

Minutes of: **COUNCIL**

Date of Meeting: 22 February 2023

Present: The Worshipful the Mayor (Councillor , in the Chair)
Councillors A Arif, S Arif, N Bayley, R Bernstein, D Berry,
C Birchmore, C Boles, A Booth, N Boroda, R Brown,
C Cummins, L Dean, S Donnelly, D Duncalfe, U Farooq,
E FitzGerald, N Frith, I Gartside, R Gold, D Green, S Haroon,
J Harris, M Hayes, K Hussain, N Jones, J Lancaster,
G Marsden, J Mason, L McBriar, G McGill, C Morris, E Moss,
E O'Brien, K Peel, T Pilkington, A Quinn, D Quinn, T Rafiq,
I Rizvi, J Rydeheard, L Smith, M Smith, T Tariq, C Tegolo,
S Thorpe, D Vernon, S Walmsley, M Walsh, M Whitby and
Y Wright

**Apologies for
Absence** J Grimshaw

Public Attendance: 10 Members of the public were in attendance.

C. 2 VOTE OF THANKS

The Group Leaders and the Councillor Nick Jones placed on record their thanks to Geoff Little, outgoing Chief Executive for his hard work and dedication to public service and wished him well in his forthcoming retirement.

C. 3 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Alan Quinn declared a personal interest in all matters under consideration as an interim Board Member of Manchester City of Trees.

Councillor Spencer Donnelly declared a pecuniary interest in the proposed alteration to the consolidated budget alteration and left the meeting for the vote.

Councillor Sandra Walmsley declared a personal interest in all items under consideration as a member of the Shakers Community Mutual Society.

C. 4 MINUTES

The minutes of the Council meeting held on 1th December 2022, 18th January 2023 and 31st January 2023 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Mayor.

C. 5 MAYORAL COMMUNICATIONS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Due to the large amount of business to be transacted this evening there were no Mayoral announcements.

C. 6 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

No questions were received in advance of the meeting.

Questioner	Topic	Responding
Ken Simpson	Radcliffe High School	Cllr L Smith
Mike Court	Council Assets	Cllr O'Brien
Andy Hay	Prestwich Regeneration	Cllr O'Brien

C.7 2023 / 24 BUDGET PAPERS

Meeting of Cabinet 15th February 2023 – Formalisation of the Locality Board

It was moved by Councillor Tariq and seconded by Councillor O'Brien and on being put with all Members voting for and the Mayor abstaining Council agreed:

To Approve the following key documents that will form part of the GM ICB approvals process :-

- Locality Board terms of reference.
 - Bury Integrated Care Partnership Agreement.
 - Section 75 agreement – principles included within covering report.
1. Council is asked to recognise the requirement to commit to the 2022/23 finance schedules as part of the GM ICB approvals process and is asked to confirm that this final decision to be approve be delegated to the Executive Director of Finance.
 2. Council is asked to note the ongoing commitment of partners to work across neighbourhoods in order to continue to deliver our Locality Plan.
 3. Council is asked to note that the principles included within the section 75 report included here will form the basis of the detailed updates to the full section 75 working document and the financial schedules in particular.
 4. Council is asked to note the commitment to further strengthen the section 75 legal documentation with a further iteration of this document proposed within next 3-6 months.
 5. Council is asked to note the contents of the updated Locality Plan that underpins all the work happening across the borough.

Meeting of Cabinet 15th February 2023 – Housing Revenue Account

It was moved by Councillor Tariq and seconded by Councillor O'Brien and on being put with all Members voting for and the Mayor abstaining Council agreed to:

2.1 Approve the 2023/24 budget for the Housing Revenue Account.

- 2.2 Approve a 3% reduction for the Management Fee to Six Town Housing for 2023/24.

Rent Setting

- 2.3 For 2023/24 individual social and affordable rents be set at the Governments rent cap of 7% with effect from 3rd April 2023.
- 2.4 For 2023/24 shared ownership rents be voluntarily limited to an increase of 7% with effect from 3rd April 2023.
- 2.5 Approve an increase in Garage rents by (Consumer Price Inflation as at September 2022) CPI 10.1%
- 2.6 Approve an increase in Sheltered Management and Support Charges by CPI 10.1%
- 2.7 Approve an increase in Service and Amenity Charges by CPI 10.1%
- 2.8 Approve an increase in Support and Heating charges by CPI 10.1%

2.9 Approve an increase in Furnished Tenancy charges by CPI 10.1%

2.10 Note that where a social rent property is re-let to a new or transferring tenant the rent level be increased to the target rent for that property.

2.11 Note that for 2023/24 and onwards, where an affordable rent property is re-let to a new or transferring tenant the rent level be set by reference to 80% of the market rent (including service charges where applicable) for a similar property at the time of letting or the formula rent for the property, whichever is the greater.

Please note Councillor Bayley was not in the Chamber when this vote was taken.

Meeting of Cabinet 15th February 2023 – Consolidated Budget

At the invitation of the Mayor, Councillor Gold, Cabinet Member for Finance and Communities, made a statement on the Budget for 2023/24.

(i) It was moved by Councillor Gold and seconded by Councillor O'Brien that the recommendations contained in Minute CA.126 of the Cabinet meeting held on 15th February 2023 be approved and adopt the budget for 2023/24, and:

1. Approve the Medium-Term Financial Strategy and the assumptions regarding resources and spending requirements.
2. Approve the Council Tax base is the equivalent of 56,708 Band D dwellings, this is the basis on which the Council Tax funding has been calculated.
3. Approve the net revenue budget of £210.813m for 2023/24.
4. Approve an increase in Council Tax of 2.99% in terms of General Council Tax and a further 2% for the Adult Social Care Precept in each of the 2023/24 and 2024/25 financial years.
5. Approve, subject to statutory regulations and legislation with regard to any guidance issued by the Secretary of State, to implement a 100% Council Tax premium on 2nd homes and to amend the timing of the premium on empty and unoccupied properties with effect from April 2024.
6. Approve the recurrent changes to expenditure of £16.852m in 2023/24.
7. Approve the non-recurrent changes to expenditure of £3.618m in 2023/24.
8. Approve the proposed savings and additional income of £22.545m for the 2023/24 financial year.
9. Approve the use of reserves of £4.802m in 2023/24.
10. Approve the transfer of £1.912m into reserves with regards to the funding of social care reforms.
11. Note the forecast position on reserves.
12. Approve the flexible use of Capital receipts strategy 2023/24 as set out in Appendix 2.
13. Approve the Treasury Management Strategy as set out in Appendix 2
14. Approve the recommendations to Council as set out relating to the Dedicated Schools Grant and setting the schools budget.
15. Note the Departmental cash limits as set out at Appendix 5.
16. Approve the commencement of consultation in respect of options set out in paragraph 101 of this report.

Subject to the following alterations:

Labour Group Budget Amendment 2023/24	
Proposal	Cost
Supporting the borough through the cost-of-living crisis	
New Council Tax Support Fund	£100,000
Community Grants	£100,000
Freeze Bury Market Rents for an extra year	£87,000
Extend Elected Member's Discretionary Budgets for 1 year	£51,000
Children in Care and Care Leavers Support Fund	£50,000
Veterans and Cadets Support Fund	£20,000

	£408000
Supporting Bury's Culture	
Cultural Programme 2023/24	£20,000
Celebrating the Coronation and Commemorating Queen Elizabeth II	£14,000
	£34,000
Manifesto Pledges	
Dealing with the backlog on tree maintenance	£125,000
	£125,000

Councillor Donnelley left the meeting for consideration of this item, following declaration of a pecuniary and prejudicial interest in the matter being discussed.

(ii) An amendment was moved by Councillor R Bernstein and seconded by Councillor J Lancaster that:

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

Conservative Group Budget Amendment 2023/24	
Proposal	Cost
Proposed Savings	
Increase vacancy factor from 2.5% to 3%	£414k
Revised provision of pay award (using basis of offer to firefighters)	£422k
Free school meals (to be replaced by the funding received from Governments Household Support Fund)	£567K
	£1403m
Proposed Changes	
Continuation of Caddy liners	£110k
Options appraisal for review of Refuse Collections round	£75k
Township Fund (100k per township)	£600k
Knife Crime and Anti Social behaviour Initiatives	£215k
Fly tipping	£150k
Councillor Community Award Scheme	£51k
Reserves	£200k

The Conservative Group would want to have the option for 2024/25 to have a support scheme available to refund a council tax increase.

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

For the Amendment:- S Arif; Bernstein, Brown, Dean, Gartside, Harris, Hussain, N Jones, Lancaster, McBriar, Rydeheard, Vernon, voting for;

A Arif, Bayley, Boles, Boroda, Birchmore, Berry, Booth, Cummins, Duncalfe, Farooq, FitzGerald, Frith, Gold, Green, Hayes, McGill, Morris, Moss, Marsden, Mason, O'Brien, Peel, Pilkington, A Quinn, D Quinn, Rafiq, Rizvi, L Smith, M Smith, Tariq, Thorpe, Tegolo, Walmsley, Whitby, Y Wright, Walsh voting against

Abstaining from the Vote:- The Worshipful the Mayor.

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: **A Arif, Bayley, Boles, Boroda, Birchmore, Berry, Booth, Cummins, Duncalfe, Farooq, FitzGerald, Frith, Gold, Green, Hayes, McGill, Morris, Moss, Marsden, Mason, O'Brien, Peel, Pilkington, A Quinn, D Quinn, Rafiq, Rizvi, L Smith, M Smith, Tariq, Thorpe, Tegolo, Walmsley, Whitby, Y Wright, Walsh** voting against

Against the Motion:- Councillors: **S Arif; Bernstein, Brown, Dean, Gartside, Harris, Hussain, N Jones, Lancaster, McBriar, Rydeheard, Vernon.**

Abstaining from the Motion:- The Worshipful the Mayor

The Mayor declared the **substantive Motion carried.**

a 2023 / 24 BUDGET PAPERS

b APPENDICES TO BUDGET REPORT

C. 8 SUPPLEMENTARY ITEMS

C. 9 DELEGATED DECISIONS OF CABINET 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 6.50 pm
and ended at 9.40 pm)