

BOLTON METROPOLITAN BOROUGH

2020/2021

17th FEBRUARY 2021

Present - Councillors Mrs. Thomas (Mayor), Mrs. Fairclough (Deputy Mayor), Abdullah, Adia, Allen, Ayub, Baines, Brady, Bullock, Connor, Cox, Cunliffe, Cunningham, Darvesh, Dean, Donaghy, Evans, Fletcher, Flitcroft, Galloway, Gibbon, Greenhalgh, Haslam, Hayes, Haworth, McMulkin, Heslop, Hewitt, Hornby, Ibrahim, Iqbal, Ismail, Khurram, McGeown, McKeon, Mistry, Morgan, Morris, Murray, Muslim, Newall, Parkinson, Pattison, Peel, Radcliffe, Sanders, Sherrington, Silvester, Veevers, Walsh, Warren, Watters, Weatherby, Wilkinson, Wright and Zaman.

58. IN MEMORIUM – CAPTAIN SIR TOM MOORE

Members observed a minutes silence in memory of Captain Sir Tom Moore who had sadly passed away.

59. MINUTES

The minutes of the proceedings of the meeting of the Council held on 13th January 2021 were submitted and signed as a correct record.

60. 2020/2021 BUDGET, COUNCIL TAX AND OTHER ASSOCIATED FINANCIAL MATTERS

It was moved by Councillor Greenhalgh and seconded by Councillor Cox -

- (i) That the following recommendations of the Cabinet on 8th February 2021 be approved:-
 - (a) The Council be recommended to approve the Budget for 2021/22

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- (b) That the council tax for 2021/22 be increased by 3.8% comprising
 - The Adult Social Care Precept at 2.5%
 - The general levy at 1.3%
 - (c) The Council be recommended to approve the Capital Programme and Strategy for 2021/22
 - (d) The Council be recommended to approve the Investment and Prudential Indicators and Treasury Strategies 2021/22 to 2023/24
- (ii) It be noted that on 11th January 2021 the Cabinet calculated
- (a) the Council Tax Base 2021/22 for the whole Council area as 76,281 (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	1,982	Band D equivalents
The Parish of Horwich	7,518	Band D equivalents
The Parish of Westhoughton	8,610	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 2021/22 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 2021/22 (excluding Parish precepts) is £120,050,560
- (iv) That the following amounts be calculated for the year 2021/22 in accordance with Sections 31 to 36 of the Act.

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|--------------|--------------|--|----------|---------|---------|----------|--------------|----------|
| (a) | £237,319,396 | 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) | £116,842,835 | being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 31A(3) of the Act. | | | | | | |
| (c) | £120,476,561 | 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) | £1,579.37 | 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) | £426,001.00 | <p>being the aggregate amount of all special items (Parish precepts) referred to in Section 34(1) of the Act, each individual parish precept being:</p> <table border="0" style="margin-left: 40px;"> <tr> <td>Blackrod</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£71,847</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Horwich</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£204,559</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Westhoughton</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£149,595</td> </tr> </table> | Blackrod | £71,847 | Horwich | £204,559 | Westhoughton | £149,595 |
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| Horwich | £204,559 | | | | | | | |
| Westhoughton | £149,595 | | | | | | | |
| (f) | £1,573.79 | 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 | | | | | | |

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Tax for the year for dwellings in those parts of its area to which no Parish precept relates.

(g)	Part of the Council's Area	Parish of Blackrod	£1,610.04
		Parish of Horwich	£1,601.00
		Parish of Westhoughton	£1,591.16

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.

(h) 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	£1,073.36	£1,067.33	£1,060.77	£1,049.19
B	£1,252.26	£1,245.23	£1,237.58	£1,224.07
C	£1,431.14	£1,423.11	£1,414.36	£1,398.92
D	£1,610.04	£1,601.00	£1,591.16	£1,573.79
E	£1,967.82	£1,956.77	£1,944.74	£1,923.51
F	£2,325.62	£2,312.56	£2,298.35	£2,273.26
G	£2,683.40	£2,668.33	£2,651.93	£2,622.98
H	£3,220.08	£3,202.00	£3,182.32	£3,147.58

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

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(v) That it be noted that for the year 2021/22 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	£60.63	£145.53
B	£70.73	£169.78
C	£80.84	£194.04
D	£90.95	£218.30
E	£111.16	£266.81
F	£131.37	£315.32
G	£151.58	£363.83
H	£181.90	£436.60

(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 2021/22 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	£1,279.52	£1,273.49	£1,266.93	£1,255.35
B	£1,492.77	£1,485.74	£1,478.09	£1,464.58
C	£1,706.02	£1,697.99	£1,689.24	£1,673.80
D	£1,919.29	£1,910.25	£1,900.41	£1,883.04
E	£2,345.79	£2,334.74	£2,322.71	£2,301.48
F	£2,772.31	£2,759.25	£2,745.04	£2,719.95
G	£3,198.81	£3,183.74	£3,167.34	£3,138.39

H	£3,838.58	£3,820.50	£3,800.82	£3,766.08
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(vii) That the Council's basic amount of Council Tax for 2021/22 at an increase of 3.80% 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 2021/22.

(x) That the Council's current policy in respect of discretionary relief for charitable organisations, as approved by the Cabinet on the 8th February 2021, 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 2021:

"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 of the budgets be noted:-

Corporate Cultural and External Issues 11th February 2021

Whereupon as an amendment, it was moved by Councillor Heslop and seconded by Councillor Pattison -

That if an individual Member agrees to forego all or part of their Basic and/or Special Allowance and makes this wish known at the beginning of the Municipal year, that the amount is released after each quarter to the area forum budget. The awarding of grants in respect of the enhanced area forum budget will be subject to the existing criteria and same decision-making process.

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

For the Amendment, 35 viz:

Councillors Baines, Brady, Bullock, Connor, Cox, Cunliffe, Cunningham, Dean, Mrs. Fairclough, Flitcroft, Galloway, Gibbon, Greenhalgh, Haslam, Hayes, Heslop, Hewitt, Hornby, Ismail, McGeown, McMulkin, Morgan, Muslim, Newall, Parkinson, Pattison, Radcliffe, Sanders, Veevers, Walsh, Warren, Watters, Weatherby, Wilkinson and Wright.

Against the Amendment, 21 viz:

Councillors Abdullah, Adia, Allen, Ayub, Darvesh, Donaghy, Evans, Fletcher, Haworth, Ibrahim, Iqbal, Khurram, McKeon, Mistry, Morris, Murray, Peel, Sherrington, Silvester, Mrs. Thomas and Zaman.

Abstained, 0

Whereupon, the amendment was declared carried.

Whereupon as an amendment to the substantive motion, it was moved by Councillor Hayes and seconded by Councillor Newall -

In considering this budget, Council:

1. Condemns the Government for
 - a) once again starving local government of the

resources needed to properly fund many essential services which again displays its contempt for local democracy;

- b) failing to honour its promise of reimbursing the Council in full for the costs incurred and income lost as a result of the Covid 19 pandemic; which together have been a major reason for the Council needing to make cuts this year amounting to nearly £32 million;

2. Notes that

- a) once again the Government has failed to keep its promise to develop a national scheme for social care with funding from national resources rather than expecting the Council Tax payers of Bolton to fund a considerable proportion of it;
- b) the Government has again failed to deliver on their promise made in 2016/17 of a Fair Funding review for local government, or on their promise of a business rates reset;

3. Recognises that whichever party or parties were in control of the administration, Bolton Council would be faced with a similar dilemma, but that it is preferable for decisions about our budget to be made by Bolton's elected representatives rather than by Government appointed commissioners;

4. Recognises that the additional capital made available for maintenance of residential roads was welcome, but that it made only a small impression on the estimated £100 million plus arrears backlog, and that the winter of 2020/21 will have caused further deterioration. Council accordingly strongly urges the Cabinet to find further sources of capital to continue with maintenance of residential roads.

5. Council wishes to record its thanks to all staff for their dedication during the period of the pandemic. In that context it wishes to also record its relief that the Cabinet has listened to strong pressure from the Liberal Democrat Group to remove the policy option which would have imposed a three day unpaid shutdown which would have been a pay cut for all employees.
6. Council puts on record that it considers that local government in general, and Bolton in particular has been treated despicably by the government in its lack of funding. We have been forced to cut services year on year for many years, and are now at the point where we believe that any further cuts will make it impossible for the Council to function in a way that we believe is acceptable, and the carrying out of even many statutory functions will be under threat.

Council resolves to convey this view 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.

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

For the Amendment, 35 viz:

Councillors Allen, Baines, Brady, Bullock, Connor, Cox, Cunliffe, Cunningham, Dean, Mrs. Fairclough, Flitcroft, Galloway, Gibbon, Greenhalgh, Haslam, Hayes, Heslop, Hewitt, Hornby, Ismail, McGeown, Morgan, Muslim, Newall, Parkinson, Pattison, Radcliffe, Sanders, Veevers, Walsh, Warren, Watters, Weatherby, Wilkinson and Wright.

Against the Amendment, 21 viz:

Councillors Abdullah, Adia, Ayub, Darvesh, Donaghy, Evans, Fletcher, Haworth, Ibrahim, Iqbal, Khurram,

McKeon, McMulkin, Mistry, Morris, Murray, Peel, Sherrington, Silvester, Mrs. Thomas and Zaman.

Abstained, 0

Whereupon, the amendment was declared carried.

Whereupon as a second amendment to the substantive motion, it was moved by Councillor Wilkinson and seconded by Councillor Veevers -

In considering the budget Council regrets that an opportunity to cut costs by reducing the number of Councillors as consistently proposed by the Liberal Democrat Group was not taken. Had other Groups supported a reduction, it is likely that the Boundary Commission would have accepted those arguments.

Council notes that

- a) the Liberal Democrats recommended a reduction of 10 Councillors which with on costs and changed electoral arrangements would have brought an annual saving of around £150,000;
- b) the two conservative parties (the Conservatives and Labour) opted for no change;
- c) the 'hyper local' parties both recommended an increase of 3 – meaning extra expenditure of around £50,000 a year ;
- d) one independent member opted for an increase of 9 – meaning an approximately £125,000 extra would have to be funded by the Council Tax payers of the Borough

To keep the number of Councillors the same at a time when the Council has lost many functions, the number of employees has reduced by over 40% and the revenue budget has suffered considerable reductions will be seen by many as not being justifiable.

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

For the Amendment, 6 viz:

Councillors Allen, Hayes, McGeown, Newall, Veevers and Wilkinson.

Against the Amendment, 50 viz:

Councillors Abdullah, Adia, Ayub, Baines, Brady, Bullock, Connor, Cox, Cunliffe, Cunningham, Darvesh, Dean, Donaghy, Evans, Mrs. Fairclough, Fletcher, Flitcroft, Galloway, Gibbon, Greenhalgh, Haslam, Haworth, Heslop, Hewitt, Hornby, Ibrahim, Iqbal, Ismail, Khurram, McKeon, McMulkin, Mistry, Morgan, Morris, Murray, Muslim, Parkinson, Pattison, Peel, Radcliffe, Sanders, Sherrington, Silvester, Mrs. Thomas, Walsh, Warren, Watters, Weatherby, Wright and Zaman.

Abstained, 0

Whereupon, the second amendment was declared lost.

Whereupon the original motion incorporating the amendments by Councillors Heslop and Hayes was then put to the meeting, when the voting for and against was as follows:-

For the Motion, 28 viz:

Councillors Baines, Brady, Bullock, Connor, Cox, Cunliffe, Cunningham, Dean, Mrs. Fairclough, Flitcroft, Galloway, Gibbon, Greenhalgh, Haslam, Heslop, Hewitt, Hornby, Morgan, Muslim, Parkinson, Pattison, Radcliffe, Sanders, Walsh, Warren, Watters, Weatherby and Wright.

Against the Motion, 22 viz:

Councillors Abdullah, Adia, Ayub, Darvesh, Donaghy, Evans, Fletcher, Haworth, Ibrahim, Iqbal, Ismail, Khurram,

McKeon, McMulkin, Mistry, Morris, Murray, Peel, Sherrington, Silvester, Mrs. Thomas and Zaman.

Abstained, 6 viz:

Councillors Allen, Hayes, McGeown, Newall, Veevers and Wilkinson.

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

61. LOCAL COUNCIL TAX SUPPORT SCHEME

It was moved by Councillor Greenhalgh and seconded by Councillor Cox -

To approve the proposals as detailed in the report in relation to the Local Council Tax Support Scheme with effect from 1st April, 2022.

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

For the Motion, 27 viz:

Councillors Allen, Baines, Brady, Bullock, Connor, Cox, Cunningham, Dean, Mrs. Fairclough, Flitcroft, Galloway, Gibbon, Greenhalgh, Haslam, Hewitt, Hornby, Morgan, Muslim, Parkinson, Pattison, Radcliffe, Sanders, Walsh, Warren, Watters, Weatherby and Wright.

Against the Motion, 5 viz:

Councillors Adia, Darvesh, Heslop, Ismail and McMulkin.

Abstained, 22 viz:

Councillors Abdullah, Ayub, Cunliffe, Donaghy, Evans, Fletcher, Hayes, Ibrahim, Iqbal, Khurram, McGeown, McKeon, Mistry, Morris, Murray, Newall, Peel, Sherrington, Silvester, Mrs. Thomas, Wilkinson and Zaman.

Whereupon, the motion was declared carried.

62. CHANGES IN COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP AND APPOINTMENTS TO OTHER BODIES

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

1. That Councillor Abdullah replace Councillor Ibrahim on the Children's Services Scrutiny Committee
2. That Councillor Ibrahim replace Councillor Abdullah on the Health Overview and Adult Services Scrutiny Committee
3. That the following members be appointed to the Constitutional Panel:-
 - Cllr Mrs. Fairclough
 - Cllr Morgan
 - Cllr Donaghy
 - Cllr Haworth
 - Cllr Murray
 - Cllr Brady
 - Cllr Pattison
 - Cllr Ismail
 - Cllr Allen
 - Cllr Newall
 - Cllr Hornby

63. PLANNING COMMITTEE

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

That the minutes of the proceedings of the meeting of the Planning Committee held 7th January and 4th February 2021 be approved.

64. SCRUTINY COMMITTEES

It was moved by Councillor Donaghy, seconded by Councillor Pattison and agreed –

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

Corporate and External Issues Scrutiny Committee –
11th February 2021

Children's Services Scrutiny Committee – 1st
February 2021

Health Overview and Adult Social Care Scrutiny – 3rd
February 2021

At this point, the Mayor advised that as the meeting had gone past the time limit of 10.30 p.m., the following Motions under Standing Order 4 would be deferred to the meeting of the Council on 17th March, 2021, viz:-

- Council Finances;
- Care Workers Pay;
- Community Speed Watch Initiatives;
- Climate and Ecological Emergency Bill; and
- Action Plan for Greater Manchester Police.

(The meeting started at 7.00 p.m. and finished at 11.00 p.m.)