

BOLTON METROPOLITAN BOROUGH

2013/2014

MEETING OF THE COUNCIL

26TH FEBRUARY, 2014

Present - Councillors Shaw (Mayor), G. Harkin (Deputy Mayor), Adia, Allen, Ashcroft, Ayub, Bashir-Ismail, C. Burrows, D. Burrows, J. Byrne, L. Byrne, Chadwick, A. Connell, M. Connell, Cox, Critchley, Cunliffe, Darvesh, Dean, Donaghy, Evans, Mrs. Fairclough, Francis, Gillies, Greenhalgh, Hall, S. Harkin, Haslam, Hayes, A. Ibrahim, I. Ibrahim, Iqbal, Irving, A. Ismail, Jones, Kay, , Kellett, Lewis, McKeon, Mistry, Morgan, Morris, Murray, Peacock, Peel, Pickup, Radlett, Rushton, Sherrington, Silvester, Spencer ,Mrs. Swarbrick, Mrs. Thomas, A. Walsh, J. Walsh, Watters, Wild, A. Wilkinson and Zaman.

61. PETITIONS

A petition was received relating to the Winifred Kettle Home which was referred to the Director of Children's and Adult services.

62. MINUTES

The minutes of the proceedings of the meeting of the Council held on 4th December, 2013 were submitted and signed as a correct record.

63. MR STEVE ARNFIELD DEPUTY CHIEF EXECUTIVE

The three Leaders referred to the imminent retirement of Mr Steve Arnfield the Deputy Chief Executive and thanked him for all his work for the Council, particularly with regards to the preparation of each year's budget and wished him a full and happy retirement.

64. BUDGET 2014/2015: COUNCIL TAX 2014/2015: AND OTHER ASSOCIATED FINANCIAL MATTERS

Councillor Morgan declared an interest with respect to the Capital Programme and took no part in the discussion thereon.

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

- (i) That the following recommendations of the Cabinet on 17th February 2014 be approved:-
 - (a) The Revenue Budget as set out in the Budget Report
 - (b) That Council Tax be increased by 1.94% in 2014/15. For the Council's element of Council Tax this represents an increase of less than 31p per week for a Band A property (approximately 50% of Council Tax payers don't pay the full increase either because they are in receipt of Council Tax Benefit or a discount)
 - (c) That £0.4m of the on-going saving from the reduced precept from TfGM be earmarked to fund an increase in the pay for those at the lowest end of the Council's pay scales. The balance of £0.6m in 2014/15 be added to the available one-off resources with the balance of the ongoing saving of £0.6m being held to offset the £25m reductions required in 2015/16
 - (d) That the one-off resources be allocated as follows:-
 - £1m additional investment in main highways schemes
 - £1m investment in residential roads
 - £1m capital investment in facilities for young people
 - Half a million pounds to create a hardship fund to support those who are in difficulty as a result of the impact of Benefit changes
 - Half a million pounds to create a fund to provide support for voluntary and community groups who

- are considering working with the Council to assist in the reduction in demand for Council services
 - £3m be retained as a contribution towards the likely cashflow shortfall in 2015/16 (currently estimated at approximately £10m)
- (e) The Council be recommended to approve the Capital Programme for 2014/15 to 2016/17
- (f) The Council be recommended to approve the Investment and Prudential Indicators and Treasury Strategies 2014/15 to 2016/17
- (ii) It be noted that on 9th December 2013 the Cabinet calculated
- (a) the Council Tax Base 2014/15 for the whole Council area as 69,162 (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	1,767	Band D equivalents
The Parish of Horwich	6,959	Band D equivalents
The Parish of Westhoughton	8,091	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 2014/15 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 2014/15 (excluding Parish precepts) is £88,690,000.
- (iv) That the following amounts be calculated for the year 2014/15 in accordance with Sections 31 to 36 of the Act.

- (a) £223,175,335 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) £134,121,000 being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 31A(3) of the Act.
- (c) £89,054,335 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) £1,287.62 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) £364,335 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 | £ 49,900 |
| Horwich | £185,386 |
| Westhoughton | £129,049 |
- (f) £1,276.56 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.

(g) <u>Part of the Council's Area</u>	Parish of Blackrod	£1,304.80
	Parish of Horwich	£1,303.20
	Parish of Westhoughton	£1,292.51

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) <u>Part of the Council's Area</u>	<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	£869.87	£868.80	£861.67	£851.04
	B	£1,014.84	£1,013.60	£1,005.29	£992.88
	C	£1,159.82	£1,158.40	£1,148.90	£1,134.72
	D	£1,304.80	£1,303.20	£1,292.51	£1,276.56
	E	£1,594.76	£1,592.80	£1,579.73	£1,560.24
	F	£1,884.71	£1,882.40	£1,866.96	£1,843.92
	G	£2,174.67	£2,172.00	£2,154.18	£2,127.60
	H	£2,609.60	£2,606.40	£2,585.02	£2,553.12

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 2014/15 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:-

Precepting Authority

<u>Valuation Bands</u>	<u>Greater Manchester Fire & Civil Defence Authority</u>	<u>Greater Manchester Police Authority</u>
	£	£
A	38.42	101.53
B	44.83	118.46
C	51.23	135.38
D	57.64	152.30
E	70.44	186.14
F	83.25	219.99
G	96.06	253.83
H	115.28	304.60

- (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 2014/15 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	£1,009.82	£1,008.75	£1,001.62	£990.99
B	£1,178.13	£1,176.89	£1,168.58	£1,156.17

A7

C	£1,346.43	£1,345.01	£1,335.51	£1,321.33
D	£1,514.74	£1,513.14	£1,502.45	£1,486.50
E	£1,851.34	£1,849.38	£1,836.31	£1,816.82
F	£2,187.95	£2,185.64	£2,170.20	£2,147.16
G	£2,524.56	£2,521.89	£2,504.07	£2,477.49
H	£3,029.48	£3,026.28	£3,004.90	£2,973.00

- (vii) That the Council's basic amount of Council Tax for 2014/15 at an increase of 1.94% is not excessive in accordance with principles approved under Section 52ZB Local Government Finance Act 1992.
- (viii) That the Borough Treasurer 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 47.1p in the pound for small businesses and 48.2p in the pound for larger businesses for the financial year 2014/15.
- (x) That the Council's current policy in respect of discretionary relief for charitable organisations, as approved by the Cabinet on the 17th February 2014, be reaffirmed and that the Borough Treasurer 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 the minutes of the proceedings of the meetings of the undermentioned Executive Cabinet Members' recommendations on various associated budgetary matters be noted:-

Leader's Portfolio	27 th January 2014
Deputy Leader's Portfolio	10 th February 2014
Environment, Regulatory Services & Skills	3 rd February 2014

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

Corporate & External Issues Scrutiny Committee 20th
February 2014

Whereupon as an amendment, it was moved by Councillor Greenhalgh and seconded by Councillor Morgan -

“The Conservative Group believes that there should be a freeze in Council Tax levels for 2014/15 and the following amendment has been produced in order to deliver that objective.

This is made up of the following proposals:-

- (a) That the Council Tax increase for Bolton Council should be set at zero and this will be funded by the £1m Council Tax Freeze Grant offered by Central Government, plus £600,000 ongoing Revenue savings as follows:-

Reduction in Area Fora/Neighbourhood Management Budgets	£200,000
25% reduction in Councillors' Allowances across the board	£125,000
Savings in Union facilities time and 50% contribution to accommodation service charges	£60,000
Reduce the subsidy in the Albert Halls including the Dido	£50,000
Savings in Personal Advisors	£50,000
Savings in Housing Services	£50,000
Savings in in-house Adult Social Care	£55,000
Reduce Educational Appeals daily allowance to £30	£10,000
Total	£600,000

- (b) That £0.4m of the ongoing savings from the reduced precept from TfGM be earmarked to fund an increase

in the pay for those at the lowest end of the council's pay scales

One off resources to be allocated as follows:

- (c) Reduce the Capital provision for Private Sector Renewal in the Capital Programme by £1m and allocate this £1m for additional capital investment into main Highways schemes
- (d) £1m investment into residential roads
- (e) £1m Capital investment in facilities for young people (schemes to be approved by council)
- (f) Half a million pounds to create a fund to provide support for voluntary and community groups who are considering working with the Council to assist in the reduction in demand for Council services with updates on spend and projects quarterly to Corporate Scrutiny
- (g) Allocate £1m as one-off additional investment to Environmental Services to provide 2 additional teams for a 2 year period to improve cleanliness and enforcement of cleanliness (including dog fouling) of the Borough as follows:-

4 Enforcement Officers	£144,000
5 Operational Charge Hand with enforcement responsibilities	£150,000
5 NCO Operatives	£110,000
2 Crew Cab Vehicles, including cost of fuel	£40,000
Develop publicity material and public awareness with a Spring/Summer waste reduction, cleanliness and enforcement programme	£56,000
Total per year	£500,000

- (h) £3m be retained as a contribution towards the forecast cash flow shortfall in 2015/16

- (i) Delete the £0.5m allocation to a Hardship Fund as the Local Authority we should not be topping up nationally funded benefits. There needs to be a clear distinction between worklessness and those affected by disability/age etc.
- (j) Additional one-off funding of £220,000 for Area Fora allocated equally across all Wards
- (k) Allocate additional one-off funding of £280,000 to re-instate the existing universal summer play schemes for a further 2 years.

The amendment was then put to meeting where the voting for and against was as follows:-

For the Amendment 15 viz:-

Councillors Allen, Ashcroft, Cox, Critchley, Dean, Mrs. Fairclough, Greenhalgh, Hall, Haslam, Morgan, Rushton, A. Walsh, J. Walsh, Wild and A. Wilkinson .

Against the Amendment 43 viz:-

Councillors, Adia, Ayub, Bashir-Ismail, C. Burrows, D. Burrows, J. Byrne, L. Byrne, Chadwick, A. Connell, M. Connell, Cunliffe, Darvesh, Donaghy, Evans, Francis, Gillies, G. Harkin S. Harkin, Hayes, A. Ibrahim, I. Ibrahim, Iqbal, Irving, A. Ismail, Jones, Kay, Kellett, Lewis, McKeon, Mistry, Morris, Murray, Peacock, Peel, Pickup, Radlett, Sherrington, Silvester, Spencer ,Mrs. Swarbrick, Mrs. Thomas, Watters, and Zaman.

Whereupon the amendment was declared lost.

A second amendment was moved by Councillor Hayes and seconded by Councillor Mrs Swarbrick-

Council now determining that the following amendments be made to the substantive Council Tax resolution:

- (i) (a) Agree as set out in the substantive Council Tax resolution.
- (b) Amend as follows:-
 - (i) that Council Tax be frozen for the coming year and the Government's offer of an additional grant of £1 million for 2014/15 and for 2015/16 be accepted;
 - (ii) that a review of Special Responsibility Allowances paid to Councillors be carried out and implemented from 1st June 2014. The target of that review will be set at achieving £60,000 savings in a full year and £50,000 in 2014/15, this saving being used to help fund the Council Tax freeze;
 - (iii) that the balance of the amount needed to fund the Council Tax freeze (£550,000 for 2014/15) be met from the amount retained as a contribution towards the likely cashflow shortfall in 2015/16 ie to £2.45m .
- (c) Agree as set out in the substantive Council Tax resolution
- (d) Agree as set out in the substantive Council Tax resolution, subject to the following:-

whilst welcoming the proposed one-off expenditure on highways, Council considers that the condition of the Borough's highways, particularly in residential areas, urgently needs far greater investment. It therefore determines that, subject to the undermentioned funds being available, a total one off investment of £5 million be made (ie. £3m additional); £1 million for

main roads schemes (mainly capital spending) and £4 million for residential roads (a mix of capital and revenue). This extra investment being funded by utilising £1 million of the anticipated underspend on the 2013/14 revenue budget, and £2 million of the anticipated capital receipt from the sale of the Smithills Estate.

- (e) Agree as set out in the substantive Council Tax resolution.
- (f) Agree as set out in the substantive Council Tax resolution.

Addition of the following:-

- (g) that, subject to the undermentioned funding being available, the budgets of Area Forums be enhanced by £25,000 per ward (a total of £500,000) funded by the remainder of the underspend on the 2013/14 revenue budget;
- (h) any money remaining from the proceeds of the sale of the Smithills Estate (other than the £500,000 already allocated for work to Smithills Hall) be allocated to capital schemes designed to enhance the town centres of the outlying districts of Horwich, Westhoughton, Blackrod, Farnworth, Kearsley and Little Lever.

(ii) to (xiii) Agree as set out in the substantive Council Tax resolution.

Amend the substantive Council Tax resolution as follows:-

- (xiv) Council further resolves to approach the Electoral Commission with a view to starting the necessary process to reduce the number of Councillors from

three per ward to two per ward involving a likely cost saving of up to £300,000 a year.

- (xv) Council also resolves to ask for an urgent report on the benefits and costs of installing solar panels on all suitable Council buildings.

The second amendment was then put to meeting where the voting for and against was as follows:-

For the Amendment 3 viz:-

Councillors Hayes, Radlett and Mrs Swarbrick.

Against the Amendment 55 viz:-

Councillors Adia, Allen, Ashcroft, Ayub, Bashir-Ismail, C. Burrows, D. Burrows, J. Byrne, L. Byrne, Chadwick, A. Connell, M. Connell, Cox, Critchley, Cunliffe, Darvesh, Dean, Donaghy, Evans, Mrs. Fairclough, Francis, Gillies, Greenhalgh, Hall, G. Harkin S. Harkin, Haslam, A. Ibrahim, I. Ibrahim, Iqbal, Irving, A. Ismail, Jones, Kay, Kellett, Lewis, McKeon, Mistry, Morgan, Morris, Murray, Peacock, Peel, Pickup, Rushton, Sherrington, Silvester, Spencer, Mrs. Thomas, A. Walsh, J. Walsh, Watters, Wild, A. Wilkinson and Zaman.

Whereupon the second amendment was declared lost.

The original motion, as proposed by Councillor Morris, was then put to the vote when the voting for and against was as follows –

For the Motion 40 viz:-

Councillors, Adia, Ayub, Bashir-Ismail, C. Burrows, D. Burrows, J. Byrne, L. Byrne, Chadwick, A. Connell, M. Connell, Cunliffe, Darvesh, Donaghy, Evans, Francis, Gillies, G. Harkin S. Harkin, A. Ibrahim, I. Ibrahim, Iqbal, Irving, A. Ismail, Jones, Kay, Kellett,

Lewis, McKeon, Mistry, Morris, Murray, Peacock, Peel, Pickup, Sherrington, Silvester, Spencer, Mrs. Thomas, Watters, and Zaman.

Against the Motion 18 viz:-

Councillors Allen, Ashcroft, Cox, Critchley, Dean, Mrs. Fairclough, Greenhalgh, Hall, Haslam, Hayes, Morgan, Radlett, Rushton, Mrs Swarbrick, A. Walsh, J. Walsh, Wild and A. Wilkinson .

Whereupon the original Motion was declared carried.

65. LOCAL COUNCIL TAX SUPPORT SCHEME

It was moved by Councillor Morris, seconded by Councillor Adia and resolved -

That the Local Council Tax Support Scheme Regulations for 2014/15, together with the retention of the local discretionary fund, to support any claimant for the Local Council Tax Support Scheme and any council tax payer that find themselves in exceptional financial circumstances be approved.

66. 2014/2015 PAY POLICY STATEMENT

It was moved by Councillor Morris, seconded by Councillor Adia and resolved –

That the Council's 2014/15 Pay Policy Statement, as circulated, be approved.

67. APPOINTMENT OF INDEPENDENT PERSON

It was moved by Councillor Morris, seconded by Councillor Mrs Thomas and resolved –

That Mr Paul Howard be appointed the Independent Person with respect to dealing with complaints under the Council's Code of Conduct for members.

68. CHANGES IN COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP AND APPOINTMENTS TO OTHER BODIES

It was moved by Councillor Donaghy, seconded by Councillor Mrs. Fairclough and agreed –

That the following appointments and changes in membership be approved:-

- (1) That Councillor Haslam replace Councillor Alan Walsh on SACRE(Comm D)
- (2) That Councillor Ashcroft replace Councillor Alan Walsh on the Dixon Green and Rideout Foundation.

69. QUESTIONS UNDER STANDING ORDER 9(a)

The following questions were asked under Standing Order 9(a) –

Councillor Hayes relating to the under occupancy charge

The Leader of the Council replied to this question.

70. QUESTIONS UNDER STANDING ORDER 9(C)

A question was asked by Councillor Hayes relating to the Police Precept and was answered by the Greater Manchester Police and Crime Steering Group member.

71. PLANNING COMMITTEE

It was moved by Councillor Darvesh, seconded by Councillor Kellett and resolved –

That the minutes of the proceedings of the meetings of the Planning Committee held 28th November, 5th and 12th December, 2013, 9th January and 6th February, 2014 be approved.

72. LICENSING AND ENVIRONMENTAL REGULATIONS COMMITTEE

It was moved by Councillor Kay, seconded by Councillor Jones and resolved –

That the minutes of the proceedings of the meeting of the Licensing and Environmental Regulation Committee held on 10th December, 2013, 14th and 21st January, 2014 and be approved.

73. SCRUTINY COMMITTEES

It was moved by Councillor Ashcroft, seconded by Councillor Donaghy and resolved –

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

Corporate and External Issues Scrutiny Committee –
20th February, 2014

Environmental Services Scrutiny Committee – 11th
February, 2014

Children's Services and Culture Scrutiny Committee –
12th February, 2014

Health and Overview and Adult Social Care Scrutiny
Committee – 7th January, 2014

A17

(The meeting started at 7.00pm and finished at 9.30 p.m.)

NOTES