



Minutes

Name of meeting	FULL COUNCIL
Date and Time	WEDNESDAY 22 FEBRUARY 2023 COMMENCING AT 5.00 PM
Venue	COUNCIL CHAMBER, COUNTY HALL, NEWPORT, ISLE OF WIGHT
Present	Cllrs C Critchison (Chairman), M Lilley (Vice-Chairman), D Andre, J Bacon, M Beston, P Brading, G Brodie, V Churchman, I Dore, R Downer, W Drew, P Fuller, A Garratt, S Hendry, C Jarman, J Jones-Evans, P Jordan, J Lever, K Love, K Lucioni, J Medland, C Mosdell, J Nicholson, M Oliver, T Outlaw, G Peace, L Peacey-Wilcox, M Price, R Quigley, C Quirk, R Redrup, J Robertson, P Spink, I Stephens, N Stuart and I Ward
Apologies	Cllrs D Adams, S Ellis and D Pitcher

34. **Minutes**

RESOLVED:

THAT the minutes of the meeting held on 18 January 2023 be approved.

35. **Declarations of Interest**

No declarations were received at this stage.

36. **Public Question Time**

Mr S Cowley had submitted a written question (PQ-07-23) Ms L Blackledge had submitted a written question (PO-08-23)

Mr A Whittaker asked if Councillor Jordan would meet with Lake Parish Council to discuss the Tesco crossing, Councillor Jordan said he was happy to meet with all interested parties, including the Local Councillor.

Mr O McClean asked what was the impact on young people of this budget and how were young people consulted? The Cabinet Member for Children's Services, Education and Skills advised that the Council had sought to protect Children's Services within the budget given the statutory nature of the work and the importance

of our children's future. She went on to confirm the views of young people were valued and the Youth Council were being involved in public consultations.

37. Chairman's Official Announcements

The Chairman advised that she had attended a number of civic and community events which included the installation of the Archdeacon and the opening of Building 41 in Northwood, she also attended the Dark Skies Festival.

A visit from the 6th Newport, St Johns Scout group to the Council Chamber was extremely successful.

38. Leaders Update Report (20 minutes)

The Leader introduced her report.

A question was asked about the 10-year drug strategy from Harm to Hope and the input from both the police and justice system, the Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care advised that they worked closely with all organisations, funding had been extended for a further year.

A question was asked regarding the access for pedestrians and cyclist with the new Ryde Interchange work. The Cabinet Member for Infrastructure, Highways PFI and Transport advised that the Ryde Interchange project was underway and due to complete by the end of April or early May 2023, the scheme had been designed around the cycleway, which had been an integral part of the Department for Transport grant award.

The Leader was asked if a review of efficient use of Council buildings was being undertaken, she advised that a lot of buildings had been updated with heat pumps and solar panels and that a review of buildings had been requested.

A question was asked regarding the Suicide Prevention Strategy and how it was working, the Mental Health Champion advised that work had been underway with Public Health, Healthwatch and the relevant Cabinet Member to develop yearly grant funding for small grass roots projects, which had been successful.

The Leader was asked to agree that she would do what she could to encourage those eligible to vote were made aware that Identification would be provided at polling stations, to encourage those people to vote during elections, she advised that work was being done nationally to publicise the requirement of Identification when voting at polling stations to encourage people to vote, more local work would be undertaken closer to any scheduled elections, the Cabinet Member for Children's Services, Education and Skills advised that work in a school and with the Youth Trust was being undertaken.

The Cabinet Member for Levelling Up, Regeneration, Business Development and Tourism was asked to provide more information regarding Building 41 in Northwood and the sustainability of the building, The Cabinet Member thanked those who attended the opening and advised that the office space was filling up and the next phase was being costed to provide more office space.

39. **Budget and Council Tax Setting 2023-2024 (including the Local Council Tax Support Scheme) and Future Years' Forecasts**

A 2023/24 budget and Council Tax setting report had been received from the Leader and Cabinet Member for Strategic Finance, Transformational Change and Corporate Resources. Alternative budgets had been submitted from Councillor Brodie and the Liberal Democrat Group, these had been accepted by the Section 151 Officer as being legal and presented a balanced budget.

The Leader moved all budget proposals which was duly seconded.

The Cabinet Member for Strategic Finance, Transformational change and Corporate Resources was invited to speak on behalf of the Leader regarding the Cabinet budget proposals and the submitted alternative budget amendments.

An amendment to the proposal attached as Appendix 1 (and forming part of these minutes) was moved by Councillor G Brodie.

An amendment to the proposal attached as Appendix 2 (and forming part of these minutes) was moved by Councillor A Garratt.

The other group Leaders and ungrouped Councillors were asked if they would like to make comment on the budget proposals and any alternative budgets.

Other members of the council also made comment on all the budget proposals.

The Cabinet Member for Strategic Finance, Transformational change and Corporate Resources, the proposers of the amendments and the other group leaders then summed up.

A named vote was taken on Councillor G Brodie's amendment, the results were as follows:

For (15)

Cllrs M Beston, P Brading, G Brodie, V Churchman, W Drew, S Hendry, C Mosdell, M Oliver, T Outlaw, M Price, C Quirk, R Redrup, J Robertson, P Spink, I Ward

Against (20)

Cllrs D Andre, J Bacon, C Critchison, I Dore, R Downer, P Fuller, A Garratt, C Jarman, J Jones Evans, P Jordan, J Lever, M Lilley, K Love, K Lucioni, J Medland, J Nicholson, L Peacey Wilcox, R Quigley, I Stephens, N Stuart

Abstain (1)

Cllr G Peace

The amendment fell

A named vote was taken on Councillor A Garratt's amendment, the results were as follows:

For (13)

Cllrs M Beston, P Brading, G Brodie, V Churchman, W Drew, A Garratt, T Outlaw, C Quirk, R Redrup, J Robertson, P Spink, N Stuart, I Ward

Against (22)

Cllrs D Andre, J Bacon, C Critchison, I Dore, R Downer, P Fuller, S Hendry, C Jarman, J Jones Evans, P Jordan, J Lever, M Lilley, K Love, K Lucioni, J Medland, C Mosdell, J Nicholson, M Oliver, L Peacey Wilcox, M Price, R Quigley, I Stephens

Abstain (1)

Cllr G Peace

The amendment fell.

A named vote was taken on the substantive budget, the results were as follows:

For (21)

Cllrs D Andre, J Bacon, C Critchison, I Dore, R Downer, P Fuller, A Garratt, C Jarman, J Jones-Evans, P Jordan, J Lever, M Lilley, K Love, K Lucioni, J Medland, M Oliver, T Outlaw, L Peacey Wilcox, I Stephens, N Stuart, R Quigley

Against (4)

Cllrs G Brodie, C Mosdell, J Nicholson, M Price

Abstain (11)

Cllrs M Beston, P Brading, V Churchman, W Drew, S Hendry, G Peace, C Quirk, R Redrup, J Robertson, P Spink, I Ward

RESOLVED:

1. THAT the Council approve the following:
 - (a) The revised Revenue Budget for the financial year 2022/23 and the Revenue Budget for the financial year 2023/24 as set out in the General Fund Summary (Appendix 1) which includes:
 - (i) Additional spending in Adult Social Care of £7.6m and Children's Services of £4.3m
 - (ii) No Revenue Contribution to Capital in 2022/23 or 2023/24
 - (iii) The Covid Contingency estimated at £4.2m, to guard against continuing and legacy risks
 - (b) Any variation arising from the Local Government Finance Settlement 2023/24 or any further savings made in 2022/23 arising at the year-end (after allowing for specific carry forward requests) be transferred to the Revenue Reserve for Capital, Covid Contingency, Transformation Reserve, and General Reserves with the level of each transfer to be determined by the S.151 Officer.

- (c) That the level of Council Tax be increased by 2.99% for general purposes in accordance with the referendum threshold^[1] for 2023/24 announced by Government (as calculated in Appendix 2)
- (d) That the level of Council Tax be increased by a further 2.0% beyond the referendum threshold (as calculated in Appendix 2) to take advantage of the flexibility offered by Government to implement a "Social Care Precept"; and that in accordance with the conditions of that flexibility, the full amount of the associated sum generated of £1,872,500 is passported direct to Adult Social Care
- (e) That the amounts set out in Appendix 2 be now calculated by the Council for the financial year 2023/24 in accordance with Section 31 and Sections 34 to 36 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992
- (f) The S.151 Officer be given delegated authority to implement any variation to the overall level of Council Tax arising from the final notification of the Hampshire Police & Crime Commissioner, Hampshire & Isle of Wight Fire & Rescue Authority and Parish and Town Council precepts, and amend the calculations set out in Appendix 2 accordingly
- (g) The savings proposals for each Portfolio amounting, in total, to £3.895m for 2023/24 and continuing into future years as set out on the next page:

Portfolio	Controllable Budget	Savings Proposal	
	£	£	%
Adult Social Care & Public Health*	54,438,981	1,243,500	2.3%
Children's Services, Education & Lifelong Skills*	28,695,978	299,000	1.0%
Climate, Environment, Heritage, HR, Legal & Democratic Services	7,812,210	128,000	1.6%
Community Protection, Regulatory & Waste	9,471,672	430,000	4.5%
Digital Transformation, Housing, Homelessness & Poverty	9,306,890	255,000	2.7%
Infrastructure, Highways PFI & Transport **	12,658,707	536,600	4.2%
Leader & Strategic Oversight	732,911	150,000	20.5%
Levelling Up, Regeneration, Business Development & Tourism	4,816,254	130,000	2.7%
Planning & Enforcement	2,646,087	45,000	1.7%
Strategic Finance, Transformational Change & Corporate Resources	9,339,164	677,900	7.3%
Grand Total	139,918,854	3,895,000	2.8%

* Excludes the additional funding passported through to Adult Social Care of £7.6m (which if included would result in an overall increase of 11.6%) and the additional funding for Children's Services, Education & Lifelong Skills of £4.3m (which if included would result in an overall increase of 14.0%)

** Excludes £19.4m of PFI grant funding, on a gross expenditure basis the saving amounts to 1.7%

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ors be instructed to start planning how the Council will achieve the savings requirements of £6.0m for the 3 year period 2024/25 to 2026/27 and that this be incorporated into Service Business Plans

- (i) The minimum level of Revenue Balances as at 31 March 2024, predicated on the approval of £3.895m savings in 2023/24 and the retention of the Covid Contingency of £4.2m, be set at £8.0m to reflect the known and expected budget and financial risks to the Council
 - (j) Members have regard for the "Statement of the Section 151 Officer in accordance with the Local Government Act 2003"
 - (k) The new Capital Investment Proposals ("New Starts") - 2023/24 set out in Appendix 4 be reflected within the recommended Capital Programme 2022/23 to 2027/28 and be funded from the available Capital Resources
 - (l) The Capital Programme 2022/23 to 2027/28 set out in Appendix 5 which includes all additions, deletions and amendments for slippage and re-phasing
 - (h) The allocation of Disabled Facilities Grants be made to the Better Care Fund, and reflected within the recommended Capital Programme 2022/23 to 2027/28
 - (i) The S.151 Officer be given delegated authority to determine how each source of finance is used to fund the overall Capital Programme and to alter the overall mix of financing, as necessary, to maximise the flexibility of capital resources used and minimise the ongoing costs of borrowing to the Council
 - (j) That the S.151 Officer in consultation with the Leader of the Council be given delegated authority to release capital resources held back for any contingent items that might arise, and also for any match funding requirements that may be required of the Council in order to secure additional external capital funding (e.g. bids for funding from Government or any other external source).
 - (k) The Capital Strategy 2023/24, including the Minimum Revenue Provision Statement contained therein (Appendix 6)
 - (l) The Investment Strategy 2023/24 (Appendix 7)
2. THAT Council note the following in respect of the Council's Budget:

- (a) The Revenue Budget 2023/24 as set out in Appendix 1 has been prepared on the basis of a 4.99% increase in Council Tax, any reduction from the overall 4.99% Council Tax increase proposed will require additional savings of £936,300 for each 1% reduction in order for the Budget 2023/24 to be approved
- (b) The Revenue Forecasts for 2024/25 onwards as set out in the section entitled "Revenue Forecasts 2024/25 to 2026/27" and Appendix 1
- (c) The estimated Savings Requirement of £6.0m for the three year period 2024/25 to 2026/27, for financial and service planning purposes, be phased as follows:

Financial Year	In Year Savings Requirement £m	Cumulative Saving £m
2024/25	2.0	2.0
2025/26	2.0	4.0
2026/27	2.0	6.0

- (d) The Transformation Reserve held to fund the upfront costs associated with Spend to Save Schemes and Invest to Save Schemes holds a very modest uncommitted balance of £3.2m and will only be replenished from contributions from the Revenue Budget and an approval to the transfer of any further savings at year end
- (e) Should the Council elect to reduce the level of savings below £3.895m in 2023/24 (and £2.0m p.a. thereafter), the Council's financial risk will increase and therefore the minimum level of General Reserves held will also need to increase in order to maintain the Council's financial resilience
- (f) The Council Tax base for the financial year 2023/24 will be 54,087.0 [item T in the formula in Section 31 B(1) of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, as amended (the "Act")].
- (g) The Council Tax element of the Collection Fund for 2022/23 is estimated to be in deficit by £848,700* which is shared between the Isle of Wight Council (85.4%) and the Police & Crime Commissioner (11.1%) and the Hampshire & Isle of Wight Fire & Rescue Authority (3.5%)
- (h) The Business Rate element of the Collection Fund for 2022/23 is estimated to be in deficit by £334,500 of which is shared between the Isle of Wight Council (49%), the Hampshire & Isle of Wight Fire & Rescue Authority (1%) and the Government (50%)
- (i) The Retained Business Rate income^[2] for 2023/24 based on the estimated Business Rate element of the Collection Fund deficit as at March 2023, the Non Domestic Rates poundage for 2023/24 and estimated rateable values for 2023/24 has been set at £41,958,105.
- (j) The Equality Impact Assessment (attached at Appendix 8)

*Includes a deficit of £578,900 which under regulation was allowed to be spread over 3 years and is shared on a different basis

[\[1\]](#) Council Tax increases beyond the referendum threshold can only be implemented following a "Yes" vote in a local referendum

[\[2\]](#) Includes Retained Business Rates of £16,994,458, "Top Up" of £12,028,784, S.31 Grants of £13,098,779 a Collection Fund deficit of £163,916

40. **Reports of the Cabinet Member for Strategic Finance, Transformational Change and Corporate Resources**

40a **2023/24 Discretionary Rate Relief Schemes**

The Cabinet Member for Strategic Finance, Transformational change and Corporate Resources introduced the report and proposed the recommendations which was duly seconded.

A vote was taken the results were as follows:

RESOLVED

- (i) That Council adopt the discretionary rate relief schemes as outlined in the Autumn statement 2022 and to ensure that the reliefs are applied to eligible accounts for the financial year 2023/24.
- (ii) That Council delegate authority be granted to the Cabinet Member for Strategic Finance, Transformational Change and Corporate Resources to agree further legislative changes to the discretionary rates relief scheme.

40b **Council Tax Support Grant**

The Cabinet Member for Strategic Finance, Transformational change and Corporate Resources advised this was a government allocation of funding to support residents in receipt of Local Council Tax Support, he proposed the recommendations which was duly seconded.

A vote was taken the results were as follows:

RESOLVED:

- (i) THAT the Council adopt the draft Council Tax Support Grant Scheme as attached in Appendix 1 to provide additional support to eligible Local Council Tax Support claimants as at 1 April 2023.

- (ii) THAT a discretionary scheme is developed which awards £25 to newly eligible LCTS claimants after 1 April 2023 and to delegate authority to the Cabinet Member for Strategic Finance, Transformational Change and Corporate Resources to agree further details of the discretionary scheme.

41. Member Questions to the Leader and to any other Cabinet Member (30 minutes)

Councillor M Price asked if an update regarding the disposal of Yarmouth school could be provided to all Councillors, the Cabinet Member for Children's Services, Education and Skills advised that the building had been listed as an asset of community value, further information would be circulated to all councillors.

Councillor A Garratt requested information regarding the publication of the Acquisition Strategy, the Leader advised she would provide a written response.

Councillor K Love, asked for an update regarding the Norris Castle planning application, the Studio School and the recently awarded film studio, he was advised that the heads of terms regarding the film studio was underway and there would be media publication going out, both the Cabinet Member for Planning and Enforcement, and the Cabinet Member for Children's Services, Education and Skills advised they would provide a written response.

Councillor N Stuart asked if traders parking permits could be investigated and a timescale provided for implementation, the Cabinet Member for Infrastructure, Highways PFI and Transport advised that work had started and information would be supplied soon.

Councillor M Oliver asked if the Fall Prevention, Social Care and Brooklime house support could be considered by the relevant Scrutiny Committee, Councillor J Nicholson advised that it was already on the workplan.

CHAIRMAN