

Date of issue: Monday, 8 March 2021

<b>MEETING</b>	<b>COUNCIL</b>
<b>DATE AND TIME:</b>	MONDAY, 8TH MARCH, 2021 AT 7.00 PM
<b>VENUE:</b>	VIRTUAL MEETING
<b>DEMOCRATIC SERVICES OFFICER: (for all enquiries)</b>	SHABANA KAUSER 07821 811 259

### SUPPLEMENTARY PAPERS

The following Papers have been added to the agenda for the above meeting:-

\* Item 3 was not available for publication with the rest of the agenda.

#### PART 1

<u>AGENDA ITEM</u>	<u>REPORT TITLE</u>	<u>PAGE</u>	<u>WARD</u>
3.	Revenue Budget 2021/22 and Medium Term Financial Strategy 2021/22 - 2023/24 <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Budget Procedure Note 2021</li><li>• Conservative Group Proposed Amendments</li></ul>	1 - 6	All

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SLOUGH BOROUGH COUNCIL**PROCEDURE TO BE FOLLOWED AT BUDGET COUNCIL MEETING  
8<sup>th</sup> MARCH 2021**

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If the Council agrees, the procedure for debate on the Revenue Budget 2021/22 and Medium Term Financial Strategy (item 3) will be as follows:

(1) The Mayor will call upon the Leader of the Council to move as follows:

**“THAT IN ACCORDANCE WITH PROCEDURE RULE 27.1, RULE 16.5 ON RULES OF DEBATE BE SUSPENDED INSOFAR AS IS NECESSARY TO ENABLE THE PROCEDURE AS CIRCULATED TO BE ADOPTED AND THAT THE COUNCIL CONSENT TO:**

- **MEMBERS OF THE LEADERSHIP SPEAKING FOR UP TO 45 MINUTES IN TOTAL ON THE REVENUE BUDGET 2021/22;**
- **MEMBERS OF THE OPPOSITION SPEAKING FOR UP TO 20 MINUTES IN TOTAL AND**
- **INDEPENDENT MEMBER(S) - UPTO 5 MINUTES IN TOTAL;**
- **ALL SUBSEQUENT SPEECHES IN THE DEBATE BEING LIMITED TO THREE MINUTES, OTHER THAN THE WINDING UP SPEECH BY THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL WHICH SHALL NOT EXCEED TEN MINUTES.”**

(2) This will be seconded and voted upon.

(3) The above motion having been adopted, the Mayor will call upon Members of the Leadership to speak for up to 45 minutes. In the course of his speech, the Leader of the Council will formally move that the Revenue Budget 2021-22 as set out on pages 28 to 30 in the agenda, be approved for the Council to debate.

(4) The proposal will be formally seconded.

(5) The Mayor will then call on Members of the Opposition to speak for up to 20 minutes and the Independent Member(s) to speak for up to 5 minutes.

(6) The motion before the Council will then be open to debate. Any amendments notified will be dealt with in the normal way.

(7) Once any amendments have been debated and voted upon, the Mayor will invite other speakers to debate the substantive motion and then move to the vote on the motion before the Council (amended as appropriate).

(8) Throughout the above procedure Lead Members will be entitled to reply to specific objections or questions on their portfolios without prejudice to their entitlement to speak generally in the debate on any amendments.

(9) The Leader of the Council will reply to the debate before the substantive motion (amended as appropriate) is put to the vote. Time allowed up to 10 minutes.

(10) Item 4, Treasury Management Strategy 2021-2022; Item 5, Capital Strategy 2021-24; will be debated in accordance with normal debate rules.

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## **Extraordinary Council – 8 March 2021**

### **Agenda Item 3 - Revenue Budget 2021/22 & Medium-Term Financial Strategy 2021/22- 2023/24**

#### **CONSERVATIVE GROUP AMENDMENT**

##### Introduction

The Conservative Group notes the administrations' budget proposals as laid on in the report of the Executive Director of Corporate Resources on this agenda. Key themes associated with the opposition proposals are:

- Reviving the local economy and businesses following the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Effective utilisation of the Council's assets to the benefit of the Council Taxpayer.
- Economic and effective use of the Council's workforce to ensure resources are utilised effectively and employment opportunities provided for the future benefit of the young people of Slough.
- Commercial awareness across the Council's service to develop a council that can trade its services on the open market to the benefit of the Slough taxpayer.
- A Council Tax set at a level that the community can afford and does not place an unnecessary burden on family budgets.

Based on these principles, we propose the following amendments:

##### Growth

**Christmas Relaxation of parking charges** - Free parking in Slough Town Centre from November to January. This would result in a total growth of £0.440m.

**Shop front enhancement grant** – To support local businesses who rent their property from Slough Borough Council - a shop front enhancement grant – we would provide a one-year grant based on £1 per square foot at a total cost of £0.073m.

**Funding for a local community engagement organisation** – This increases awareness of air quality and stimulates an interest in local activism to tackle the issue here in Slough. We propose to provide £0.048m in 2021/22.

**Expand Provision of Free School Meals**- Additional support for vulnerable families in Slough, expanding the provision of good quality Free School Meals across the Borough during the summer holidays. We propose to provide £0.100m in 2021/22.

**One to One Tuition for Vulnerable Children**- We pledge to support our most vulnerable children in Slough, by providing a targeted One to One tuition programme, for those identified as being most impacted by COVID-19 by our education teams, to support them in their education. We propose to provide £0.100m in 2021/22.

**Promotion and Employment of permanent staff-** To tackle this authorities over reliance on agency and contract staff, we propose a designated fund with the objective of promoting, and covering some of the additional recruitment costs, of moving some of the contract/agency staff to permanent roles in this authority. We propose to provide £0.232m for 2021/22.

**HR fund-** To provide additional support to tackle ongoing HR issues in regards change management processes of moving from such an overreliance on contract/agency staff, to full time positions. We propose to provide £0.050m in 2021/22 to cover this.

### Savings

**Agency/Interim staff** – the opposition note that in the latest figures SBC has provided, it is engaging 284 agency/interim staff. A number have been with the council for many years and we note that this is the most expensive way to populate an organisation. We also note that the Administration has a £1.5m saving in the budget in this area. Based on the figures provided, we calculate that they will have to exit in the region of 50 interim staff to achieve this. Our proposal is to double this saving and note it could impact up to potentially 100 agency staff (up to 35% of the current cohort). This will increase the savings in this area from £1.5m to £3m. We propose that no front-line care staff would be exited under this proposal, protecting our most vulnerable residents.

**Sale of Windsor Road** - We propose to sell the Windsor Road building. This will result in a capital receipt of £21m net of leaseback which can be used to repay debt. The consequential savings on interest charges will be £0.2m in 2021/22.

**Reduction in the Collection of Green Bins** –Expanding the proposed reduction in the collection of our green bins by an additional month, covering November-February at an additional saving of £0.024m.

**Make CCTV fully funded by partners** – rationalising provision and negotiating fully funding by partner agencies. This will deliver £0.180m.

## Council Tax

Resulting from our changes above our proposals for Council Tax are as follows:

1. Setting the adult social care precept increase at £42.58 providing the full 3.00% uplift in the adult social care element of the Council Tax. This will provide for the full growth in adult social care as identified in the budget report.
2. Setting the general Slough Borough Council element of the tax at a 0.75% increase on this year's figure.

This would give a total council tax at band D of £1,472.20, a 3.75% increase overall on the previous year's figure.

3. The table below shows the level of the Council Tax over all eight bands (precepts from external bodies exclude):

Band	£
A	981.80
B	1,145.43
C	1,309.07
D	1,472.70
E	1,799.97
F	2,127.24
G	2,454.50
H	2,945.40

## Reserves

The outstanding balance resulting from these proposals is £0.100m which we propose to deposit in the council's general reserve.

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