

BOLTON METROPOLITAN BOROUGH

2021/2022

16TH FEBRUARY 2022

Present - Councillors Mrs. Thomas (Mayor), Mrs. Fairclough (Deputy Mayor), Adia, Ayub, Bagnall, Baines, Brady, Bullock, Challender, Connor, Cowen, Cox, Dean, Donaghy, Eckersley-Fallon, Evans, Flitcroft, Galloway, Grant, Hartigan, Haslam, Haworth, Hayes, Heslop, Hewitt, Hornby, Iqbal, Jiva, Khurram, McGeown, McKeon, McMulkin, Mistry, Morgan, Murray, Muslim, Parkinson, Pattison, Peel, Radcliffe, Rimmer, Sanders, Sherrington, Silvester, Taylor-Burke, Veevers, Walsh, Warren, Weatherby, D. Wilkinson, Wright and Zaman.

55. MINUTES SILENCE

Members observed a minutes silence in memory of Former Mayoress Shelia Hall who had recently passed away.

56. MINUTES

The minutes of the proceedings of the meeting of the Council held on 24th November 2021 were submitted and signed as a correct record.

57. 2022/2023 BUDGET, COUNCIL TAX AND OTHER ASSOCIATED FINANCIAL MATTERS

It was moved by Councillor Cox and seconded by Councillor Mrs. Fairclough -

- (i) That the following recommendations of the Cabinet on 7th February 2022 be approved:-
 - (a) The Council be recommended to approve the Budget for 2022/23
 - (b) That the council tax for 2022/23 be increased by 3.12% comprising

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- The Adult Social Care Precept at 1.13%
 - The general levy at 1.99%
 - (c) The Council be recommended to approve the Capital Programme and Strategy for 2022/23
 - (d) The Council be recommended to approve the Investment and Prudential Indicators and Treasury Strategies 2022/23 to 2024/25
- (ii) It be noted that on 15th November 2021 the Cabinet calculated
- (a) the Council Tax Base 2022/23 for the whole Council area as 77,795 (item T in the formula in Section 31B of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, as amended (the “Act”); and
 - (b) for dwellings in those parts of its area to which a Parish precept relates as:

Parish Councils

The Parish of Blackrod	1,987	Band D equivalents
The Parish of Horwich	7,611	Band D equivalents
The Parish of Westhoughton	8,702	Band D Equivalents

being the amounts calculated by the Council, in accordance with regulation 6 of the Regulations, as the amounts of its Council Tax base for the year 2022/23 for dwellings in those parts of its area to which one or more special items relate.

(iii) Calculate that the Council Tax requirement for the Council's own purposes for 2022/23 (excluding Parish precepts) is £126,253,143

(iv) That the following amounts be calculated for the year 2022/23 in accordance with Sections 31 to 36 of the Act.

- (a) £250,422,467 being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 31A(2) of the Act taking into account all precepts issued to it by Parish Councils.
- (b) £123,739,740 being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 31A(3) of the

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Act.

- (c) £126,682,727 being the amount by which the aggregate at (iv)(a) above exceeds the aggregate at (iv)(b) above, calculated by the Council in accordance with Section 31A(4) of the Act as its Council Tax requirement for the year. (Item R in the formula in Section 31B of the Act).
- (d) £1,628.41 being the amount at (iv)(c) above (Item R), all divided by Item T ((ii)(a) above), calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 31B of the Act, as the basic amount of its Council Tax for the year (including Parish precepts).
- (e) £429,584.00 being the aggregate amount of all special items (Parish precepts) referred to in Section 34(1) of the Act, each individual parish precept being:
- | | |
|--------------|----------|
| Blackrod | £73,847 |
| Horwich | £204,559 |
| Westhoughton | £151,178 |
- (f) £1,622.89 being the amount at (iv)(d) above less the result given by dividing the amount at (iv)(e) above by Item T ((ii)(a) above), calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 34(2) of the Act, as the basic amount of its Council Tax for the year for dwellings in those parts of its area to which no Parish precept relates.

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(g)	Part of the Council's Area	Parish of Blackrod	£1,660.06
		Parish of Horwich	£1,649.77
		Parish of Westhoughton	£1,640.26

being the amounts given by adding to the amount at (f) above the amounts of the special item or items relating to dwellings in those parts of the Council's area mentioned at (e) above divided in each case by the amount at (ii) above, calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 34(3) of the Act, as the basic amounts of its Council Tax for the year for dwellings in those parts of its area to which one or more special items relate.

(i) Part of the Council's Area

Valuation bands	Parish of Blackrod	Parish of Horwich	Parish of Westhoughton	All other parts of the Council's area
A	£1,106.70	£1,099.84	£1,093.50	£1,081.92
B	£1,291.17	£1,283.17	£1,275.77	£1,262.26
C	£1,475.60	£1,466.45	£1,458.00	£1,442.56
D	£1,660.06	£1,649.77	£1,640.26	£1,622.89
E	£2,028.95	£2,016.37	£2,004.75	£1,983.52
F	£2,397.87	£2,383.01	£2,369.27	£2,344.18
G	£2,766.76	£2,749.61	£2,733.76	£2,704.81
H	£3,320.12	£3,299.54	£3,280.52	£3,245.78

being the amounts given by multiplying the amounts at (f) and (g) above by the number which, in the proportion set out in Section 5(1) of the Act, is applicable to dwellings listed in a particular valuation band divided by the number which in that proportion is applicable to dwellings listed in valuation band D, calculated by the Council in accordance with Section 36(1) of the Act, as the amounts to be taken into account for the year in respect of categories of dwellings listed in different valuation bands

(v) That it be noted that for the year 2022/23 the Mayoral Police and Crime Commissioner Precept and the Mayoral General Precept (including Fire Services) have stated the following amounts in precepts issued to the Council, in accordance with Section 40 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, for each of the categories of dwellings shown below:-

Precepting Authority

Valuation Bands	Mayoral General Precept (including Fire Services)	Mayoral Police and Crime Commissioner Precept
A	£68.63	£152.20
B	£80.07	£177.56
C	£91.51	£202.93
D	£102.95	£228.30
E	£125.82	£279.03
F	£148.70	£329.76
G	£171.58	£380.50
H	£205.90	£456.60

(vi) That, having calculated the aggregate in each case of the amounts at (iv), (f), (i), and (v), the Council, in accordance with Section 30(2) of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, hereby sets the following amounts as the amounts of Council Tax for the year 2022/23 for each of the categories of dwellings shown below:-

(i) Part of the Council's Area

Valuation bands	Parish of Blackrod	Parish of Horwich	Parish of Westhoughton	All other parts of the Council's area
A	£1,327.53	£1,320.67	£1,314.33	£1,302.75
B	£1,548.80	£1,540.80	£1,533.40	£1,519.89
C	£1,770.04	£1,760.89	£1,752.44	£1,737.00
D	£1,991.31	£1,981.02	£1,971.51	£1,954.14
E	£2,433.80	£2,421.22	£2,409.60	£2,388.37
F	£2,876.33	£2,861.47	£2,847.73	£2,822.64
G	£3,318.84	£3,301.69	£3,285.84	£3,256.89
H	£3,982.62	£3,962.04	£3,943.02	£3,908.28

(vii) That the Council's basic amount of Council Tax for 2022/23 at an increase of 3.12% is not excessive in accordance with principles approved under Section 52ZB Local Government Finance Act 1992.

(viii) That the Deputy Chief Executive be delegated authority to collect revenues and disburse monies from the relevant accounts.

(ix) That it be noted that the Government have set a National Non-Domestic Rate of 49.9p in the pound for small businesses and 51.2p in the pound for larger businesses for the financial year 2022/23.

(x) That the Council's current policy in respect of discretionary relief for charitable organisations, as approved by the Cabinet on the 7th February 2022, be reaffirmed and that the Deputy Chief Executive be delegated authority to determine applications for such relief.

(xi) That War Disablement Pensions and War Widows' Pensions be disregarded for the purposes of the Council Tax Support Scheme.

(xii) That Council approves the following definition for the 'minimum occupancy period' for Council Tax Discount Class C properties, to apply from 1st April 2022:

"For the purposes of Discount Class C, in considering whether a dwelling has been vacant for any period, any one period, not exceeding six weeks, during which it was not vacant shall be disregarded".

(xiii) That the minutes of the proceedings of the undermentioned Scrutiny Committee regarding their consideration on the budget be noted:-

Corporate Cultural and External Issues 10th February 2022

Whereupon as an amendment, it was moved by Councillor Peel and seconded by Councillor Zaman -

That this council reiterate the unanimous decision it made at the Council meeting on the 2nd December 2020, whereby Council resolved that due to the extraordinary circumstances of the Covid 19 Pandemic, it, and others, be allowed set a deficit budget to allow for a pragmatic approach to planning the future finances of local government. Council expresses its disappointment that this opportunity was missed by HM Government, and that

Bolton Council was yet again hit with damaging cuts of over £32 million for the period 2021/23.

In particular, Council notes that the Government failed to honour its promise of reimbursing local councils for costs incurred due to lost income and demand pressures as a result of the Covid 19 Pandemic.

Council once again condemns the Government for the starving of local government of the resources it needs to properly fund essential services.

In consideration of the 2022/23 Budget, Council resolves to:

Reiterate its clearly stated determination to give Harveys Nursery a 'fighting chance'. This cannot be done unless the corporate body of the Council using its expertise and resources to assist the nursery, through a new Collaborative Working Group, in developing a business plan that would aim to make the nursery financially viable. Council notes that Children's Services reserves are currently planned to be used to keep the nursery open until August 2022, and further notes that a viable business plan, looking again at available reserves, will enable the nursery to remain open long term, with the intention that the subsidy will be reduced to as low as possible. And that, full reports on the progress of this business plan be brought to the Executive Cabinet Member.

In addition, Council resolves to amend the 2022/23 Capital programme as follows:

1. Council resolves that the provision of a new secondary school, along with the protection of Haslam Park is of paramount importance to the people of Bolton. Therefore, the additional £1 million allocated towards "Highways Maintenance" be instead allocated to the relevant Department for the express purpose of the provision of a site for a new secondary school in the Rumworth / central part of Bolton. All sites that are

developable for the new school, that have so far been discounted, and any other potential local sites, should be considered. The capital allocation could be used for the purchase of private land. Alternatively, the capital could be used to relocate council facilities on currently occupied and developed land, such as Mayor Street and Wellington Yard Depots. And that any surplus from the £1 million be redirected to the Highways maintenance budget.

2. Council resolves that fly tipping and litter is at unacceptable levels, and that urgent action needs to be taken to address this. A one-off capital allocation of £200,000 will be made available to the Place Department from YPO dividends in order to: a) establish a new community hub base at Heaton Fold for all of the environmental based voluntary groups in the borough, b) to establish a fund to properly equip those voluntary groups c) the provision of skips for community clean up days. Council notes that this project has already been worked up and costed by officers, and that £200,000 of funding would enable significant investment into our streets and environment for up to 3 years. £100,000 of this funding has been earmarked for works to Moss Bank Park car park, therefore council resolves that these proposed works be promoted as a capital scheme in a future year.

The amendment was then put to the vote when the voting was as follows:-

For the amendment, 19 viz:

Councillors Adia, Ayub, Challender, Donaghy, Evans, Haworth, Heslop, Iqbal, Jiva, Khurram, McKeon, McMulkin, Mistry, Murray, Pattison, Peel, Sherrington, Silvester and Zaman.

Against the amendment, 32 viz:

Councillors Bagnall, Baines, Brady, Bullock, Connor, Cowen, Cox, Dean, Eckersley-Fallon, Mrs. Fairclough, Flitcroft, Galloway, Grant, Hartigan, Haslam, Hayes, Hewitt, Hornby, McGeown, Morgan, Muslim, Parkinson, Radcliffe, Rimmer, Sanders, Taylor-Burke, Veevers, Walsh, Warren, Weatherby, D. Wilkinson and Wright.

Abstained, 0 viz:

Whereupon, the amendment was declared lost.

Whereupon as a second amendment, it was moved by Councillor Hayes and seconded by Councillor D. Wilkinson -

1. In considering the Budget, Council notes that:
 - a) Following Council last year accepting the Liberal Democrat amendment to convey our concerns about Government funding 'in the strongest terms to the Prime Minister, the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government, the Local Government Association and the Borough's Members of Parliament' (paragraph 6 of the amendment) , this year's settlement has been slightly better than feared allowing some of the proposed cuts to be reversed;
 - b) Following Council last year accepting the Liberal Democrat amendment urging the Cabinet to find further sources of capital to continue with the maintenance of residential roads, Council welcomes allocation of a further £1 million for this purpose. However, Council recognises that is only a drop in the ocean against the over £100 million backlog which increases with every winter;
 - c) Once again the Government has failed to keep its promise made in 2016/17 of a Fair Funding Review of local government, or on their promise of a business rates reset;
 - d) The Government has still not honoured its promise to reimburse the Council in full for the costs incurred and income lost as a result of the Covid 19 pandemic, particularly lost income from Manchester Airport;

- e) Government half baked proposals for a national scheme for social care with funding from national resources unfairly penalises those on average or lower than average incomes and fuels inflation by increasing National Insurance contributions. By prioritising the income generated initially at the NHS rather than the care sector, it also leaves the Council Tax payers having to fund a considerable portion of it for the foreseeable future.
2. Council notes that the promised review of Special Responsibility Allowances (SRAs) appears to have stalled, and urges that it be completed as soon as possible with the objective of reducing the number that are paid. Council fully recognises that some roles carry considerable responsibility and fully merit an additional allowance. However, others carry only limited responsibility and it appears that the SRA is used as a means for rewarding loyalty to the Council or Group Leader.

The second amendment was then put to the vote when the voting was as follows:-

For the amendment, 7 viz:

Councillors Bagnall, Hayes, Heslop, McGeown, McMulkin, Veevers and D. Wilkinson.

Against the amendment, 44 viz:

Councillors Adia, Ayub, Baines, Brady, Bullock, Challender, Connor, Cowen, Cox, Dean, Donaghy, Eckersley-Fallon, Evans, Mrs. Fairclough, Flitcroft, Galloway, Grant, Hartigan, Haslam, Haworth, Hewitt, Hornby, Iqbal, Jiva, Khurram, McKeon, Mistry, Morgan, Murray, Muslim, Parkinson, Pattison, Peel, Radcliffe, Rimmer, Sanders, Sherrington, Silvester, Taylor-Burke, Walsh, Warren, Weatherby, Wright and Zaman.

Abstained, 0

Whereupon, the second amendment was declared lost.

Whereupon, as a third amendment it was moved by Councillor Veevers and seconded by Councillor McGeown –

In consideration of the 2022/23 Budget, Council resolves to:

Reiterate its clearly stated determination to give Harveys Nursery a ‘fighting chance’. This cannot be done unless the corporate body of the Council using its expertise and resources to assist the nursery, through a new Collaborative Working Group, in developing a business plan that would aim to make the nursery financially viable. Council notes that Children’s Services reserves are currently planned to be used to keep the nursery open until August 2022, and further notes that a viable business plan, looking again at available reserves, will enable the nursery to remain open long term, with the intention that the subsidy will be reduced to as low as possible. And that, full reports on the progress of this business plan be brought to the Executive Cabinet Member.

The third amendment was then put to the vote when the voting was as follows:-

For the amendment, 31, viz:

Councillors Adia, Ayub, Bagnall, Brady, Challender, Donaghy, Evans, Flitcroft, Grant, Haworth, Hayes, Heslop, Hornby, Iqbal, Jiva, Khurram, McGeown, McKeon, McMulkin, Mistry, Murray, Pattison, Peel, Sanders, Sherrington, Silvester, Veevers, Weatherby, D. Wilkinson, Wright and Zaman.

Against the amendment, 0

Abstained, 20, viz:

Councillors Baines, Bullock, Connor, Cowen, Cox, Dean, Eckersley-Fallon, Mrs. Fairclough, Galloway, Hartigan,

Haslam, Hewitt, Morgan, Muslim, Parkinson, Radcliffe, Rimmer, Taylor-Burke, Walsh and Warren.

Whereupon, the third amendment was declared carried.

Whereupon the original motion incorporating the amendment by Councillor Veevers was then put to the meeting, when the voting was as follows:-

For the motion, 25 viz:

Councillors Baines, Brady, Bullock, Connor, Cowen, Cox, Dean, Eckersley-Fallon, Mrs. Fairclough, Flitcroft, Galloway, Hartigan, Haslam, Hewitt, Hornby, Morgan, Muslim, Parkinson, Radcliffe, Rimmer, Sanders, Taylor-Burke, Walsh, Warren and Weatherby.

Against the motion, 21 viz:

Councillors Adia, Ayub, Challender, Donaghy, Evans, Grant, Haworth, Heslop, Iqbal, Jiva, Khurram, McKeon, McMulkin, Mistry, Murray, Pattison, Peel, Sherrington, Silvester, Wright and Zaman.

Abstained, 5 viz:

Councillors Bagnall, Hayes, McGeown, Veevers and D. Wilkinson.

Whereupon, the original motion, (as amended,) was then declared carried.

58. CHANGES IN COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP AND APPOINTMENTS TO OUTSIDE BODIES

It was moved by Councillor Dean, seconded by Councillor Khurram and approved –

That the following appointment and change in membership be approved:-

That the following members be appointed to the Constitutional Panel:-

- Cllr Galloway
- Cllr Sherrington
- Cllr Pattison

59. PLANNING COMMITTEE

It was moved by Councillor Walsh, seconded by Councillor Brady and agreed –

That the minutes of the proceedings of the meeting of the Planning Committee held on 9th December 2021, 6th and 20th January and 3rd February 2022 be approved.

60. LICENSING AND ENVIRONMENTAL REGULATION COMMITTEE

It was moved by Councillor Flitcroft, seconded by Councillor Mrs. Fairclough and agreed -

That the minutes of the proceedings of the meeting of the Licensing and Environmental Regulation Committee held on 25th November 2021 and 12th January 2022 be approved.

61. SCRUTINY COMMITTEES

It was moved by Councillor Silvester, seconded by Councillor Veevers and agreed -

That the minutes of the meetings of the following Committees be approved:-

Corporate and External Issues Scrutiny Committee –
13th December 2021 and 10th February 2022

Health Overview and Adult Social Care Scrutiny
Committees – 14th December 2021

Place Scrutiny Committee – 8th December 2021

Children's Services Scrutiny Committee – 6th
December 2021 and 31st January 2022

Councillor Silvester made a comment in respect of minute 27, City Status, of the meeting of the Corporate and External Issues Scrutiny Committee held on 13th December, 2021.

Councillor Hayes made a comment in respect of minute 31, Greater Manchester Pension Fund, of the meeting of the Corporate and External Issues Scrutiny Committee held on 10th February, 2022.

(The meeting started at 7.00 p.m. and finished at 10.25 p.m.)