustness of the budget as proposed and the adequacy of general balances and reserves. The report outlined the robustness of the budget, the key risks and the level of reserves to support the Council's financial resilience.

It was the opinion of the Chief Finance Officer that the proposed budget was robust and that the proposed level of general balances and reserves were adequate. An option to reduce the level of balances or reserves had not been recommended by the Chief Finance Officer given the risk assessment presented in the report, and this position had been endorsed by the Cabinet when agreeing that General Balances for 2020/2021 be set at £17million.

Resolved:

That the approach to general balances detailed in the submitted report, including the setting of general balances, at £17million for 2020/2021, be endorsed.

## **23 BUDGET REPORT 2020/21**

The Council considered a report outlining the recommendations of the Cabinet, as moved by Councillor Brett and seconded by Councillor Rowbotham, in respect of the Revenue Budget, Capital Budget, Council Tax, Pay Policy, Capital Investment and Disposal Strategy, Treasury Management Strategy and Medium Term Financial Strategy for 2020/2021.

It was noted that an amendment had been received to the Motion, which was moved by Councillor Dearnley and seconded by Councillor Holly. Upon being put to the vote the Mayor declared the amendment lost.

The Motion as moved and seconded was then voted upon by means of a recorded vote.

Voting for the motion: Councillors Ali Ahmed, Iftikhar Ahmed, Shakil Ahmed, Daalat Ali, Sultan Ali, Besford, Blundell, Brett, Cocks, Dale, Dearnley, Neil Emmott, Susan Emmott, Emsley, Gartside, Hartley, Heakin, Holly, Hornby, Howard Hussain, Joinson, Martin, Massey, Meredith, Nolan O'Neill, O'Rourke, Rana, Rashid, Rowbotham, Rush, Sheerin, Angela Smith, Susan Smith, Sullivan, Taylor, Wardle, Wazir, West, Donna Williams, Peter Williams, Winkler, Wraighte, Zaheer and Zaman.

Abstaining on the motion: Councillors Davidson and Kelly.

Accordingly, the motion was declared to be carried and it was RESOLVED that:

- 1 The revenue estimates for 2020/2021 as submitted in the Budget Report attached to this report be approved.
- 2 The level of Council Tax increase at 3.99% be approved including a precept of 2% for Adult Social care.
- 3 It be noted that, at its meeting on 18<sup>th</sup> December 2019, Council calculated the amount of 55,745 as its Council Tax base for the year 2020/2021 in accordance with Section 31B of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 (“the Act”), as amended by the Localism Act 2011.
- 4 The following amounts now be calculated by the Council for the year 2020/2021 in accordance with Sections 30 to 36 of the Act:
  - £599,823,969.00 being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 31A(2) of the Act.
  - £508,108,661.00 being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 31A(3) of the Act.
  - £91,715,308.00 being the amount by which the aggregate under Section 31A(2) exceeds the aggregate under Section 31A(3), calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 31A(4) of the Act, as its council tax requirement for the year
  - £1,645.27 being the amount calculated under Section 31A(4), divided by the Council Tax Base (55,745), in accordance with Section 31B of the Act, as the relevant basic amount of its Council Tax for the year, including 1% for Adult Social Care. The relevant basic amount being £143.84 for Adult Social Care and £1,501.43 for Other Council Expenditure.

	Valuation Bands							
	A £	B £	C £	D £	E £	F £	G £	H £
Included in the Valuation Bands for Adult Social Care	95.89	111.88	127.86	143.84	175.80	207.77	239.73	287.68
Included in the Valuation Bands for other Council expenditure	1,000.95	1,167.78	1,334.60	1,501.43	1,835.08	2,168.73	2,502.38	3,002.86
Total	1,096.84	1,279.66	1,462.46	1,645.27	2,010.88	2,376.50	2,742.11	3,290.54

Being the amounts given by multiplying the amount calculated in accordance with Section 31B by the number which, in the proportion set out in Section 5(1) of the Act, is applicable to dwellings listed in a particular

band divided by the number which in that proportion is applicable to dwellings listed in Valuation Band D, calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 36(1) of the Act, as the amount to be taken into account for the year in respect of categories of dwellings listed in different Valuation Bands.

5 It be noted that for the year 2020/2021 the major precepting Authorities have stated the following amounts in precepts issued to the Council, in accordance with Section 40 of the Act, for each of the categories of dwellings shown below:

Precepting Authority	Valuation Bands							
	A £	B £	C £	D £	E £	F £	G £	H £
Mayoral Police & Crime Commissioner	138.86	162.01	185.15	208.30	254.58	300.87	347.16	416.60
Mayoral General (including Fire Services)	60.63	70.73	80.84	90.95	111.16	131.37	151.58	181.90

6 Having calculated the aggregate in each case of the amounts at paragraphs 3(e) and 4 above, the Council, in accordance with Sections 30 and 36 of the Act, hereby sets the aggregate amounts shown in the table below as the amounts of Council Tax for the year 2020/2021 for each part of its area and for each of the categories of dwellings.

Valuation Bands							
A £	B £	C £	D £	E £	F £	G £	H £
1,296.33	1,512.40	1,728.45	1,944.52	2,376.62	2,808.74	3,240.85	3,889.04

7 No discount be given in relation to the early payment of Council Tax bills for taxpayers paying the full 2020/2021 amount.

8 The decision regarding any changes to the final allocations for the Dedicated Schools Grant be delegated to the Director of Children's Services and the Chief Finance Officer in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Children's Services and the Cabinet Member for Finance.

9 Consider and note the progress of the Integration of Health and Social Care services as set out in the Budget Report. In particular, the operation of the Pooled Fund budget from 2019/20 for local authority and CCG services and the risks to the Council should the savings proposals not be achieved.

10 Approve the contribution to the Integrated Health & Social Care Pooled Fund budget of £102.339million, in 2020/2021.

11 Note that a one off payment of £250,000 from the Equalisation Reserve for 2020/21 has been allocated to the school meals catering service.

This was approved by the Chief Executive on the basis of urgency and to enable consultation to be undertaken with schools.

- 12 Approve the updated Budget Carry Forward Policy, as detailed in the Budget Report
- 13 Approve the Capital Programme for 2020/2021 to 2022/2023, as detailed in the Budget Report.
- 14 Approve that new spending proposal requiring additional revenue and capital resources should only be considered during the financial year, in extreme circumstances as determined by the Budget and Policy Framework. The proposals would need to be reported to the next available Council meeting in accordance with the Budget and Policy Framework.
- 15 Note that the Council is currently considering the Advance Payment of Employer Pensions Contributions, as detailed in the Budget Report
- 16 Pay Policy Statement – Budget Council approves the Pay Policy, as outlined in the Budget Report, to comply with the requirements of Section 6 of the Localism Act 2011.
- 17 Treasury Management Strategy Statement – Budget Council approves the Treasury Management Strategy, as outlined at Appendix 6 of the Budget Report.
- 18 Capital Investment and Disposal Strategy – Budget Council approves the Capital Investment and Disposal Strategy, as outlined at Appendix 7 of the Budget Report.
- 19 Medium Term Financial Strategy – Budget Council approves the Medium Term Financial Strategy, as outlined at Appendix 9 of the Budget report.