

Minutes of: COUNCIL

Date of Meeting: 23 February 2022

Present: The Worshipful the Mayor (Councillor Pickstone, in the Chair)
Councillors R Bernstein, C Birchmore, C Boles, N Boroda,
R Brown, S Butler, R Caserta, P Cropper, C Cummins, L Dean,
U Farooq, I Gartside, R Gold, J Grimshaw, S Haroon, J Harris,
M Hayes, T Holt, K Hussain, N Jones, J Lancaster, K Leach,
J Lewis, J Mason, L McBriar, G McGill, C Morris, B Mortenson,
E O'Brien, K Peel, T Pickstone, T Pilkington, M Powell,
A Quinn, D Quinn, T Rafiq, J Rydeheard, A Simpson, L Smith,
M Smith, G Staples-Jones, T Tariq, C Tegolo, K Thomas,
D Vernon, S Walmsley, C Walsh, M Whitby, S Wright and
Y Wright

**Apologies for
Absence** S Hurst

Public Attendance: 8 members of the public attended

C. 1 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

The following declarations of interest were made at the meeting in relation to items on the agenda:

1. Councillor A Quinn declared a personal interest in all matters under consideration as both his son and daughter-in law, work for the NHS, he is a member of the Trade Union, Unite and the Downs Syndrome Association.
2. Councillor D Quinn declared an interest in all matters under consideration as an employee of the Citizens Advice Bureau and both her son and daughter-in law, work for the NHS
3. Councillor A Simpson declared a personal interest in all matters under consideration as both her and her son are employed by the NHS.
4. Councillor S. Wright declared a personal interest in all matters under consideration as his wife works for a school in the Borough.
5. Councillor Rydeheard declared a personal interest in all items on the agenda as he undertakes work representing the Taxi trade.

C. 2 MINUTES

Subject to the inclusion of Councillor Hurst as in attendance in the Council meeting the minutes be approved.

C. 3 MAYORAL COMMUNICATIONS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Mayor reported that due to the large amount of business and to ensure Members are given sufficient time to speak, there will be no Mayoral announcements.

C. 4 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

Notice had been received of 2 questions. The Leader gave an undertaking that copies of those questions and responses will be circulated to all Councillors. The Leader also gave an undertaking to make these available on the Council Web Site.

Questioner	Topic	Responding
Carol Bernstein	Highways	Cllr Quinn
Raja Naveed Aijaz	Taxi DBS Checks	Cllr Morris

C. 5 RECOMMENDATIONS OF CABINET AND COUNCIL COMMITTEES

A) Housing Revenue Account 2022/2023

At the invitation of the Mayor, Councillor O'Brien, Cabinet Member for Finance and Housing, made a statement on the Housing Revenue Account 2020/2021.

Councillor Eamonn O'Brien, the Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Finance and Growth, presented the report which formed part of a suite of documents relating to the Council's budget setting process for 2022/23 and set out the proposed Housing Revenue Account for 2022/23 and proposals for Dwelling and Garage rents, Sheltered Support, Management, Amenities and Heating charges, Furnished Tenancy charges and Fernhill Caravan site tenancy charges. The report also established the Management Fee paid to Six Town Housing for 2022/23. It was noted that this increase would be challenging for some families and plans were in place to support those most affected.

It was moved by Councillor O'Brien and seconded by Councillor Cummins and it was:-

On being put with 49 voting for the Mayor abstaining, it was resolved that:

1. Approved the forecast outturn for the Housing revenue Account budget;
2. Approved an increase in rents for all HRA social rent formula and affordable rent dwellings by 4.1% as set out in paragraph 2.8 of the report;
3. Approved an increase Garage rents by 4.1% as set out in paragraph 2.13 of the report;
4. Approved an increase Sheltered Management and Amenity Charges by 4.1% as set out in paragraph 3.5 of the report;
5. Noted that sheltered support and heating charges remain unchanged;
6. Noted that Furnished Tenancy charges will remain unchanged; and
7. Approved the Management Fee to o Six Town Housing for 2022/23 as set out in paragraph 1.5 of the report.

B) Budget 2022/23

At the invitation of the Mayor, Councillor O'Brien, Leader Cabinet Member for Finance and Housing, made a statement on the Budget for 2022/23.

(i) It was moved by Councillor O'Brien and seconded by Councillor T Tariq that the recommendations contained in Minute CA.XXX of the Cabinet meeting held on 16th February 2022 be approved subject to the following alterations:

Labour Group Amendment 2022/23		
Proposal	Cost	Funded From
Highways and Road Safety		
Red Route - Walmersley Road	£30,000 installation £5000 set up TRO £7000 running costs	GM Waste Levy Return 21/22 GM Waste Levy Return 21/22 Fines
	£35,000 + £7000	
Clean and Green		
Parks and Green Spaces Fund	£250,000	Ringfence ALDP capital receipts
Community Clean Up Fund	£10,000	GM Waste Levy Return 21/22
Skip days in fly tipping hotspots	£20,000	GM Waste Levy Return 21/22
	£280,000	
Cost of Living Support		
School Uniform Grants (22/23-23/24)	£240,000	Waste Levy Reserve
Cost-of-Living Support Fund	£100,000	Waste Levy Reserve
	£340,000	
Supporting Bury's Culture		
A Community Stadium at Gigg Lane	£450,000	Waste Levy Reserve
Cultural Programme 22/23 & Celebrating the Platinum Jubilee	£29,600	Re-profiled "Town of Culture" money 21/22
	£479,600	
Improving Public Safety		
Recruit an additional ASB officer	£40,000	Reduce Capital Programme (£1m)
Extra CCTV Cameras	£40,000	GM Waste Levy Return 21/22
Recruit an additional IDVA officer (1 year fixed term)	£40,000	Re-profile Capital Programme (£1m)
	£120,000	
Supporting Our Communities		
Extend Discretionary Councillor Budgets	£51,000	Re-profile Capital Programme (£1m)
Pitch 2022/23	£100,000	GM Waste Levy Return 21/22
	£151,000	

(ii) An amendment was moved by Councillor N Jones and seconded by Councillor R Bernstein that:

The suite of budget reports submitted to the Council should be approved, with the following amendments:

The Conservative Group are committed to improving the environment in our towns. Over the years the air we breathe has been affected. The decisions of the Labour Council to narrow the roads has contributed to the chaos such as the A56 congestion.

The actions of the Labour Council will be suffered for years to come but the Conservative Group believe we must improve the air quality for residents. This budget amendment commits to bringing down the pollution in Prestwich through installing 4 new benches to absorb air pollution.

We believe we should clean up the air where we have pollution hotspots not through the Labour Party's policy of a 492sqm Clean Air Zone (CAZ)

Managing parks and green spaces better

We will start the initial work to create a staff mutual, similar to that of the London Borough of Wandsworth, from its in-house maintenance service. Wandsworth successfully reduced its spending on parks by 20%.

This budget amendment proposes to follow this model and set up a staff mutual which would be implemented in future years to bring savings year on year to the Council whilst ensuring our parks remain beautiful.

Street Cleaning

This budget amendment ensures the frequency of street cleaning in all residential areas and on estates that have their roads and pavements blighted by rubbish is effectively managed. Any new plans to increase the frequency or change the street cleaning will be properly implemented and maintained for the longer term – not just for local elections.

Policy	£ '00 0	Notes
Reduce core Council Tax uplift to 0.99%	893	Current uplift is 1.94%
Remove proposed caddy liner savings proposal	50	
10% reduction in fees for Bury Market traders	260	£2.6m income budget for 22/23. £195k for 15% and £130k for 10%
Reduce Taxi Licence fees	44	
SEND Hub feasibility study	75	
Community Fund	440	Funded from the sale of the property in Lytham
TOTAL	176 2	

Making Bury more efficient

Policy	£ '000	Notes
Increase vacancy factor to 3%	-1200	
Rephase £2m vehicle fleet	-88	

capital programme		
Rephase BGI £500k 3KP/6KP	-22	
Rephase BGI £500k cyclical commercial investment	-22	
Sale of former Prezzo, Lytham	-440	In Council books at £440k with land being £96.8k
TOTAL	-1762	

Budget reprofiling

Policy	£ '000
Muslim burial shelter	Reprofile £35,000 from parks and leisure – outdoor gyms
4 carbon benches	Reprofile £70,000 from the Climate Change Budget – Electric Car charging points
Road Safety	Reprofile Traffic Calming and Improvement budget to include Road Safety

On being put the result of the vote was as follows:

For the Amendment:-

Councillors Bernstein, Brown, Caserta, Cropper, Dean, Gartside, Harris, Lancaster, Hussain, N Jones, Lewis, McBriar, Rydeheard, Vernon.

Against the Amendment:-

Councillors: C Boles, N Boroda, S Butler, C Cummins, U Farooq, R Gold, J Grimshaw, S Haroon, M Hayes, T Holt, K Leach, G McGill, C Morris, B Mortenson, E O'Brien, K Peel, T Pilkington, A Quinn, D Quinn, T Rafiq, A Simpson, L Smith, G Staples-Jones, T Tariq, K Thomas, S Walmsley, C Walsh and M Whitby.

Abstaining from the Vote:-

The Worshipful the Mayor and Councillors, M Powell, C Tegolo, S Wright, Y Wright, Birchmore, Mason and M Smith

The Mayor declared the amendment lost.

(iii) An amendment was moved by Councillor C Tegolo and seconded by Councillor M Powell that:

The suite of budget reports submitted to the Council should be approved, with the following amendments:

Proposal	Revenue Cost (2022-2023)	Revenue costs (2023-2024)	Revenue costs (2024-2025)	Capital Cost (2022-2023)	Capital costs (2023-2024)	Capital costs (2024-2025)
	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m
Additional small business support				2.000		
Road safety schemes				1.000	2.000	2.000
Tackling Air Pollution outside schools	0.700	0.700	0.700			
Cycle Parking Schemes				0.050	0.075	0.075
Energy Efficiency Advice Service	0.040	0.040	0.040			
Improving Energy Efficiency				1.000	1.000	1.000
From 2022-23/2023-24 smoothing	(0.731)	0.731				
Additional vacancy factor, management savings, less use of consultants	(0.238)	(0.540)	(0.540)			
Councillors Discretionary Grants	0.051	0.051	0.051			
Transformation Reserve		(1.117)	(0.386)			
Borrowing Costs	0.178	0.135	0.135			
Gross Position	0.000	0.000	0.000	4.050	3.075	3.075

Proposals

Additional small business support - Additional capital expenditure in 2022-23 in Prestwich Regeneration to ensure that provision is in place to maintain vibrant retail in Prestwich during the demolition of the Longfield Centre and subsequent regeneration. Assistance and support to help small businesses to keep trading and make improvements to other shopping areas in Prestwich, as part of the regeneration process

Road safety schemes - Local safety schemes, with a focus on traffic calming and/or 20mph where residents want this, £5 million over 3 years

Tackling Air Pollution outside schools –

Tackle air pollution outside of schools with an additional Enforcement Officer (Grade 12) and an Air Pollution Monitor for every school. Includes £6k sundry costs

Cycle Parking Schemes - Investment in Cycle parking schemes £200,000 over three years -

Energy Efficiency Advice Service - Improve advice to residents to deal with rising fuel costs with an Additional advice worker - energy advice grade 11

Improving Energy Efficiency - Investment to Improving energy efficiency and invest in green energy in Six Town Housing properties and public buildings

Councillors Discretionary Grants Continue scheme on an ongoing basis revenue rather than capital Transformation Reserve

Funding the Proposals:

The Capital proposals will be met as follows:

The increase in costs for the capital programme will be met from additional borrowing and this has been built into the revenue budget.

The revenue proposals would be funded as follows:

Reduce smoothing between 22/23 and 23/24

Increase vacancy factor, management and consultancy savings

On being put the result of the vote was as follows:

For the Amendment:-

Councillors M Powell, C Tegolo and S Wright

Against the Amendment:-

Councillors: C Boles, N Boroda, S Butler, C Cummins, U Farooq, R Gold, J Grimshaw, S Haroon, M Hayes, T Holt, K Leach, G McGill, C Morris, B Mortenson, E O'Brien, K Peel, T Pilkington, A Quinn, D Quinn, T Rafiq, A Simpson, L Smith, G Staples-Jones, T Tariq, K Thomas, S Walmsley, C Walsh, M Whitby, Bernstein, Brown, Caserta, Cropper, Dean, Gartside, Harris, Lancaster, Hussain, N Jones, Lewis, McBriar, Rydeheard, Vernon, Y Wright.

Abstaining from the Vote:-

The Worshipful the Mayor and Councillors Birchmore, Mason and M Smith

The Mayor declared the amendment lost.

The substantive motion (as set out in i) was put to the vote which was as follows:-

For the Motion:-

Councillors: C Boles, N Boroda, S Butler, C Cummins, U Farooq, R Gold, J Grimshaw, S Haroon, M Hayes, T Holt, K Leach, G McGill, C Morris, B Mortenson, E O'Brien, K Peel, T Pilkington, A Quinn, D Quinn, T Rafiq, A Simpson, L Smith, G Staples-Jones, T Tariq, K Thomas, S Walmsley and C Walsh.

Against the Motion:-

Councillors: Bernstein, Brown, Caserta, Cropper, Dean, Gartside, Harris, Lancaster, Hussain, N Jones, Lewis, McBriar, Rydeheard, Vernon, M Powell, C Tegolo, S Wright and Y Wright.

Abstaining from the Motion:-

The Worshipful the Mayor and Councillors Birchmore, Mason and M Smith

The Mayor declared the substantive Motion carried.

a 2022/23 BUDGET REPORTS

C. 6 BUDGET AMENDMENTS

C. 7 DELEGATED DECISIONS OF THE COUNCIL COMMITTEES

There were no questions asked on the delegated decisions of the Cabinet, the Overview and Scrutiny Committee, Joint Consultative Committee (Corporate) and Joint Consultative Committee (Teachers).

THE WORSHIPFUL THE MAYOR

(Notes: The meeting started at 6pm and ended at 9.10pm)