

COUNCIL

MINUTES OF MEETING Wednesday, 21 February 2024

PRESENT: The Mayor Councillor Holly (Chair); Councillors I. Ahmed, S. Ahmed, Ali, Anstee, Arshad, Atewologun, Ayrton, Bamford, Beswick, E. Blundell, J. Blundell, Brown, Burke, Dale, Davidson, Dearnley, N. Emmott, S. Emmott, Emsley, Faisal, Gallagher, Gartside, Hodgkinson, Kelly, P. Massey, R. Massey, Nisa, O'Neill, O'Rourke, Paolucci, Place, Rana, Aasim Rashid, Robinson, Sheerin, A. Smith, S. Smith, T. Smith, Sullivan, Taylor, Wardle, Wazir, West, D. Williams and Winkler.

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: Councillors A. Ahmed, Allonby, Besford, Hussain, Jackson, Malcolm, Meredith, Mir, Mohammed, Aiza Rashid, Rowbotham and Zaheer.

43 MAYOR'S COMMUNICATIONS

The Mayor and Leader of each political group among other Members, led tributes for their services to the borough for Sir Tony Lloyd MP whom had passed away on 17th January 2024; and former Mayor Councillor Peter Rush whom had passed away on 21st February 2024, having served on the Council since 2006.

44 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

45 MINUTES RESOLVED

That the minutes of the Council meeting held on 13th December 2023 be approved and signed by the Mayor as a correct record.

46 DISCRETIONARY FEES & CHARGES 2024/25

The Council considered the recommendations of Cabinet in relation to proposed discretionary fees and charges for 2024/25 and charges proposed to be exempt from a general 5% increase.

RESOLVED

1. That the Discretionary Fees and Charges for 2024/25, including the new charges detailed in paragraph 5.5 of the submitted report, be approved.
2. That the charges exempt from the general 5% increase, as set out in paragraph 5.3 of the submitted report be approved.
3. That the different % increases as set out in paragraph 5.4 of the submitted report be approved.

47 LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 2003 REQUIREMENT 2024/25

Consideration was given to a report which set out the Chief Finance Officer's opinion regarding the robustness of the proposed budget and the adequacy of general balances and reserves.

The Chief Finance Officer had concluded that the proposed budgets and associated systems and processes were sound and the level of general balances and reserves were adequate. It was reported that the proposed estimates and tax setting calculations were robust, reserves were adequate and the provisional Capital Programme was affordable.

The Leader of the Council moved the recommendations as set out in the report and commended the Director of Corporate Services and her team for their work in preparing Council the budget report.

RESOLVED

1. That the Local Government Act 2003 Requirement 2024/25 report be noted and the approach to General Balances, as outlined in the report be endorsed.
2. That the General Fund Balances remain at £15 million for 2024/25 rising to £20 million by 2026/27.

48 BUDGET REPORT AND MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL STRATEGY 2024/25

Consideration was given to recommendations of Cabinet arising from the meeting held on the 13th February 2024 in respect of the proposed Revenue Budget, Capital Programme and Council Tax for 2024/25 and the provisional budget for 2025/26 and 2026/27; alongside the Budget Carry forward Policy, Pay Policy, Reserves Policy, Capital Investment and Disposal Strategy, Treasury Management Strategy and Medium Term Financial Strategy.

It was reported that consideration of the budget had been undertaken by Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee further to Budget and Policy Framework Procedure Rules together with the due consideration by the Cabinet.

The recommendations as detailed in the report of the Cabinet were moved by Councillor Neil Emmott and seconded by Councillor Wardle.

An amendment to the motion was moved by Councillor Taylor and seconded by Councillor Winkler, such that the Motion be agreed subject to the following amendment

ITEM	2024/25 £k
Amendment to the Proposed Budget	
Reduction of Union Representatives (3 FTE)	(122.6)
Removal of Events Budget (Events Manager to be funded by Income)	(66.1)
Reduction in Publicity	(16.3)
Total Saving	(205.0)
Alternative Investment	
Schools Crossing Patrols	205.0
Total Cost	205.0
Balance	-

Upon being put to the vote the amendment as moved by Councillor Taylor and seconded by Councillor Winkler was declared to be lost.

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

Voting for the motion: I. Ahmed, S. Ahmed, Ali, Anstee, Arshad, Atewologun, Ayrton, Bamford, Beswick, E. Blundell, J. Blundell, Brown, Burke, Dale, Davidson, Dearnley, N. Emmott, S. Emmott, Emsley, Faisal, Gallagher, Gartside, Hodgkinson, Holly, Kelly, P. Massey, R. Massey, Nisa, O'Neill, O'Rourke, Paolucci, Place, Rana, Aasim Rashid, Robinson, Sheerin, A. Smith, S. Smith, T. Smith, Sullivan, Taylor, Wardle, Wazir, West, D. Williams and Winkler.

Accordingly the motion was declared to be unanimously carried and it was **RESOLVED** that

1. The proposed revenue budget position as included within the Budget Report be approved.
2. The level of Council Tax increase at 4.99% be approved, including a precept of 2% for Adult Social Care.
3. It be noted at the meeting held on 13th December 2023, Council calculated the amount of 58,500 as its Council Tax base for the year 2024/25 in accordance with Section 31B of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, as amended by the Localism Act 2011.
4. The following amounts now be calculated by the Council for the year 2024/25 in accordance with Sections 30 to 36 of the Act:-
 - I. £684,312,740.00 being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 31A (2) of the Act.
 - II. £569,594,712.00 being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 31A (3) of the Act.

- III. £114,718,028.00 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.
- IV. £1,960.99 being the amount calculated under Section 31A (4), divided by the Council Tax Base (58,500), in accordance with Section 31B of the Act, as the relevant basic amount of its Council Tax for the year, including 2% for Adult Social Care. The relevant basic amount being £283.41 for Adult Social Care and £1,677.58 for Other Council Expenditure.

Valuation Bands	Included in the Valuation Bands for Adult Social Care	Included in the Valuation Bands for other Council expenditure	Total
A	£188.94	£1,118.39	£1,307.33
B	£220.43	£1,304.78	£1,525.21
C	£251.92	£1,491.18	£1,743.10
D	£283.41	£1,677.58	£1,960.99
E	£346.39	£2,050.38	£2,396.77
F	£409.37	£2,423.17	£2,832.54
G	£472.35	£2,795.97	£3,268.32
H	£566.82	£3,355.16	£3,921.98

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 for the year 2024/25 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 in the following table:-

Valuation Bands	Mayoral Police & Crime Commissioner	Mayoral General (including Fire Services)
A	£170.86	£75.30
B	£199.34	£87.85
C	£227.82	£100.40
D	£256.30	£112.95
E	£313.25	£138.05
F	£370.21	£163.15
G	£427.16	£188.25
H	£512.60	£225.90

6. Having calculated the aggregate 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 2024/25 for each part of its area and for each of the categories of dwellings.

Valuation Bands	Total
A	£1,553.49
B	£1,812.40
C	£2,071.32
D	£2,330.24
E	£2,848.07
F	£3,365.90
G	£3,883.73
H	£4,660.48

7. This Council approves the provision of one-off Council Tax Support, equivalent to a 2% increase of Council tax for district purposes to be provided to Rochdale Council Tax payers excluding empty properties in 2024/25, to limit the net increase in Council Tax for district purposes to 2.99%. The estimated cost of £2.8m is to be funded from the Targeted Support Reserve.
8. This Council approves the proposed Capital Programme for 2024/25 to 2028/29 as detailed at Appendix 4 to the submitted report, noting that some of the assumed external funding included in the programme is still subject to clarification from Government and in some cases may involve bids for funding. All approvals are subject to confirmation of funding allocations prior to decision.
9. This Council approves the updated Medium Term Financial Strategy 2024/25 to 2028/29, as detailed in Appendix 6 to the submitted report.
10. This Council approves the updated Pay Policy statement, as detailed in Appendix 7 to the submitted report.

11. This Council approves the updated Reserves Policy, as detailed in Appendix 8 to the submitted report.
12. This Council approves the 2024/25 budget efficiencies as detailed within Appendix 11 to the submitted report.
13. It be noted the position in relation to Education Services Grant and Schools Funding being that decision regarding any changes to the final allocations for the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) is delegated to the Director of Children's Services in consultation with the Chief Finance Officer and the Cabinet Members for Children's Services and Finance and Corporate, and the Leader of the Council.