

Minutes of: THE COUNCIL OF THE METROPOLITAN BOROUGH OF BURY

Date of Meeting: 24 February 2010

Present: The Worshipful the Mayor (Councillor S Magnall) in the Chair;
Councillors I Ahmed, D M Ashworth, P Ashworth, K Audin, R L Baum, C A Berry, R A Bibby, D B Bigg, D Boden, K S Briggs, R C A Brown, J Byrne, D M Cassidy, F A Chaudhry, S Cohen, M Connolly, S Costello, Y Creswell, A J Cummings, M D'Albert, V D D'Albert, W J Davison, A S Garner, I B Gartside, J Grimshaw, D L Gunther, M Hankey, J Harris, D M Higgin, T Holt, S Hurst, A Isherwood, A K Matthews, D O'Hanlon, S P Penketh, T D Pickstone, P H Redstone, K Rothwell, R Shori, J Smith, B J Sullivan, J W H Taylor, B Theckston, B Vincent, R E Walker, J F Walton, M J Wiseman, S D Wright and Y S Wright

Apologies for absence: Councillor A J Garner

Public attendance: 21 members of the public attended the meeting

C.645 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

- (a) Councillor Rothwell declared a personal interest in the consideration of the Housing Revenue Account as the tenant of a Council property.
- (b) Councillors Smith, Brown, Davison and Gartside all declared personal interests in any matter discussed at the meeting relating to Six Town Housing Limited, as the Council's representatives serving on the Board of that Company.
- (c) Councillor Connolly declared a personal interest in any matter relating to Adult Care Services as his partner is an employee of the Council engaged in the Learning Disability Service.
- (d) Councillor Cassidy declared a personal interest in any matters discussed at the meeting relating to Six Town Housing Limited, as her son is an employee of that organisation.

C.646 MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL

RESOLVED:

That the Minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 3 February 2010 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Mayor.

C.647 MAYORAL COMMUNICATIONS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Worshipful the Mayor reminded Members that the Annual Meeting of Council would take place on Tuesday 18 May 2010 as follows:

- 2.00 pm – Annual Council
- 4.00 pm – Mayor Making

The Mayor also reminded everyone that the March meeting of Council has been brought forward from 24 to 17.

C.648 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

There were no questions asked under this item.

C.649 RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE EXECUTIVE

(a) Minute EX.638 of the meeting of the Executive held on 24 February 2010 – Housing Revenue Account 2010/2011

At the invitation of the Mayor, Councillor Gartside, Executive Member for Resource (representing Councillor Sullivan, Executive Member for Health and Well Being), made a Statement on the Housing Revenue Account for 2010/2011

It was moved by Councillor Bibby and seconded by Councillor Creswell and on being put with no Member voting against and with the Mayor abstaining, it was:-

RESOLVED:

That the recommendations contained in Minute EX.638 of the meeting of the Executive held on 24 February 2010 concerning the Housing Revenue Account 2010/2011 be approved and adopted.

(b) Minute EX.639 of the meeting of the Executive held on 24 February 2010– Budget 2010/2011 to 2013/2014

At the invitation of the Mayor, Councillor Gartside, Executive Member for Resource made a statement on the Budget 2010/2011 to 2013/2014

(A) It was moved by Councillor Bibby and seconded by Councillor Creswell that the recommendation contained in Minute EX.639 of the meeting of the Executive held on 24 February 2010, concerning the Budget for 2010/2011 be approved and adopted subject to the following amendment:-

DELETE

"1. That the report be noted and the Council be requested to consider and determine all matters relating to the Budget, the Capital Programme and the level of the Council Tax for 2010/2011 at its meeting on 24 February 2010."

RENUMBER / ADD

"Section A - Capital Programme 2010/11 to 2012/13

1. That the Capital Programme for 2010/11 and future years, shown in Appendix B, be approved subject to the following additions:

- £0.249m in energy efficiency works at
 - Athenaeum House
 - Radcliffe Pool
 - Ramsbottom Pool
 - Castle Leisure Centre
 - Bury Town Hall and
 - Bury Marketto be funded from an interest free loan from Salix Finance, via the Carbon Trust, which will be repaid from savings in energy costs resulting from this investment.
- 2. That the proposed financing of the Capital Programme set out in paragraph 3.6 of the report be approved subject to the amendment in 1. above;
- 3. That the risk assessment set out in section 5 of section A of the report be noted and the risk mitigation actions be approved.

Section B - Revenue Budget 2010/11 to 2013/14

4. That the details of the final Formula Grant Settlement for 2010/11 be noted;
5. That proposals around the use of the Area Based Grant set out in paragraph 2.5 be approved;
6. That the level of repayment of principal on General Fund debt at the minimum of **4%** be approved pending a further report to the Council on the implementation of the new Minimum Revenue Provision guidance for 2008/09 and future years;
7. That it be noted that under delegated powers the Director of Finance and E-Government calculated the amount of **59887.66** as the Council Tax base for the year 2010/11 in accordance with the Local Government Act 2003 and with regulations made under section 33(5) of the Local Government Finance Act 1992;
8. That the forecast outturn position for 2009/10 be noted;
9. That the Golden Rules set in section 4.3 be reaffirmed subject to the amendment set out in paragraph 4.3.3 increasing within the formula the amount below which the balances cannot fall to **£3.5m**;
10. That the actual minimum level of balances for 2010/11 be increased to **£3,800,000**;
11. That the recommendations of the Schools' Forum around education funding issues set out in section 4.10 be approved;
12. That the statements by the Director of Finance and E-Government on the robustness of budget assumptions and on the minimum level of balances be noted and endorsed;
13. That the Bury element of the Council Tax should rise by **3.39%**;
14. That the headline rise in the Council Tax including Police and Fire precepts will be 3.75%;
15. That the Revenue Budget for 2010/11 of £142.386m as set out in paragraph 4.6.2 of the report be approved subject to the following amendments

	£m	£m
Add: On-going Priority developments		
Contribution to Environment and Development Services' budget to assist with shortfall in income	0.450	
Additional resources for Adult Care Services to assist with demand and improve safeguarding for vulnerable adults	0.250	
Development of services to address priority areas in respect of alcohol abuse and domestic violence	0.200	
Carbon reduction initiatives	0.100	
Resources to strengthen Emergency Duty Social Work teams	0.100	
Reduction in Council Tax rise to 3.39%	0.805	1.905
Add: One-off Priority developments		
Provision for additional works to address pothole damage caused by extreme winter weather	0.100	0.100
Total value of developments		2.005
Less: Funding of Priority developments		
Contribution from Priority Investment Reserve	-1.900	
One-off contribution from Transformation Reserve	-0.100	
Use of surplus savings	-0.005	-2.005

16. That the following recommendations in relation to the Revenue Budget and Council Tax for 2010/11 be approved:

1. the following amounts be now calculated by the Council for the year 2010/11 in accordance with Sections 32 to 36 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992: -

(a) £434,661,300 being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 32(2)(a) to (e) of the Act;

(b) £293,079,000 being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 32(3)(a) to (c) of the Act;

(c) £141,582,300 being the amount by which the aggregate at 2(a) above exceeds the aggregate at 2(b) above, calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 32(4) of the Act, as its budget requirement for the year;

(d) £66,138,900 being the aggregate of the sums which the Council estimates will be payable for the year into its General Fund in respect of redistributed Non-domestic Rates and Revenue Support Grant, decreased by the amount of the sums which the Council estimates will be transferred in the year from its General Fund to its Collection Fund;

(e) £1259.75 being the amount at 2(c) above less the amount at 2(d) above, all divided by the Council Tax Base of 59887.66, calculated by the Council in accordance with Section 33(1) of the Act as the basic amount of its Council Tax for the year; and

(f) Valuation Bands

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
839.83	979.80	1119.78	1259.75	1539.69	1819.64	2099.58	2519.50

being the amounts given by multiplying the amount at 2(e) 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 amounts to be taken into account for the year in respect of categories of dwellings listed in different valuation bands.

2. That it be noted that for the year 2010/11 the Greater Manchester Police Authority and the Greater Manchester Fire and Rescue Authority have stated the following amounts in precepts issued to the Council, in accordance with Section 40 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, for each of the categories of the dwellings shown below:

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Police							
96.22	112.26	128.29	144.33	176.40	208.48	240.55	288.66
Fire							
35.10	40.95	46.80	52.65	64.35	76.05	87.75	105.30

3. That, having calculated the aggregate in each case of the amounts at 2(f) and 3 above, the Council, in accordance with Section 30(2) of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, hereby sets the following amounts as the amounts of Council Tax for the year 2010/11 for each of the categories of dwellings shown below:

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
971.15	1133.01	1294.87	1456.73	1780.44	2104.17	2427.88	2913.46

17. That, in accordance with Section 13A of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, the Council will reduce the Bury element of the Council Tax for the year 2010/11 by 3.39% for persons who are:

- (i) Liable on 1 April 2010 to pay Council Tax either jointly or in their own right by being an owner occupier or tenant of a dwelling within the Bury MBC boundary, which is their sole or main residence;
- (ii) Aged 65 or over on 1 April 2010 and
- (iii) Not in receipt of Council Tax benefit on 1 April 2010

For information only - in respect of people falling into the above categories the following amounts will be payable as Council Tax for the year 2010/11 for each of the categories of dwellings shown below:

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Police	96.22	112.26	128.29	144.33	176.40	208.48	240.55	288.66
Fire	35.10	40.95	46.80	52.65	64.35	76.05	87.75	105.30
Bury	811.36	946.59	1081.81	1217.04	1487.49	1757.95	2028.40	2434.08
TOTAL	942.68	1099.80	1256.90	1414.02	1728.24	2042.48	2356.70	2828.04

18. That, in making the necessary decisions, the Council has taken into account the forecast budget position for 2011/12 and future years, as outlined in section 10 of the report submitted."

The Mayor called a ten minute adjournment for consideration of this amendment.

- (B) A further amendment was moved by Councillor Holt and seconded by Councillor Smith that:

"The budget submitted to Council should be approved but with the following amendments:

Capital:

An additional provision of £250,000 be made towards Disabled Facilities Grants to be funded from prudential borrowing (see below for revenue implications)

Revenue:

1. The following cuts to be restored:

	£
Charges for day centres	30,000
Transport review	100,000
Cuts in community meals	40,000
Cuts in training	15,000
New parking charges in Prestwich	35,000
Cuts in sports development	10,000
Cuts in the tree pruning budget	10,000
TOTAL	240,000

2.	The following efficiency savings to be removed:	
	Review of community safety	£100,000
	Review of civic halls	£100,000
3.	Reinstatement of free collection for bulky waste	£75,000
4.	Revenue implications of the additional provision for Disabled Facility Grants	£20,000
5.	Reduction in Council Tax rise to 3.1% (Bury element)	£1,015,000
6.	Freeze Bury element of the Council Tax for the Over 65s at the 2009/10 level	£350,000

The total cost of the above proposals (£1,900,000) to be met from the Priority Investment Reserve.”

The Mayor called a ten-minute recess for consideration to be given to this and a further amendment. (set out in (c) below)

On being put, with 24 Members voting for, 25 against with the Mayor abstaining, the amendment was declared lost.

(C) A further amendment was moved by Councillor Baum and seconded by Councillor Pickstone that:-

“The budget contained in the Executive report should be approved subject to the following changes:

		£	£
1.	Reinstatement of the following proposed cuts:		
	Countryside Service	15,000	
	Children’s playground maintenance	10,000	
	Red Rose Forest	27,000	52,000
2.	Cancel plans to charge for car parking in Prestwich		35,000
3.	Net revenue costs of £2m investment in CO2 reduction initiatives ¹		140,000
4.	Double the amount that each Local Area Partnership has to spend on road repairs		386,000
5.	Provide funding for an additional PCSO in each LAP area ²		210,000
6.	Reduce Council Tax rise to 2.99% (Bury element)		1,095,000
7.	Contribution to budget pressures		282,000
	TOTAL COST		2,200,000
8.	Funded from:		
	Priority Investment Reserve	-1,900,000	
9.	Savings from management and efficiency review ³	-300,000	-2,200,000

Notes:

1. Proposal is to borrow £2m to invest to make Council Buildings (including schools) more energy efficient. This would require £490,000 repayment costs a year for five years, netted off against savings of £350,000 per year in reduced energy bills / consumption. After 7 years this has paid for itself and will deliver additional resources to the Council. The call on the PIR will be the difference between the debt costs and the revenue savings (£140,000).
2. Working with Greater Manchester Police, we would provide resources for an additional PCSO in each LAP area, to work with the local police team, but specifically focussed on council and LAP priorities. (£210,000).
3. Proposal is to save £300,000 a year from a review of, and further efficiencies in, back office functions and from a de-layering of management."

On being put, with 24 Members voting for, 25 against and with the Mayor abstaining, the amendment was declared lost.

The substantive Motion on being put, with 25 Members voting for, 24 against with the Mayor abstaining, was declared carried and it was:-

RESOLVED:

That the recommendations contained in Minute EX.639 of the meeting of the Executive held on 24 February 2010, as amended at (A) above, be approved and adopted.

(c) Minute EX.640 of the meeting of the Executive held on 24 February 2010 – Treasury Management Strategy and Prudential Indicators 2010/2011

On being put with no Members voting against and with the Mayor abstaining, it was:

RESOLVED:

That the recommendations contained in Minute EX.640 of the Executive held on 24 February 2010 relating to the Treasury Management Strategy and Prudential Indicators 2010/2011, be approved and adopted.

C.650 DELEGATED DECISIONS OF THE EXECUTIVE AND COUNCIL COMMITTEES

There were no questions asked on the delegated decisions of the Executive, the Resource and Performance Scrutiny Commission, Joint Consultative Committee (Corporate) and Joint Consultative Committee (Teachers) contained in Digest of Decisions number 9 (2009/2010)

THE WORSHIPFUL THE MAYOR

(NOTE: The meeting started at 7.00 pm and ended at 9.45 pm)