

Council
5 February 2024

WELWYN HATFIELD COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the WELWYN HATFIELD BOROUGH COUNCIL held on Monday 5 February 2024 at 7.30 pm in the Council Chamber, Campus East, Welwyn Garden City, Herts, AL8 6AE.

PRESENT: Councillors P.Shah (Chair)
G.Ganney, M.Birleson, J.Bond, S.Bonfante, J.Boulton,
S.Boulton, J.Broach, L.Chesterman, J.Cragg, L.Crofton,
H.Goldwater, S.Goldwater, R.Grewal, A.Hellyer,
M.Holloway, D.Jones, S.Kasumu, T.Kingsbury, J.Lake,
F.Marsh, S.McNamara, G.Michaelides, G.Moore, A.Nix,
D.Panter, R.Platt, J.Quinton, T.Rowse, A.Scott, M.Siewniak,
J.Skoczylas, P.Smith, C.Stanbury, S.Thusu, F.Thomson,
K.Thorpe, R.Trigg, S.Tunstall, C.Watson, J.Weston and
P.Zukowskyj

OFFICIALS K.Ng, Chief Executive
PRESENT: R.Baker, Executive Director (Finance & Transformation)
C.Barnes, Executive Director (Place)
S.McDaid, Service Director (Resident & Neighbourhood)
S.Sauncers, Legal Services Manager
C.Cade, Governance Services Manager

51. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on the 15th of November 2023 were approved as a correct record of the meeting.

52. CHANGE TO THE ORDER OF BUSINESS

At the start of the meeting the Mayor announced that due to an urgent report being received he would be using his discretion to change the order of business set out in the summons. In line with this Item 13 was heard before Item 8.

53. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Mitchinson, Pace, Sarson, Musk, Wachuku and Lass.

54. PETITIONS

No petitions were received.

55. QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

No questions from the public were received.

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56. DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS BY MEMBERS

The following councillors raised an interest as Hertfordshire County Councillors:

Councillor Bond
Councillor S Boulton
Councillor Kingsbury
Councillor Thomson
Councillor Thusu
Councillor Zukowskyj

57. ANNOUNCEMENTS

57.1. Mayor

“Holocaust Memorial Day

A gathering to mark Holocaust Memorial Day was held on The Campus arena on 25th January, attended by the Vice Lord-Lieutenant Anthony Chapman, along with representatives from local faith communities, Councillors, and the public. Thank you to everyone who took part in this very moving service.

Mayor’s Civic Service

I will be holding my Civic Service on Sunday 11 February at Our Lady, Queen of Apostles Church in Welwyn Garden City. The Service starts at 3.00pm and will be conducted by Canon Norbert Fernandes, and we have two local school choirs joining us. The service will be followed by a buffet and refreshments to which you are also invited.

Mayor’s Charity Fundraising Dinner

Thank you to all those who have already booked your tickets for my charity dinner at Brocket Hall on 8 March, I really appreciate your support. If you are unable to come, please do consider donating an auction prize for the evening. Your donations are invaluable in helping us to raise funds for my two local foodbank charities.

LGBTQ+ History Month

LGBT+ History Month is a month-long annual celebration of lesbian, gay, bisexual trans, and non-binary history, including the history of LGBTQ+ rights and related civil rights movements. In the United Kingdom it is celebrated in February each year, to coincide with the 2003 abolition of Section 28.

The theme for 2024 LGBTQ+ History month is Medicine #UnderTheScope. It is a prompt to celebrate the work and life of LGBTQ+ people that have made significant contributions to the field of medicine. It is also an opportunity to shine a light on the discrimination and inequalities that LGBTQ+ people have historically experienced in healthcare settings, and still face to this day. To celebrate the LGBTQ+ history month today we raised the pride flag outside the Council Chamber. Thank you to everyone that took part in the flag raising.”

57.2. Deputy Leader and Executive Member for Housing

“I would just like to take a moment to discuss the Christmas gift-giving initiative for families who are living in temporary accommodation. Homelessness can affect anybody at any time of their lives, and has a wide variety of causes; properties being sold or

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rents being increased, temporary losses in income, and changes in family circumstances to name but a few. The stress and worry caused by not having a place to call home is hard to imagine, and can have a real impact on people's lives. The Council works tirelessly to support people, not only to try and prevent homelessness from occurring, but also by providing temporary accommodation to vulnerable residents if the worst does happen.

The Christmas gift-giving initiative, now in its fourth year, provided 350 gifts to our families who were staying in temporary accommodation over the festive period. Gift vouchers, children's toys, chocolates and selection boxes are just a few examples of the gifts given. We received some really heartwarming feedback from residents, who were touched by the generosity. I would like to say a big thank you to the Council's temporary accommodation team, council staff and friends, councillors, and a wide range of local businesses who supported us; there are too many to name tonight, but we have published a press release to show our appreciation to everybody who has helped make things a little better for our residents. Thank you."

57.3. Executive Member for Environment

"In my role as Executive Member for the Environment I want to provide an update about services within my area of responsibility.

I am pleased to say that waste collections over the Christmas and New Year period have been completed successfully and collection dates have now returned to their normal days. The pilot of collecting excess cardboard at the kerbside on blue lidded bin collection days has been a success and I am proposing that this change becomes permanent. This will contribute to the recycling rate for the borough. We are also trialling the use of large bins at some flat locations across the borough for the collection of dry mixed recycling.

After a challenging start to the grass cutting season last year, I am happy to report that all cuts were completed with the final cuts finishing unseasonably late in November due to the very mild weather. In addition, our contractor appointed additional roles to manage the contract including two new team leaders; one to focus on grass cutting and the other to focus on other horticultural works. This will help ensure greater quality assurance for grass cutting. Plans are progressing well to ensure that the 2024/25 cut season is a success. Officers are also working with our contractors to identify areas for rewilding. This includes a new approach where we will seed some large amenity grass areas with low growing wildflower/grass species to encourage biodiversity and pollinators without visually impacting the street scene.

Following our success in last year's Anglia in Bloom (AiB) competition in the category 'Best BID Town - Welwyn Garden City', I am excited to share that we have been put forward by the AiB organisers to represent the region in the national Britain in Bloom this summer. I look forward to sharing more updates about this in due course.

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to thank officers, staff and volunteers for their hard work in driving improvements and delivering these fantastic achievements for the borough."

58. CHIEF EXECUTIVE

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“Our staff continues to work hard to deliver many of the vital services to our community. Our communications team has produced a video highlighting some of the achievements in recent months, which we would like to share with Members tonight.”

At this point in the meeting, the staff achievements video was shown.

59. QUESTIONS BY MEMBERS

1. Question to the Executive Member for Housing

“Child poverty is an issue that should concern us all. A number of key groups and organisations have identified the ‘two child cap’ as one of the key drivers for the increase in child poverty seen in the UK in the last few years. Will the leader of Welwyn Hatfield Borough Council write to our MP and to Rt Hon Jeremy Hunt MP as chancellor to ask them to remove the two child cap?”

Answer

“The two-child cap, which was introduced in 2017 by the Conservative government restricts child tax credit and universal credit to the first two children in most household. One in 10 UK children now live in families affected by the two-child limit and the number continues to rise each year. This benefit cap was supposed to incentivise parents into work. However, recent research published by the London School of Economics found there was no impact at all on employment rates or on work hours.

the research noticed the two thirds of affected families are already doing some paid work. The effected families could not simply increase their working hours as a number of constraints, including health problems of that child and childcare was also a significant barrier. The research concluded that the two-child limit had limited or no effects on the government's stated objective for the policy. What it has meant instead is a sharp increase in poverty and hardship.

Nearly half of UK children with two or more siblings now live in poverty, and this number is projected to rise sharply in coming years. Inevitably such policies impact on Council's finances through rent arrears, as well as current cost of living crisis. It is imperative for the government to remove the two-child cap, and I, along with Councillor Zukowskyj, would be happy to write to our MP and the chancellor of the exchequer to this effect. We would also invite the Leader of the opposition to sign the letter as well.”

2. Question to the Executive Member for Governance

“Would the portfolio holder like to explain why there has been not a meeting of the Licensing Committee since June 2022?”

Answer

“It is a statutory requirement for this Council to have a full Licensing Committee Business is reserved for matters such as approvals of policies, licencing conditions and more strategic matters.

The more recent meetings of the Licensing Committee have had no business to discuss, they were cancelled by the agreement of the Chair. I'm sure Councillor Thusu and other Members are aware the Licensing Sub-Committee deals with the more day-to-day operational business relating to licences. It determines applications which are not taken by officers under delegated powers. It meets more frequently than the full Licensing Committee. In fact, it's met five times since June 2022, with a further meeting which was cancelled after the applicants withdrew the particular event notice they were

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applying for. The Licensing Sub-Committee has determined matters such as premises, licence, temporary event notices and other matters where there have been concerns, primarily as we saw in the video, for example, with how pubs operate their licence.

The next full Licensing Committee is due on the 26th of February, I understand it does have business to discuss and it will therefore meet.”

Supplementary Question

“Would it be considered that, since it hasn't met for such a long time and bearing in mind we may discuss this further in Agenda Item 11, that the Chair costs of that does not necessarily need to be applied if there doesn't meet for over a year and hence if the administration are going to create other committees which you have done, you could spread the costs and make it more cost neutral rather than increase the number of committees and hence paying more for the chairs?”

Answer

“As I mentioned in my previous reply, we were in a position where the full Licensing Committee is a statutory committee of this Council. We must have one. That committee must have a chair and the allowance given to that chair is determined through the Independent Remuneration Panel. Indeed, for the vast majority at the time outlined in the original question, it was a member of your group that was in that chair. So if it is an issue and if you have concerns about the salaries given to that chair I am more than happy for you to raise it through the relevant panels for recommendations of the independent remuneration panel when they next meet for consideration”

3. Question to the Leader of the Council

“The Household Support Fund is a lifeline for many, a lifeline that the current Conservative Government has said will be removed in March. In Welwyn Hatfield alone, this Fund has helped us fund referrals to local food banks, directly support residents with energy and fuel payments and other targeted cost of living related support.” Can the Leader confirm what actions this Joint Administration, and Council, are taking to try and make the current Conservative Government see sense?

Answer

“The Household Support Fund and councils across the country are united in their support for the contribution and the continuation of the household support fund. It is seen as a really critical mechanism for helping people through the cost of living crisis and the challenges that that poses, so the LGA (Local Government Association) are campaigning for the fund to be urgently extended for at least a year.

I can confirm that I've already signed a joint letter with leaders across the country produced by the Local Government Association lobbying the government to reconsider their position and reinstate this vital funding stream. It really is a critical aspect for many people in really significant need, so it does need to continue.”

4. Question to the Executive Member for Environment

“I note that the Council's Environment team took what I must say was a bold (some might say risky) move and introduced a trial of kerbside cardboard collections during the Christmas period. This is always the busiest time for cardboard and is also the period with the most disruption and public confusion regarding refuse collection services. Can the leader or portfolio holder please give members an update on: a) Whether the council and operatives consider the trial to be successful. b) What additional delays to

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collections the trial caused. c) What the additional costs were to WHBC (and ultimately residents) for the trial, and what costs would be incurred were the collections to become a permanent service."

Answer

"We took the important step to introduce the excess collection of cardboard waste that is presented flattened beside the blue recycling bin. Due to changing shopping habits, we recognised that cardboard waste constitutes a significant volume and is not always possible to place all inside the recycling bin.

The trial which commenced on Monday 11th December was recommended by the Street Scene Task and Finish Group and approved by myself. While beginning this trial during the Christmas period could be seen as a baptism of fire, I believe this has been a consistent theme of our administration, so it seemed appropriate. I do consider this trial to be successful and I am proud to announce that I'll be making this a permanent change to our waste collection strategy.

The trial has not caused any delays to our waste collections and I am also happy to say that the trial has been at no additional cost to the Council or residents. Nor would it's continued operation affect contract costs. This service falls within the existing contracts signed by a Conservative administration this would not be possible without the hard work of council officers and a streetscene task and finish group and I would love to thank them."

Supplementary Question

"I'm not sure how long the contract has been in place, but if there is no additional cost, I wonder why this hasn't been done before. If it's in the contracts already this should have been a service that was introduced a long time ago?"

Answer

"That is a thought-provoking question Councillor Platt. As far as I am aware, it was entirely possible to implement during previous years with no additional cost. The main thing that has changed is the Council's priorities and its intentions. We are a Council that really prioritises recycling. I have the pleasure to talk to many of my equivalents on other Hertfordshire district councils and we have a friendly competition on who could be the best for recycling in the country. Currently, my good friend from St Albans is championing the charge, but he should watch out for Welwyn Hatfield. If you want a more detailed explanation of the mindset of my predecessor, I'm sure we'd be happy to tell himself perhaps over lunch?"

5. Question to the Executive Member for Planning

"Could the relevant portfolio holder update us on what progress is being made formulating the Gosling Sports Park Masterplan?"

Answer

"Council officers have been working hard to review the options for this proposed scheme. In light of surveys which were carried out at the site and changes to market conditions since the scheme was originally discussed, this work is currently ongoing, but I hope to be able to provide a more detailed update to my fellow Councillors later in the year."

6. Question to the Leader of the Council

"At the recent Cross Party Housing Maintenance Procurement Board members were informed that the number of voids (empty Council properties) has increased significantly

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in recent months, and that void repair targets are not being met and are well below target. Under the new Lib Dem/Labour administration, performance on void numbers and void turnaround times is now significantly lower than during our Conservative administration. Please can the Leader update the Council on the current number of residents on the Council's Housing Needs Register waiting for a Council property; how many Council properties are currently empty (which Welwyn Hatfield residents could be living in); and what is the cost to the Council in rent lost?"

Answer

"You will recall at Cabinet Housing Panel last week, officers provided an explanation on the current void performance and I will repeat it here for everyone's benefit. As part of our commitment towards high quality homes, we've reviewed our processes for voids and the lettable standards which is a quality standard to which we require voids to be refurbished and repaired to before they are re-let to another tenant. This has meant that it has taken longer, in many cases, for the works to be completed in order to meet our standard. In addition, when the property is void, we seek to take the opportunity to undertake any other works needed, such as structural works, rewires, replacement of components, bathrooms, kitchens and other more expensive repairs, including for damp and mould. All of these factors contribute towards the increased period for which properties are void, but it reflects the fact that is less disrupted to the tenants after they move in as the property is being handed over at a higher standard than in the past. We've seen many cases before the joint administration took over where there were known issues with the property at the time when the tenants signed up and the major repairs had to be carried out soon after they moved in.

Our joint administration is committed to ensuring that our Council tenants have safe and high quality homes to live in. The void turnaround is to ensure that the property is of a suitable quality for the next tenant to move in, rather than rushing our tenants to move to enter the property in order to get the rent income at the earliest opportunity.

Turning specifically to the data requested, there are currently around 3,500 residents on the Council's housing needs register. Action taken by the joint administration to adopt the Local Plan, and that work is underway to work on the new one should make a positive difference. There are currently 139 void properties that require work to be carried out by Morgan Sindall. In the past, some of these properties would probably have been let to tenants with known issues but, as I said earlier, our tenants deserve to move into a safe and high quality home.

There are also just over 70 properties that are deliberately kept vacant at Queensway House and Howard house these were the policy directions carried over from the previous administration. In terms of the rent loss, if the previous administration believed that all these 209 properties are suitable for tenants to live in then I'm sure they could work it out by applying the average weekly rent to get an estimate. However, as a responsible landlord we should not focus purely on commercial grounds and to move the next set of tenants in as quickly as possible.

We have a duty of care to ensure that our tenants have a high quality home to live in. As we've seen in the past some of the tenants have had to decant their properties soon after they moved in because major repairs had to be carried out. The council ended up paying more for the cost of decant than the rent lost."

Supplementary Question

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“You're absolutely right the distress and worry of not having a place to call home is incredibly important and obviously many of our residents are facing that. However, the poor performance that you've outlined cannot just be laid at the feet of the previous administration and given the numbers that we've heard are on the housing needs register; 3,500 increase and over 209 properties vacant. Can the Executive Member for Housing provide a guarantee to Council and to our residents, those tenants who could otherwise be accommodated, that you will have the situation turned round and that deserving residents will be housed and provide a date by when this will happen?”

Answer

“I think you know by the fact that previous contractors that were appointed by the administration were not at the standard that you could have been given that sort of answer. So I suppose all I can say is that we are doing our best, we think we have a better standard and we will do as fast as we can because our priority is to get people into good homes but I'm not putting that at risk by giving out a number and plucking numbers out of thin air that's not the way our work”

60. URGENT MATTERS - REPORT PURSUANT TO SECTION 5 LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND HOUSING ACT 1989

The Council received the report of the Deputy Monitoring Officer submitted in accordance with the requirements of Section 5 of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989. Section 106 of the Local Government and Finance Act 1992 imposes certain voting restrictions on councillors who are in arrears with payment of their council tax, by at least 2 months. The section provides that where any such councillor is present at a meeting of the authority or committee, at which calculation of council tax or any recommendation, resolution or other decision which might affect the making of any such calculation is the subject of consideration, the councillor(s) concerned must: at the meeting and as soon as practicable after its commencement disclose the fact that the section applies to them; and shall not vote on any question with respect to the matter.

A Member who was 2 months or more in arrears of their Council tax attended and chaired the Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 16th January and did not make the required positive declaration. At that meeting the report on the 2024/25 budget proposal was discussed and the Councillor took part in the resolution which was made by the Committee.

Following various questions from Members and answers from the Deputy Monitoring Officer, Council noted the report.

61. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE CABINET

The Council considered recommendations from the Cabinet meetings which took place on 9th January 2024 and 23rd January 2024

62. FP2014 2024/25 BUDGET AND COUNCIL TAX SETTING

Full Council received a report of the Executive Director (Finance and Transformation) setting out the 2024/25 budget proposals for approval specifically Revenue Budgets 2024/25, Capital Programme 2024/25 – 2028/29, Use of Reserves 2024/25, Fees and Charges for 2024/25, Medium Term Strategy and Governance Framework 2024/25 – 2027/28.

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It was moved and seconded by Councillors Jones and Councillor Chesterman that the recommendations in the report be approved.

Amendment 1

It was moved and seconded by Councillors S Boulton and Kingsbury that the budget proposal recommendations in the report be amended as follows:

“The reduction on planning income of £350k in Appendix D seems to be overly pessimistic given the general reduction in inflation, expected interest rate reductions and adoption of a Local Plan which is likely to result in additional planning applications. Additionally planning fees increased in December last year by 35% for major applications and 25% for household applications. Indeed, officers at a recent DMC meeting highlighted that they expected more major planning application to be submitted.

Enforcement can often be a concern of residents when development happens without consent, and when plans are not adhered to. Planning enforcement is often stretched to deal with the complexity and number of enforcements requested.

Therefore, we propose to reduce the assumption of loss of planning income by £112k to fund the recruitment of two full time enforcement officers to increase the speed and number of enforcement cases undertaken and support residents in their valid concerns.”

On being put to the vote the meeting voted:

RESOLVED

(17 FOR, 25 AGAINST)

Voting FOR Councillors:

Hellyer, Stanbury, Thomson, Ganney, Michaelides, Bond, Lake, J Boulton, Cragg, Smith, Trigg, Kasumu, Tunstall, J Boulton, McNamara, Thusu and Kingsbury

Voting AGAINST Councillors:

Nix, Scott, Watson, Panter, Jones, Marsh, Moore, H Goldwater, Broach, Quinton, Skoczylas, Weston, Thorpe, Crofton, Chesterman, Birleson, Holloway, Siewniak, Shah, Zukowskyj, Grewal, Platt, Bonfante, S Goldwater, Rowse.

And the amendment was declared LOST.

Amendment 2

It was moved and seconded by Councillors S Boulton and Kingsbury that the budget proposal recommendations in the report be amended as follows:

“Reduce the planned social rent increase from 7.7% to 5.0%.”

On being put to the vote the meeting voted:

RESOLVED

(17 FOR, 25 AGAINST)

Voting FOR Councillors:

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Hellyer, Stanbury, Thomson, Ganney, Michaelides, Bond, Lake, J Boulton, Cragg, Smith, Trigg, Kasumu, Tunstall, J Boulton, McNamara, Thusu and Kingsbury

Voting AGAINST Councillors:

Nix, Scott, Watson, Panter, Jones, Marsh, Moore, H Goldwater, Broach, Quinton, Skoczylas, Weston, Thorpe, Crofton, Chesterman, Birleson, Holloway, Siewniak, Shah, Zukowskyj, Grewal, Platt, Bonfante, S Goldwater, Rowse.

And the amendment was declared LOST.

Councillor H Goldwater left at prior to the vote.

Recommendations

The recommendations in the report were put to the meeting and it was:

RESOLVED

(24 FOR, 17 AGAINST)

Voting FOR Councillors:

Nix, Scott, Watson, Panter, Jones, Marsh, Moore, Broach, Quinton, Skoczylas, Weston, Thorpe, Crofton, Chesterman, Birleson, Holloway, Siewniak, Shah, Zukowskyj, Grewal, Platt, Bonfante, S Goldwater, Rowse.

Voting AGAINST Councillors:

Hellyer, Stanbury, Thomson, Ganney, Michaelides, Bond, Lake, J Boulton, Cragg, Smith, Trigg, Kasumu, Tunstall, J Boulton, McNamara, Thusu and Kingsbury

That Council note the recommendations from Cabinet, and the Statement of the Chief Financial Officer on the robustness of budgets and adequacy of reserves (appendix N).

That Council also note that the following amounts for the year 2024/25 have been set in accordance with regulations made under Sections 31A and 31B of the Local Government Finance Act 1992:

	<u>100% TAXBASE</u>	<u>99.40% TAXBASE</u>
Welwyn Garden City	17,944.0	17,836.3
Hatfield	12,547.1	12,471.8
Welwyn	4,792.6	4,763.8
Ayot St Lawrence	68.3	67.9
Ayot St Peter	112.4	111.7
North Mymms	4,478.1	4,451.2
Essendon	441.4	438.8
Northaw & Cuffley	3,148.6	3,129.7
Woolmer Green	607.6	604.0
Total	44,140.1	43,875.2

That Council approve the following budget proposals:

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1. General Fund

The proposed General Fund Budget as summarised in Appendix A, and detailed in appendix B.

The inclusion of the savings and growth proposals into the budget as detailed in appendices C and D.

The fees and charges which have been incorporated into the budget proposals, as set out in appendix E, including a summary of recommendations where fees have not increased in line with our fees and charges policy.

The increase in the Council's Band D Tax of £6.84 (2.96%), taking the average Band D Tax to £237.60 for 2024/25.

That the Special Expenses Scheme as set out in section 3.5 continue into 2024/25, and the Special Expenses detailed in Appendix M be approved for inclusion in the Council Tax for 2024/25.

2. Housing Revenue Account (HRA)

That dwelling rents are increased by 7.7% in accordance with Government legislation, resulting in an average rent of £132.47 per week.

To continue the policy of charging formula rent when vacant properties are re-let.

The Housing Revenue Account budget as shown in appendix F.

The fees and charges which have been incorporated into the budget proposals, as set out in appendix H

The Medium-Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) to maintain HRA working balances to a minimum of 5% of rental income.

3. Capital Programme

The Capital Programme for 2024/25 to 2028/29 as set out in Appendix I.

The Capital Financing for the Capital Programme, for 2024/25 to 2028/29 as set out in Appendix J, and note the forecast capital balances in Appendix K.

4. Medium Term Financial Strategy

The Medium-Term Financial Strategy and Financial Governance Framework, including all annexes, policies, delegations and prudential indicators for 2024/25 – 2026/27 as set out in appendix L

63. FP2023 2024/25 BUSINESS PLAN

Full Council received the extract of the minutes of the Cabinet meeting held on 9th January 2024.

It was moved and seconded by Councillors Zukowskyj and Councillor Chesterman that the recommendations in the report be approved.

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RESOLVED

The Council agreed the 2024/25 Business Plan

64. NOTICES OF MOTIONS UNDER PROCEDURE RULE 16

No motions were received.

65. FP2041 OUTCOME OF POLLING STATION REVIEW

Full Council received a report of the Chief Executive and Returning Officer setting out the responses received to the recent consultation exercise carried out and minor amendments be made to the current arrangements for polling districts, places and polling stations.

It was moved and seconded by Councillors Broach and Councillor Panter that the recommendations in the report be approved.

On being put to the vote the meeting voted:

RESOLVED

(unanimous)

That Council note the number of responses received to the consultation and agrees, in the light of these, to make minor amendments to the current arrangements for polling districts, places and polling stations as detailed in the report.

66. SPECIAL RESPONSIBILITY ALLOWANCE

Full Council received a report of the Chief Executive setting out the recommendations from the Independent Remuneration Committee to consider the Special Responsibility Allowances (SRA) for the new Cabinet Panel Chairs and the review of the SRA for the Standards Committee.

It was moved and seconded by Councillors Broach and Councillor Panter that the recommendations in the report be approved.

On being put to the vote the meeting voted:

RESOLVED

(36 FOR, 0 AGAINST, 5 ABSTAINED)

That Council agrees the recommendations of the Independent Remuneration Panel and approves the proposed Special Responsibility Allowance for the new Cabinet Panel Chairs and Standard Committee Chair as set out in Appendix A, payable with effect from the beginning of the Municipal year 2024/25.

67. SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS 2024/25

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Full Council received a report of the Executive Director (Finance & Transformation) setting out the Council schedule of meetings for 2024/25.

It was moved and seconded by Councillor Broach and Councillor Panter that the recommendations in the report be approved.

On being put to the vote the meeting voted:

RESOLVED

(unanimous)

The timetable setting out dates of meetings for the Municipal Year 2024/25 as attached at Appendix A.

Meeting ended at 10.45 pm