

BOLTON METROPOLITAN BOROUGH

2006/2007

MEETING OF THE COUNCIL

21st FEBRUARY, 2007

Present - Councillors Hall (The Mayor), White (Deputy Mayor), Adia, Allen, Ashcroft, Ayub, Ball, Bashir-Ismail, Mrs. Brierley, P. Brierley, Burrows, J. Byrne, L. Byrne, Clare, Connell, Cox, Critchley, Darvesh, Dennis, Mrs. Fairclough, Gradwell, Greenhalgh, Hayes, Hollick, Hornby, Hussain, Ibrahim, Idrees, Kay, Lever, Lord, Morgan, Morris, Peel, Price, Rock, Mrs. Ronson, R. Ronson, Mrs. Rothwell, Rushton, Shaw, Sherrington, J. Silvester, R. Silvester, Spencer, Mrs. Swarbrick, Mrs. Thomas, A.S. Walsh, J. Walsh, A. Wilkinson, David Wilkinson, R. Wilkinson, Williamson Woodward and Zaman.

74. MINUTES

The minutes of the proceedings of the meeting of the Council held on the 13th December, 2006 were submitted and signed as a correct record.

75. BUDGET 2007/2008: COUNCIL TAX 2007/2008: 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 12th February 2007 be approved:-
 - (a) the Revenue Budget for 2007/08;
 - (b) the Capital Programme for 2007/08; and
 - (c) the Investment and Prudential Indicators and Treasury Strategies 2007/08.

- (ii) That it be noted that, at its meeting on, 18th December 2006, the Executive calculated 80,794 Band D equivalents as its Council Tax base for the year 2007/08 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 undermentioned parts of its area:-

Parish Councils

| | | |
|----------------------------|-------|--------------------|
| The Parish of Blackrod | 1,673 | Band D equivalents |
| The Parish of Horwich | 6,562 | Band D equivalents |
| The Parish of Westhoughton | 7,644 | 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 2007/08 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 2007/08 in accordance with Sections 32 to 36 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992:-
 - (a) £647,337,997 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) £444,265,000 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

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- (c) £203,072,997 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) £109,573,615 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) £1,157.26 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) £344,708 being the aggregate amount of all special items referred to in Section 34(1) of the Act, each individual parish precept being:-
- | | |
|--------------|----------|
| Blackrod | £30,621 |
| Horwich | £178,000 |
| Westhoughton | £136,087 |
- (g) £1,152.99 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 | £1,171.29 |
| Parish of Horwich | £1,180.12 |
| Parish of Westhoughton | £1,170.79 |

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 | £780.86 | £786.75 | £780.53 | £768.66 |
| B | £911.00 | £917.87 | £910.61 | £896.77 |
| C | £1,041.15 | £1,049.00 | £1,040.70 | £1,024.88 |
| D | £1,171.29 | £1,180.12 | £1,170.79 | £1,152.99 |
| E | £1,431.58 | £1,442.37 | £1,430.97 | £1,409.21 |
| F | £1,691.86 | £1,704.62 | £1,691.14 | £1,665.43 |
| G | £1,952.15 | £1,966.87 | £1,951.32 | £1,921.65 |
| H | £2,342.58 | £2,360.24 | £2,341.58 | £2,305.98 |

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 2007/08 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 | £32.00 | £77.46 |
| B | £37.33 | £90.37 |
| C | £42.66 | £103.28 |
| D | £48.00 | £116.19 |
| E | £58.66 | £142.01 |
| F | £69.33 | £167.83 |
| G | £80.00 | £193.65 |
| H | £96.00 | £232.38 |

- (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 2007/08 for each of the categories of dwellings shown below:-

| <u>Part of the Council's Area</u> | | | | |
|-----------------------------------|-----------------|----------------|---------------------|----------------------------------|
| <u>Band</u> | <u>Blackrod</u> | <u>Horwich</u> | <u>Westhoughton</u> | <u>All Other</u> <u>Areas</u> |
| A | £890.32 | £896.21 | £889.99 | £878.12 |
| B | £1,038.70 | £1,045.57 | £1,038.31 | £1,024.47 |
| C | £1,187.09 | £1,194.94 | £1,186.64 | £1,170.82 |
| D | £1,335.48 | £1,344.31 | £1,334.98 | £1,317.18 |
| E | £1,632.25 | £1,643.04 | £1,631.64 | £1,609.88 |
| F | £1,929.02 | £1,941.78 | £1,928.30 | £1,902.59 |
| G | £2,225.80 | £2,240.52 | £2,224.97 | £2,195.30 |

| | | | | |
|---|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| H | £2,670.96 | £2,688.62 | £2,669.96 | £2,634.36 |
|---|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|

- (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 44.1p in the pound for the financial year 2007/08.
- (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 & Culture & Community Services | 22 nd January 2007 |
| Children's Services | 23 rd January 2007 |
| Corporate Strategy & Finance | 24 th January 2007 |
| Development & Regeneration | 22 nd January 2007 |
| Environmental Services, Recycling & Waste | 23 rd January 2007 |

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

| | |
|---------------------|-------------------------------|
| Adult Services | 6 th February 2007 |
| Children's Services | 1 st February 2007 |

| | |
|----------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Corporate Issues | 5 th February 2007 |
| Development & Regeneration | 29 th January 2007 |
| Environmental Services | 7 th February 2007 |

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

That the motion be amended by the addition of the following:-

“In approving the proposed level of Council Tax for 2007/08, Council:

- (a) notes that the level of grant received from Government was £9.5 million less than Bolton should have received under the Government’s own formula, and that this, following Bolton being similarly ‘short changed’ last year, was the major contributor to the severe cost savings, fee increases and service cuts that the Council has been forced to achieve this year;
- (b) resolves to review, as a matter of urgency, the senior staffing structure within the Children’s Services Department and to allocate any revenue savings within 2007/08 to an improvement in the remuneration paid to foster carers;
- (c) resolves not to approve the proposed one-off contingency of £350,000, but instead to allocate it as follows:
 - £150,000 as a further one-off resource to improve highways and footways in residential areas;
 - £200,000 as a one-off resource to Area Forums for environmental improvements, allocated on the basis of £10,000 per ward;
- (d) notes that during 2007/08 the Council is likely to receive a dividend from Manchester Airport, and that this is forecast to be in the region of £1.25 million. Subject to receipt of a significant dividend, Council resolves to allocate it as follows:

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- a further one-off resource of £600,000 to improve highways and footways in residential areas;
- a further £100,000 as a one-off resource to Area Forums for environmental improvements, allocated on the basis of £5,000 per ward;
- the remainder to be allocated to balances.

Although this resource is intended to be used during 2007/08, Council recognises that the actual date of receipt of the dividend may mean that there is some overrun.”

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

As a second amendment, it was moved by Councillor Rushton and seconded by Councillor Critchley -

That the motion be amended by the addition of the following:-

| | Description | Amount |
|----|--|---------------|
| 1. | Additional funding for Bolton Lads and Girls Club Mentoring Project – To assist with waiting lists to access the project. Outcomes: More youth intervention and mentoring | £50,000 |
| 2. | Additional funding for Adults Services to support and reduce the waiting lists for the Bolton Families Project. Outcomes: Reduce anti-social behaviour and increase support where it is most needed. | £50,000 |
| 3. | Increased funding for Highways to be spent via Area Forums. Outcomes: Improved highways/lighting schemes driven by ward priorities | £100,000 |
| 4. | Cancel the proposed increase to £15 from £10 for bulk waste collection. Outcomes: Less fly-tipping | £50,000 |

- | | | |
|----|--|---------|
| 5. | Additional funding of the Environmental Services Department for the resources to support Environmental Enforcement and Education Projects. Outcomes: A cleaner, brighter Bolton. | £50,000 |
| 6. | Continued funding of the Public Rights of Way Officer. Continuation of the development of the Bridleway network, the Public Rights of Way network and the resolution of claims for modification of the Definitive Map. It will also increase the Authority's ability to respond to complaints from footpath users and maintain the use of the public footpath network. | £30,000 |

| | |
|---------------------------|-----------------|
| Total Redirections | £330,000 |
|---------------------------|-----------------|

The above to be funded by utilising the contingency balance of £350,000

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

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

(Note Councillors Cox, Lever and White declared personal interests in the Bolton Lads and Girls Club proposal and Councillor Cox declared a personal interest in the proposal to increase funding for highways works)

(The meeting started at 7.00 p.m. and finished at 8.30 p.m.)