

MINUTES OF COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS

At an Extraordinary Meeting of the Council for the Borough of Slough held at the Council Chamber - Observatory House, 25 Windsor Road, SL1 2EL on Thursday, 20th February, 2020 at 7.00 pm

Present:- The Deputy Mayor (Councillor Brooker), in the chair; Councillors Ajaib (from 7.23pm), Akram, Ali, Anderson, Bains, Basra, Begum, Carter, Chaudhry, Dar, Davis, M Holledge, Hulme, Kelly, Mann, Matloob, Minhas, Mohammad, Nazir, Pantelic, D Parmar, S Parmar, Plenty, Qaseem (from 7.39pm), Rasib, Sabah, Sadiq, A Sandhu, Sarfraz, Sharif (from 7.08pm), Smith, Strutton, Swindlehurst and Wright.

Apologies for Absence:- Councillors Bedi, A Cheema, H Cheema, Dhaliwal, Gahir, N Holledge and R Sandhu.

51. Declarations of Interest

None were received.

52. Five Year Plan 2020/21 - 2024/25

It was moved by Councillor Swindlehurst,
Seconded by Councillor Akram,

“That the Five Year Plan as attached at Appendix A to the report be approved.”

The recommendation was put to the vote and agreed unanimously.

Resolved - That the Five Year Plan as attached at Appendix A to the report be approved.

53. Meeting Procedure

A suggested procedure for debating the item on the Revenue Budget 2020/21 had been circulated to all Members of the Council.

It was moved by Councillor Swindlehurst,
Seconded by Councillor Akram,

“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 50 minutes in total on the Revenue Budget 2020/21;
- Members of the Opposition speaking for up to 20 minutes in total on the same item;
- Independent Members speaking for up to 5 minutes in total, and

Council - 20.02.20

- All subsequent speeches in the debate being limited to 3 minutes, other than the winding up speech by the Leader of the Council which shall not exceed 10 minutes.”

The procedural motion was put and carried.

Resolved – That the proposed procedure for the debate on the Revenue Budget 2020/21 be approved and adopted.

54. Revenue Budget 2020/21

The Leader of the Council and Lead Members for Governance and Customer Services, Children and Schools, Transport and Environmental Services, Housing and Community Safety, Health and Wellbeing, Inclusive Growth and Skills and Planning and Regulation presented the Leadership Proposals for the Revenue Budget 2020/21. On completion of the presentation:

It was moved by Councillor Swindlehurst,
Seconded by Councillor Akram,

“Council Tax Resolution – In relation to the Council Tax for 2020/21

- (a) That in pursuance of the powers conferred on the Council as the billing authority for its area by the Local Government Finance Acts (the Acts), the Council Tax for the Slough area for the year ending 31 March 2021 is as specified below and that the Council Tax be levied accordingly.
- (b) That it be noted that at its meeting on 16 December 2019 Cabinet calculated the following Tax Base amounts for the financial year 2020/21 in accordance with Regulations made under sections 31B (3) and 34(4) of the Act:
 - (i) 42,918.1 being the amount calculated by the Council, in accordance with Regulation 3 of the Local Authorities (Calculation of Council Tax Base) Regulations 2012 (the Regulations) as the Council Tax Base for the whole of the Slough area for the year 2020/21; and
 - (ii) The sums below being the amounts of Council Tax Base for the Parishes within Slough for 2020/21:

Parish of Britwell	868.6
Parish of Colnbrook with Poyle	1,912.9
Parish of Wexham Court	1,416.5
- (c) That the following amounts be now calculated for the year 2020/21 in accordance with sections 31A to 36 of the Act:
 - (i) £382,391,988 being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in section 31A (2)(a) to (f) of the Act. (Gross Expenditure);

Council - 20.02.20

- (ii) £321,271,305 being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in section 31A (3) (a) to (d) of the Act. (Gross Income);
- (iii) £61,120,683 being the amount by which the aggregate at paragraph c (i) above exceeds the aggregate at paragraph c (ii) above calculated by the Council as its council tax requirement for the year as set out in section 31A(4) of the Act. (Council Tax Requirement);
- (iv) £1,424.12 being the amount at paragraph c(iii) above divided by the amount at paragraph b(i) above, calculated by the Council, in accordance with section 31B(1) of the Act, as the basic amount of its Council Tax for the year, including the requirements for Parish precepts.
- (v) That for the year 2020/21 the Council determines in accordance with section 34 (1) of the Act, Total Special Items of £199,728, representing the total of Parish Precepts for that year.
- (vi) £1,419.47 being the amount at paragraph c (iv) above less the result given by dividing the amount at paragraph c (v) above by the relevant amounts at paragraph b (i) above, calculated by the Council, in accordance with section 34 (2) of the Act, as the basic amount of its Council Tax for the year for dwellings in those parts of its area to which no special item relates.
- (vii) Valuation Bands

At the time of preparing the report, the Parish of Britwell has indicated a 25% reduction in its Council Tax charge and the parish of Colnbrook with Poyle a zero increase. Wexham Court has set a Band D charge of £25.

Band	Slough Area	Parish of Britwell	Parish of Colnbrook with Poyle	Parish of Wexham Court
	£	£	£	£
A	946.31	33.05	32.93	16.67
B	1,104.03	38.56	38.42	19.44
C	1,261.75	44.07	43.91	22.22
D	1,419.47	49.58	49.40	25.00
E	1,734.91	60.59	60.38	30.56
F	2,050.35	71.61	71.36	36.11
G	2,365.78	82.63	82.33	41.67
H	2,838.94	99.15	98.80	50.00

Being the amounts given by multiplying the amounts at paragraph c (iv) and c (vi) above by the number which, in the

Council - 20.02.20

proportion set out in section 5 (1) of the Act, is applicable to dwellings listed in a particular valuation 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.

- (viii) Calculate that the Council Tax requirement for the Council's own purposes for 2020/21 (excluding Parish precepts) is £60,920,955.
- (ix) That it be noted that for the year 2020/21 it is assumed that the Thames Valley Police Authority precept will increase by £10 for a Band D property (the maximum allowed by the Home Office). The police funding settlement was only announced on 22 January. The Police and Crime Panel are provisionally meeting on the 14th February to consider the Police & Crime Commissioner's precept proposals. The following amounts are stated in accordance with section 40 of the Act, for each of the categories of dwellings shown below:

Band	Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner (OPCC) for Thames Valley £
A	144.19
B	168.22
C	192.25
D	216.28
E	264.34
F	312.40
G	360.47
H	432.56

- (x) That it be noted that for the year 2020/21 the Royal Berkshire Fire Authority has proposed increasing its precept by 1.99% in accordance with section 40 of the Act, for each of the categories of dwellings shown below. The Fire Authority is due to meet on 14 February to finalise its precept and associated Council Tax:

Band	Royal Berkshire Fire Authority £
A	45.07
B	52.58

Council - 20.02.20

C	60.09
D	67.60
E	82.62
F	97.64
G	112.67
H	135.20

- (xi) Note that arising from these recommendations, and assuming the major precepts are agreed, the overall Council Tax for Slough Borough Council for 2020/21 including the precepting authorities will be as follows:

Band	Slough	Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner (OPCC) for Thames Valley	Royal Berkshire Fire Authority	TOTAL
	£	£	£	£
A	946.31	144.19	45.07	1,135.57
B	1,104.03	168.22	52.58	1,324.83
C	1,261.75	192.25	60.09	1,514.09
D	1,419.47	216.28	67.60	1,703.35
E	1,734.91	264.34	82.62	2,081.87
F	2,050.35	312.40	97.64	2,460.39
G	2,365.78	360.47	112.67	2,838.92
H	2,838.94	432.56	135.20	3,406.70

- (xii) That the Section 151 Officer be and is hereby authorised to give due notice of the said Council Tax in the manner provided by Section 38(2) of the 2012 Act.
- (xiii) That the Section 151 Officer be and is hereby authorised when necessary to apply for a summons against any Council Tax payer or non-domestic ratepayer on whom an account for the said tax or rate and arrears has been duly served and who has failed to pay the amounts due to take all subsequent necessary action to recover them promptly.
- (xiv) That the Section 151 Officer be authorised to collect (and disperse from the relevant accounts) the Council Tax and National Non-Domestic Rate and that whenever the office of the Section 151 Officer is vacant or the holder thereof is for any reason unable to act, the Chief Executive or such other authorised post-holder be authorised to act as before said in his or her stead.
- (xv) That in the event that there are any changes to the provisional precept of the Police and Crime Commissioner, Fire Authority or Parishes, the Section 151 Officer is

Council - 20.02.20

delegated authority to enact all relevant changes to the Revenue Budget 2020/21, Statutory Resolution and council tax levels.

Fees and Charges

- (d) Resolve to change the Council's fees and charges as outlined in Appendix E to the report for 2020/21.

Statement on The Robustness Of Estimates & Reserves (the Section 25 Statement)

- (e) Note the statutory advice of the Chief Finance Officer outlined in Appendix G to the report, the Section 25 statement. This is required to highlight the robustness of budget estimates and the adequacy of the Council's reserves.

School & Pupil Funding

- (f) Ratify the Schools Forum proposals to transition to 85% of the National Funding Formula; set the Minimum Funding Guarantee at +0.5%; retain the maximum 5% early years funding centrally; transfer £0.250m from the Central Schools Service (CSSB) Block to the High Needs Block; and, the proposed use of the CSSB.

Use of Flexible Capital Receipts –

- (g) Resolve to agree the Use of Flexible Capital Receipts Strategy outlined in Appendix J to the report.

Pay Policy –

- (h) Note the Pay Policy Statement agreed at the Employment & Appeals Committee on 23 January 2020 as detailed in Appendix K to the report.

Local Taxation Issues

- (i) Note that existing policies on court costs, empty property relief and public room booking have not changed and fees and charges for these areas are as at (d) above."

Members of the Opposition spoke on the Revenue Budget 2020/21 proposals, following which;

It was moved by Councillor Strutton, as an amendment,
Seconded by Councillor Wright,

"This Council should do more to:

- encourage the protection of the environment;
- make our roads safer; and,
- offer greater opportunities for those eligible for concessionary bus fares.

Council - 20.02.20

Therefore, the following revenue budget amendments are proposed:

	£'000
Move recycling ("red bin") collection to fortnightly (with the introduction of a brown food caddy on weekly collections).	(200)
Increase bus lane cameras at three locations	(150)
Extend the concessionary bus fare scheme to include between 6.30am to 9.30 am	250
Invest in additional parking enforcement staff	100
<i>Net Cost</i>	<i>0</i>

The council should also instigate a review of the local electoral cycle in 2020, to include consideration of "all out" elections every four years, with a view to resultant savings being built into the MTFS from 2021."

The amendment was put to the vote and lost with 4 for, 30 against and 1 abstention.

The original recommendations were put and carried and, in accordance with the Local Authorities (Standing Orders) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2014, a record of the vote was taken as follows:-

There voted for the recommendations:-

Councillors Ajaib, Akram, Ali, Anderson, Bains, Basra, Begum, Carter, Chaudhry, Dar, Davis, M Holledge, Hulme, Mann, Matloob, Minhas, Mohammad, Nazir, Pantelic, D.Parmar, S.Parmar, Plenty, Qaseem, Rasib, Sabah, Sadiq, A.Sandhu, Sarfraz, Sharif and Swindlehurst. 30

There abstained from voting:

The Deputy Mayor, Councillors Kelly, Smith, Strutton and Wright 5

Resolved –

Council Tax Resolution – In relation to the Council Tax for 2020/21

- (a) That in pursuance of the powers conferred on the Council as the billing authority for its area by the Local Government Finance Acts (the Acts), the Council Tax for the Slough area for the year ending 31 March 2021 is as specified below and that the Council Tax be levied accordingly.
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 - (i) 42,918.1 being the amount calculated by the Council, in accordance with Regulation 3 of the Local Authorities (Calculation of Council Tax

Council - 20.02.20

Base) Regulations 2012 (the Regulations) as the Council Tax Base for the whole of the Slough area for the year 2020/21; and

- (ii) The sums below being the amounts of Council Tax Base for the Parishes within Slough for 2020/21:

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- (c) That the following amounts be now calculated for the year 2020/21 in accordance with sections 31A to 36 of the Act:

- (i) £382,391,988 being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in section 31A (2)(a) to (f) of the Act. (Gross Expenditure);
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Being the amounts given by multiplying the amounts at paragraph c (iv) and c (vi) above by the number which, in the proportion set out in section 5 (1) of the Act, is applicable to dwellings listed in a particular valuation 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.

- (viii) Calculate that the Council Tax requirement for the Council's own purposes for 2020/21 (excluding Parish precepts) is £60,920,955.
- (ix) That it be noted that for the year 2020/21 it is assumed that the Thames Valley Police Authority precept will increase by £10 for a Band D property (the maximum allowed by the Home Office). The police funding settlement was only announced on 22 January. The Police and Crime Panel are provisionally meeting on the 14th February to consider the Police & Crime Commissioner's precept proposals. The following amounts are stated in accordance with section 40 of the Act, for each of the categories of dwellings shown below:

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Council - 20.02.20

G	360.47
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- (xi) Note that arising from these recommendations, and assuming the major precepts are agreed, the overall Council Tax for Slough Borough Council for 2020/21 including the precepting authorities will be as follows:

Band	Slough £	Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner (OPCC) for Thames Valley £	Royal Berkshire Fire Authority £	TOTAL £
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G	2,365.78	360.47	112.67	2,838.92
H	2,838.94	432.56	135.20	3,406.70

- (xii) That the Section 151 Officer be and is hereby authorised to give due notice of the said Council Tax in the manner provided by Section 38(2) of the 2012 Act.
- (xiii) That the Section 151 Officer be and is hereby authorised when necessary to apply for a summons against any

Council - 20.02.20

Council Tax payer or non-domestic ratepayer on whom an account for the said tax or rate and arrears has been duly served and who has failed to pay the amounts due to take all subsequent necessary action to recover them promptly.

- (xiv) That the Section 151 Officer be authorised to collect (and disperse from the relevant accounts) the Council Tax and National Non-Domestic Rate and that whenever the office of the Section 151 Officer is vacant or the holder thereof is for any reason unable to act, the Chief Executive or such other authorised post-holder be authorised to act as before said in his or her stead.
- (xv) That in the event that there are any changes to the provisional precept of the Police and Crime Commissioner, Fire Authority or Parishes, the Section 151 Officer is delegated authority to enact all relevant changes to the Revenue Budget 2020/21, Statutory Resolution and council tax levels.

Fees and Charges

- (d) Resolve to change the Council's fees and charges as outlined in Appendix E to the report for 2020/21.

Statement on The Robustness Of Estimates & Reserves (the Section 25 Statement)

- (e) Note the statutory advice of the Chief Finance Officer outlined in Appendix G to the report, the Section 25 statement. This is required to highlight the robustness of budget estimates and the adequacy of the Council's reserves.

School & Pupil Funding

- (f) Ratify the Schools Forum proposals to transition to 85% of the National Funding Formula; set the Minimum Funding Guarantee at +0.5%; retain the maximum 5% early years funding centrally; transfer £0.250m from the Central Schools Service (CSSB) Block to the High Needs Block; and, the proposed use of the CSSB.

Use of Flexible Capital Receipts –

- (g) Resolve to agree the Use of Flexible Capital Receipts Strategy outlined in Appendix J to the report.

Pay Policy –

- (h) Note the Pay Policy Statement agreed at the Employment & Appeals Committee on 23 January 2020 as detailed in Appendix K to the report.

Local Taxation Issues

- (ii) Note that existing policies on court costs, empty property relief and public room booking have not changed and fees and charges for these areas are as at (d) above.

55. Treasury Management Strategy 2020/21

It was moved by Councillor Swindlehurst,
Seconded by Councillor Akram,

“That the Treasury Management Strategy for 2020/21 as at Appendix A to the report be approved.”

The recommendation was put to the vote and carried and, in accordance with the Local Authorities (Standing Orders) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2014, a record of the vote was taken as follows:-

There voted for the recommendation:-

Councillors Ajaib, Akram, Ali, Anderson, Bains, Basra, Begum, Carter, Chaudhry, Dar, Davis, M Holledge, Hulme, Mann, Matloob, Minhas, Mohammad, Nazir, Pantelic, D.Parmar, S.Parmar, Plenty, Qaseem, Rasib, Sabah, Sadiq, A.Sandhu, Sarfraz, Sharif and Swindlehurst. 30

There abstained from voting:

The Deputy Mayor, Councillors Kelly, Smith, Strutton and Wright 5

Resolved - That the Treasury Management Strategy for 2020/21 as at Appendix A to the report be approved.

56. Capital Strategy 2020/24

It was moved by Councillor Swindlehurst,
Seconded by Councillor Akram,

“That the Council -

- (a) Approve the capital strategy of **£259.0m** and the associated Minimum Revenue Provision;
- (b) Note the notional costs of borrowing for the capital programme to the revenue budget will be an increase of up to **£5.916m** per annum -commencing during the period of the capital strategy to fund borrowing.
- (c) Approve the principles underpinning the capital programme in paragraph 5.1.2 and the Minimum Revenue Provision principles in Section 7;

Council - 20.02.20

- (d) Approve the Prudential Indicators as set out in Section 6 of the report and the Authorised Limit as set out in Tables 1.7 and 1.8.
- (e) Approve, in order to provide increased flexibility to fund the Council's Capital Expenditure plans, the maximum level of external debt be brought forward to the 2020/21 limit with immediate effect.
- (f) Approve Appendices A and B to the report detailing the capital programmes for the General Fund and the Housing Revenue Account."

It was moved by Councillor Strutton, as an amendment,
Seconded by Councillor Wright

	2020/21	2021/22
	£'000	£'000
Installation of 10 City Tree air filter infrastructure devices	200	100
Funded by the reduction of Environmental Initiatives	(200)	(100)

The amendment was put to the vote and lost with 4 for, 30 against and 1 abstention.

The original recommendations were put and carried and, in accordance with the Local Authorities (Standing Orders) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2014, a record of the vote was taken as follows:-

There voted for the recommendations:-

Councillors Ajaib, Akram, Ali, Anderson, Bains, Basra, Begum, Carter, Chaudhry, Dar, Davis, M Holledge, Hulme, Mann, Matloob, Minhas, Mohammad, Nazir, Pantelic, D.Parmar, S.Parmar, Plenty, Qaseem, Rasib, Sabah, Sadiq, A.Sandhu, Sarfraz, Sharif and Swindlehurst. 30

There voted against the recommendations:

Councillors Kelly, Smith, Strutton and Wright 4

There abstained from voting:

The Deputy Mayor..... 1

Resolved –

That the Council -

- (a) Approve the capital strategy of **£259.0m** and the associated Minimum Revenue Provision;
- (b) Note the notional costs of borrowing for the capital programme to the revenue budget will be an increase of up to **£5.916m** per annum -commencing during the period of the capital strategy to fund borrowing.

Council - 20.02.20

- (c) Approve the principles underpinning the capital programme in paragraph 5.1.2 and the Minimum Revenue Provision principles in Section 7;
- (d) Approve the Prudential Indicators as set out in Section 6 of the report and the Authorised Limit as set out in Tables 1.7 and 1.8.
- (e) Approve, in order to provide increased flexibility to fund the Council's Capital Expenditure plans, the maximum level of external debt be brought forward to the 2020/21 limit with immediate effect.
- (f) Approve Appendices A and B to the report detailing the capital programmes for the General Fund and the Housing Revenue Account.

57. Mayor's Announcement

The Deputy Mayor condemned the recent terrorist attacks that had taken place in Germany and the stabbing outside a London Mosque and stated that the Council's thoughts and sympathies were with those individuals and families who had been affected.

Chair

(Note: The Meeting opened at 7.00 pm and closed at 9.07 pm)