

Minutes of: COUNCIL

Date of Meeting: 21 February 2024

Present: The Worshipful the Mayor (Councillor Walmsley, 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, U Farooq, E FitzGerald, N Frith, I Gartside, R Gold, D Green, J Grimshaw, S Haroon, J Harris, M Hayes, K Hussain, B Ibrahim, J Lancaster, G Marsden, J Mason, L McBriar, G McGill, C Morris, E Moss, E O'Brien, T Pilkington, A Quinn, D Quinn, T Rafiq, I Rizvi, M Rubinstein, J Rydeheard, L Ryder, L Smith, M Smith, G Staples-Jones, S Thorpe, D Vernon, S Walmsley, M Whitby and Y Wright

Apologies for Absence D Duncalfe, T Tariq and M Walsh

Public Attendance: 11 members of the public attended the meeting.

C. 1 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest made at the meeting.

C. 2 MAYORAL COMMUNICATIONS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Mayor reported to those present, duties undertaken as Bury's first citizen since the last Council meeting.

C. 3 MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on the 17th January 2024 be approved.

C. 4 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

Notice had been received of 3 questions in advance of the meeting:

Questioner	Topic	Responding
J Southworth	Sustainable Transport	Cllr A Quinn
K Simpson	Market hall insurance	Cllr Morris
J Eagle-Cooper	Market hall repairs	Cllr Morris

In addition the following questions were asked without notice, at the meeting:

Questioner	Topic	Responding
G Brown	Fair Trade	Cllr O'Brien
A Rose	Flag flying	Cllr O'Brien
K McArdle	Funding for educational projects	Cllr O'Brien
A Hassan	Financial support for Israel	Cllr O'Brien

C. 5
a **RECOMMENDATIONS OF CABINET AND COUNCIL COMMITTEES**
BURY COUNCIL FINANCE - FUTURE LEADERSHIP ARRANGEMENTS

It was moved by Councillor Gold and seconded by Councillor Rafiq and with all members voting in favour and the Mayor abstaining it was agreed that:

1. The vacant post of Deputy Chief Finance Officer (Band E, £93k - £102k) be redesignated as Director of Finance (Band F, £104k - £113k) and redesignated as the Council's Statutory Section 151 Officer. The Director of Finance will be a direct report to the Chief Executive with the Finance function becoming part of the Corporate Core Department under the Executive Director (Strategy & Transformation).
2. The post of Director of People & Inclusion (Band D, £84k - £91k) be re-graded at Chief Officer Band E (£93k - £102k) to reflect the post's expanded portfolio, as set out in the report. Delegate authority to the Chief Executive and the Cabinet Members for Finance and Communities and HR and Corporate Affairs, in consultation with the Monitoring Officer and S151 Officer, to consider responses received from the consultation and produce a final version of the structure.

b **HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT BUDGET REPORT**

Meeting of Cabinet 14th February 2023 – Housing Revenue Account

It was moved by Councillor Gold and seconded by Councillor Cummins and on being put with all Members voting for and the Mayor abstaining Council agreed to:

- Approve the 2024/25 budget for the Housing Revenue Account
- Agree rents to be increased for 2024/25 by 7.7% which is the Government's maximum allowable increase being September CPI (Consumer Price Index) 6.7% plus 1% with effect from 1st April 2024.
- Shared ownership rents to be increased by 7.7% in line with the provision which is set out within shared ownership agreements with effect from 1st April 2024.
- Approve an increase in Garage rents by CPI as at September 2023 CPI 6.7%.
- Approve an increase in Sheltered Management and Support Charges by CPI 6.7%.
- Approve an increase in Service and Amenity Charges by CPI 6.7%.
- Approve an increase in Support and Heating charges by CPI 6.7%.
- Approve an increase in Furnished Tenancy charges by CPI 6.7%.

c **THE COUNCIL'S REVENUE BUDGET AND MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL PLAN**

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 2024/25.

- (i) It was moved by Councillor Gold and seconded by Councillor O'Brien that the recommendations contained in Minute CA.125 of the Cabinet meeting held on 14th February 2024 be approved and adopt the budget for 2023/24, and Council:

1. Approved the Medium-Term Financial Strategy for 2024/ 2025, 2026 / 2027 and the assumptions regarding resources and spending requirements.
2. Approved the Council Tax base for Bury Council for 2024/ 25 of 57,409 Band D equivalent dwellings, this is the basis on which the Council Tax funding has been calculated.
3. Approved the net revenue budget of £209.608m for 2024/2025.
4. Approved the Council tax requirement of £110.198m and the increase in Council Tax in 2024 – 25 of 2.99% in terms of General Council Tax and a further 2% for the Adult Social Care precept for 2024/2025.
5. Approved the budget assumptions £37.111m in 2024/25.
6. Approved the use of £15.131m of reserves from the budget smoothing reserve and £4.629m from the collection fund smoothing reserves.
7. Noted the forecast position on reserves (paragraph 22.2).
8. Noted the Chief Executive as Director of BMBC Townside Fields Limited will draw down annual dividends from the Company and annual dividends will be reflected in the MTFS.
9. Approved the recommendations set out in the Treasury Management Strategy (Appendix 2):
 - Approved the Treasury Management Strategy including the associated Prudential Indicators and Annual Investment Strategy.
 - Approved the Treasury Management Policy Statement.
 - Approved the Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP) Policy Statement.
10. Approved the Capital Strategy and the Programme for 2024/25 - 2026/27 (Appendix 3).
11. Approved the Dedicated Schools Grant budget for 2024/2025 at £228.326m and approve the allocations between the four funding blocks as set out in appendix 4 to this report:
 - The Schools and Academies 2024/25 funding unit values as recommended by Schools Forum and detailed at Annex 1 to appendix 4.
 - Approved the 2024/25 hourly rates for all early year's providers as follows:
 - £5.28 per hour, for 3- and 4-year-olds.
 - £7.52 per hour, for 2-year-olds; and.
 - £10.00 per hour, for under 2s
12. Noted the position on the Dedicated Schools Grant deficit and Project Safety Valve.
13. Agreed to the following amendments to the treatment of military compensation as set out in Appendix 7:
 - Exclude military compensation for Discretionary Council Tax Support calculations - These are short to mid-term additional credits made to those in receipt of Council Tax Support as a top up towards their Council Tax.
 - Exclude military compensation for Discretionary Housing Payments calculations - These are short to mid-term additional payments made to those in receipt of Housing Benefit or Universal Credit as a top up towards their rent.

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

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

Proposed change in budget allocation:

£6.6 million Real Living Wage Increase not implemented

TOTAL AVAILABLE £6.6 Million

Conservative Group Proposals

0% increase in Council Tax (cost £3.588 million)

0% increase in Social Care Precept (cost £2.4 million)

Additional Grit Bin Fund (£10k) grit bin cost £170 each from caseworker enquiry

Reintroduction of Caddy Liners (75K)

Free Swimming Feasibility Study for Pensioners and Primary School Students (£75k)

Bury Six Town Amenity Fund (£300K £50k for each Township)

Total proposals £6,448,000

Note:

1. Proposal to implement 0% Council Tax and 0% Social Care Precept would be via a rebate scheme to manage implementation
2. £152,000 into Reserves

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

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

A Arif, Bayley, Berry, Birchmore, Boles, Boroda, Booth, Cummins, Farooq, FitzGerald, Frith, Gold, Green, Grimshaw, Haroon, Hayes, Ibrahim, Marsden, McGill, Morris, Moss, O'Brien, Pilkington, A Quinn, D Quinn, Rafiq, Rizvi, Rubinstein, Ryder, L Smith, M Smith, Staples-Jones, Thorpe, Whitby, Y Wright, voting against

Abstaining from the Vote:- The Worshipful the Mayor.

The Mayor declared the **amendment lost**.

- (i) An amendment was moved by Councillor M Smith and seconded by Councillor C Birchmore that:

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

Radcliffe First Group Budget Amendment 2024	
One FTE Licensing Officer for fixed one year term	£54,000.00
10% reduction in pest control cost	£27,000.00
Reduce backlog on tree maintenance	£100,000.00
Quarterly Skip placement in Township hotspots	£15,200.00
One off Borough wide bin service to landfill	£150,000.00
Scheme to protect park entrances from off road bikes	£50,000.00
Total Cost	£396,200.00

Funded Through	
Disestablishment of Executive Director (Finance) Post	£75,000
Use of Reserves	£321,200.00
Total	£396,200.00

FTE Licensing Officer

To explore the options around the HMO scheme approved at January Council.

Reduction in pest control costs

Encourage the use of Council Resource to map and clear vermin hotspots.

Tree maintenance backlog

The increasing frequency of storms in the UK leave our tree teams firefighting rather than supplying preventative maintenance.

Skip Placement

This relatively low cost scheme was both popular and successful in reducing fly tipping incidents when last available.

Incorrect waste service

To create a new start point for waste management and clear areas of unemptied domestic waste bins.

Park Entrances

A fund to protect Park and Walking networks from off road Motorcycle access.

On being put:

For the Amendment:- Berry, Birchmore, Marsden, M Smith, Y Wright voting for;

A Arif, Bayley, Boles, Boroda, Booth, Cummins, Farooq, FitzGerald, Frith, Gold, Green, Grimshaw, Haroon, Hayes, Ibrahim, McGill, Morris, Moss, O'Brien, Pilkington, A Quinn, D Quinn, Rafiq, Rizvi, Rubinstein, Ryder, L Smith, Staples-Jones, Thorpe, Whitby, S Arif; Bernstein, Brown, Dean, Gartside, Harris, Hussain, Lancaster, McBriar, Rydeheard, Vernon, voting against

The Mayor declared the **amendment lost.**

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

A Arif, Bayley, Berry, Birchmore, Boles, Boroda, Booth, Cummins, Farooq, FitzGerald, Frith, Gold, Green, Grimshaw, Haroon, Hayes, Ibrahim, Marsden, McGill, Morris, Moss, O'Brien, Pilkington, A Quinn, D Quinn, Rafiq, Rizvi, Rubinstein, Ryder, L Smith, M Smith, Staples-Jones, Thorpe, Walmsley, Whitby, Y Wright voting for.

And S Arif; Bernstein, Brown, Dean, Gartside, Harris, Hussain, Lancaster, McBriar, Rydeheard, Vernon, voting against.

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

d

AMENDMENTS

C. 6

DELEGATED DECISIONS OF CABINET COMMITTEES

There were no questions on the delegated decision of the Cabinet Committees.

THE WORSHIPFUL THE MAYOR

(Notes: Part 1 of the meeting started at 7.05 pm and ended at 3.00 pm
Part 2 of the meeting started at xxxx pm and ended at 9.30 pm)