

BOLTON METROPOLITAN BOROUGH

2009/2010

MEETING OF THE COUNCIL

24th FEBRUARY, 2010

Present - Councillors Critchley (Mayor), Connell (Deputy Mayor), Adia, P. Allen, R. Allen, Ashcroft, Ayub, P. Barrow, R Barrow, Bashir-Ismail, Mrs. Brierley, P. Brierley, Burrows, J. Byrne, L. Byrne, Chadwick, Clare, Cottam, Darvesh, Mrs. Fairclough, Greenhalgh, Hall, Harkin, Hayes, Hollick, Hornby, Ibrahim, Iqbal, Kay, Lord, Mistry, Morgan, Morris, Murray, Norris, Peel, Rock, Mrs. Ronson, R. Ronson, J. Rothwell, Mrs. Rothwell, Shaw, Sherrington, J. Silvester, R. Silvester, Spencer, Mrs. Swarbrick, Mrs. Thomas, A. Walsh, J. Walsh, White, Wild, A. Wilkinson, D. Wilkinson, Williamson, Woodward and Zaman.

61. MINUTES

The minutes of the proceedings of the meeting of the Council held on the 9th December, 2009 were submitted and signed as a correct record.

62. BUDGET 2010/2011: COUNCIL TAX 2010/2011: AND OTHER ASSOCIATED FINANCIAL MATTERS

It was moved by Councillor Morris and seconded by Councillor Mrs. Thomas:-

- (i) That the following recommendations of the Executive on 15th February 2010 be approved:-
 - (a) the Revenue Budget for 2010/11;
 - (b) the Capital Programme for 2010/11; and
 - (c) the Investment and Prudential Indicators and Treasury Strategies 2010/11.

- (ii) That it be noted that, at its meeting on, 11th January 2010, the Executive calculated 82,700 Band D equivalents as its Council Tax base for the year 2010/11 in accordance with Regulation 3 of the Local Authorities (Calculation of Council Tax Base) Regulations 1992, made under Section 33(5) of the Local Government Finance Act 1992.
- (iii) That in accordance with regulations made under Section 34(4) of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 the Council calculate the following amounts for the under-mentioned parts of its area:-

Parish Councils

The Parish of Blackrod	1,704	Band D equivalents
The Parish of Horwich	6,778	Band D equivalents
The Parish of Westhoughton	7,998	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 2010/11 for dwellings in those parts of its area to which one or more special items relate.

- (iv) That the following amounts be now calculated by the Council for the year 2010/11 in accordance with Sections 32 to 36 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992:-
- (a) £709,501,707 being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 32(2)(a) to (e) of the Act
- (b) £480,484,000 being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 32(3)(a) to (c) of the Act
- (c) £229,017,707

being the amount by which the aggregate at (a) above exceeds the aggregate at (b) above, calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 32(4) of the Act as its budget requirement for the year

(d) £128,340,484 being the aggregate of the sums which the Council estimates will be payable for the year into its general fund in respect of redistributed non-domestic rates and revenue support grant, increased by the amount of the sums which the Council estimates will be transferred from its Collection Fund to its General Fund pursuant to the Local Authorities (Funds) (England) Regulations 1992 under section 99(3) of the Local Government Finance Act 1988 (Collection Fund Surplus)

(e) £1,217.38 being the amount at (c) above less the amount at (d) above, all divided by the amount at (ii) above, calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 33(1) of the Act, as the basic amount of its Council Tax for the year

(f) £374,439 being the aggregate amount of all special items referred to in Section 34(1) of the Act, each individual parish precept being:-

Blackrod £36,233

Horwich £202,365

Westhoughton £135,841

(g) £1,212.85

being the amount at (e) above less the result given by dividing the amount at (f) above by the amount at (ii) 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 special item relates

(h) Part of the Council's Area

Parish of Blackrod	£1,234.11
Parish of Horwich	£1,242.71
Parish of Westhoughton	£1,229.83

being the amounts given by adding to the amount at (g) above the amounts of the special item or items relating to dwellings in those parts of the Council's area mentioned at (f) above divided in each case by the amount at (iii) 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

<u>Valuation bands</u>	<u>Parish of Blackrod</u>	<u>Parish of Horwich</u>	<u>Parish of Westhoughton</u>	<u>All other parts of the Council's area</u>
	£	£	£	£
A	£822.74	£828.47	£819.89	£808.57
B	£959.86	£966.55	£956.53	£943.33
C	£1,096.99	£1,104.63	£1,093.18	£1,078.09
D	£1,234.11	£1,242.71	£1,229.83	£1,212.85
E	£1,508.36	£1,518.87	£1,503.13	£1,482.37

F	£1,782.60	£1,795.03	£1,776.42	£1,751.89
G	£2,056.85	£2,071.18	£2,049.72	£2,021.42
H	£2,468.22	£2,485.42	£2,459.66	£2,425.70

being the amounts given by multiplying the amounts at (g) and (h) 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 2010/11 the Greater Manchester Fire and Civil Defence Authority and the Greater Manchester Police Authority 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:-

<u>Precepting Authority</u>		
<u>Valuation</u> <u>bands</u>	<u>Greater Manchester</u> <u>Fire & Civil Defence</u> <u>Authority</u>	<u>Greater</u> <u>Manchester</u> <u>Police Authority</u>
A	£35.10	£96.22
B	£40.95	£112.26
C	£46.80	£128.29
D	£52.65	£144.33
E	£64.35	£176.40
F	£76.05	£208.48
G	£87.75	£240.55
H	£105.30	£288.66

- (vi) That, having calculated the aggregate in each case of the amounts at (v) (i) and (vi) above, 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 2010/11 for each

of the categories of dwellings shown below:-

(i) Part of the Council's Area

<u>Valuation bands</u>	<u>Parish of Blackrod</u>	<u>Parish of Horwich</u>	<u>Parish of Westhoughton</u>	<u>All other parts of the Council's area</u>
	£	£	£	£
A	£954.06	£959.79	£951.21	£939.89
B	£1,113.07	£1,119.76	£1,109.74	£1,096.54
C	£1,272.08	£1,279.72	£1,268.27	£1,253.18
D	£1,431.09	£1,439.69	£1,426.81	£1,409.83
E	£1,749.11	£1,759.62	£1,743.88	£1,723.12
F	£2,067.13	£2,079.56	£2,060.95	£2,036.42
G	£2,385.15	£2,399.48	£2,378.02	£2,349.72
H	£2,862.18	£2,879.38	£2,853.62	£2,819.66

- (vii) That the Director of Corporate Resources be delegated authority to collect revenues and disburse monies from the relevant accounts.
- (viii) That it be noted that the Government have set a National Non-Domestic Rate of 40.7p in the pound for small businesses and 41.4p in the pound for larger businesses for the financial year 2010/11.
- (ix) That the Council's current policy in respect of discretionary relief for charitable organisations be reaffirmed and that the Director of Corporate Resources be delegated authority to determine applications for such relief.
- (x) That War Disablement Pensions and War Widows' Pensions be disregarded for the purposes of the Council Tax Benefit (General) Regulations 1992.
- (xi) That the minutes of the proceedings of the meetings of the undermentioned Executive Members' recommendations on various associated budgetary

matters be noted:-

Adult Services	20 th January 2010
Children's Services and Looked After Children and Safeguarding	1 st February 2010
Corporate Resources	19 th January 2010
Development, Regeneration & Skills	18 th January 2010
Housing, Neighbourhoods and Regulation	26 th January and 10 th February 2010
Environmental Services	25 th January 2010
Cleaner, Greener Safer	18 th January, 2010

- (xii) That the minutes of the proceedings of the undermentioned Scrutiny Committees regarding their consideration of specific policy budgets be noted:-

Adult Services	9 th February 2010
Children's Services	11 th February 2010
Corporate Issues	8 th February 2010
Development & Regeneration	1 st February 2010
Environmental Services	10 th February 2010

Whereupon, as an amendment, it was moved by Councillor Hayes and seconded by Councillor Mrs. Ronson -

1. In approving the Budget, Council recognises the appalling state of the Borough's roads and pavements due to a £50 million plus backlog in repairs and maintenance, and acknowledges the importance of the investment of £1 million in the annual highways budget and approximately £1.5 million in one-off money targeted at highways since 2006 made at the suggestion of the Liberal Democrat Group.

Council welcomes the emergency investment of £3 million to repair potholes made by the Executive in January, and its decision to accept the request by the Liberal Democrat Group to remove options which would have meant a reduction of £319,000 in the Highways budget.

2. Council also welcomes the proposal to invest £200,000 in front line youth services as suggested by the Liberal Democrat Group at the Executive Meeting on 15th February.
3. Council resolves not to proceed with the following savings options identified by Executive Members:
 - a) The proposed increase to charges for Community Meals and Transport designed to save £100,000, which would impact on the elderly and other vulnerable groups;
 - b) Those parts of the Greenspace Management Review relating to:
 - (i) A reduction in the programme of maintenance of sports pitches (£10,000);
 - (ii) Cessation of the application process for 'Green Flag' parks, which would mean both Moss Bank Park and Moses Gate Country Park losing their 'Green Flag' status (£11,000);
 - (iii) A reduction in the Local Nature Reserves Programme (£2,000);
 - (iv) A reduction in the subsidy to the Lancashire Wildlife Trust (£4,000).
4. Council resolves to amend the following savings options identified by Executive Members:
 - a) The Grounds Maintenance Review to be required to produce only a £34,000 saving (a reinvestment of £48,000 to minimise the impact);
 - b) Reinstatement of £48,000 in the Street Lighting Renewals Budget.
5. Council resolves that one-off sums received from the Manchester Airport Dividend (approximately £225,000 in excess of that already included in the Budget is expected to be received later this year) and the Local Authority Business Growth Incentives (LABGI) (approximately

£50,000 is expected to be received later this year) shall be allocated as follows:

- a) the first £75,000 to be spent on renewal/upgrading of street lighting in residential areas aimed at improving efficiency and reducing costs;
- b) the next amount up to a maximum of £200,000 to be spent on resurfacing of roads and pavements in residential areas;
- c) any residue to be allocated to balances.

“Although these one-off allocations are intended for use during 2010/11, it is recognised that the date of receipt might inevitably mean some overrun into the following financial year.

6. Council resolves to evaluate the pilot of Zero Base Budgeting carried out this year in part of Adult Services and determine whether this or a similar technique should be rolled out to other areas or Departments, and asks that a report should be brought to the appropriate Policy Development Group at an early date.

Upon being put to the vote the amendment was declared carried.

As a second amendment, it was moved by Councillor J. Walsh and seconded by Councillor Ashcroft -

Council recognises that the condition of Bolton's roads requires urgent action. Accordingly this council resolves that officers be asked bring to an early meeting of the Executive a report re-drafting the proposed capital programme, deferring certain planned works thus enabling an additional £5million to be spent on roads and footpaths in 2010/2011 with no additional revenue consequences.

Upon being put to the vote the amendment was declared carried.

As a third amendment, it was moved by Councillor D.A. Wilkinson and seconded by Councillor Mrs. Rothwell –

Council notes that:

1. The 'damping' mechanism adopted by the Government to protect local authorities in other (often more affluent) areas of the country from the effects of a fairer allocation of Government Grant means that in 2010/11 Bolton will lose £4.9 million of Grant to which it should be entitled.
2. Council recognises that this could have led to both a zero Council Tax increase and significantly fewer budget cuts than are being proposed.
3. The 'Free' Adult Care initiative announced by the Government, which many view as an election bribe, is estimated to cost Bolton £1.4 million in a full year (£700,000 in 2010/11), and that most experts believe that the Government has significantly underestimated the true cost.
4. Despite the major reorganisation of Waste Management designed to save approximately £360,000, the Waste and Fleet Management Division was excused from making its full contribution to the 5% saving, producing options totalling only £59,000 (its share should have been £308,000). This meant that the extra had to be borne by other Divisions of Environmental Services, mainly impacting on the Highways and Engineering and Neighbourhood Services Divisions. Council considers that in future years the Waste and Fleet Management Division should be required to make its fair contribution to savings.

Council recognises the increasing pressures on child protection following the tragic death of Baby Peter in Haringey, and resolves to invest £108,000 to recruit an additional Social Worker in each district to cope with this problem and reduce the risk of a similar occurrence in Bolton.

The necessary saving to pay for this will be raised by:

- a) ceasing to publish the 'Bolton Scene' with effect from the start of the 2010/11 financial year, producing an annual saving of £92,700 a year (additional to the £60,000 saving already proposed as a policy option);
- b) reducing the number of Executive Members from ten (the maximum allowed by legislation) to eight. This would produce an annual saving of £27,800 (£22,900 in 2010/11).

The balance of the saving to also be invested in child protection measures to be identified by the appropriate Executive Member.

Upon being put to the vote the amendment was declared lost.

Whereupon the substantive motion, as amended, was put to the vote and declared carried.

(The meeting started at 7.00 p.m. and finished at 8.35 p.m.)