

BOLTON METROPOLITAN BOROUGH

2008/2009

MEETING OF THE COUNCIL

25th FEBRUARY, 2009

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

70. MINUTES

The minutes of the proceedings of the meeting of the Council held on the 10th December, 2008 were submitted and signed as a correct record.

76. BUDGET 2009/2010: COUNCIL TAX 2009/2010: 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 13th February 2009 be approved:-
 - (a) the Revenue Budget for 2009/10;
 - (b) the Capital Programme for 2009/10; and
 - (c) the Investment and Prudential Indicators and Treasury Strategies 2009/10.

- (ii) That it be noted that, at its meeting on, 12th January 2009, the Executive calculated 82,206 Band D equivalents as its Council Tax base for the year 2009/10 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	1,671	Band D equivalents
The Parish of Horwich	6,698	Band D equivalents
The Parish of Westhoughton	7,954	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 2009/10 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 2009/10 in accordance with Sections 32 to 36 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992:-
- (a) £717,079,848 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) £494,396,000 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) £222,683,848 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) £123,829,909 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) £1,202.51 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) £1,197.96 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	£1,219.64
Parish of Horwich	£1,228.17
Parish of Westhoughton	£1,215.04

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	£813.09	£818.78	£810.03	£798.64
B	£948.61	£955.24	£945.03	£931.75
C	£1,084.12	£1,091.71	£1,080.04	£1,064.85
D	£1,219.64	£1,228.17	£1,215.04	£1,197.96
E	£1,490.67	£1,501.10	£1,485.05	£1,464.17
F	£1,761.70	£1,774.02	£1,755.06	£1,730.39
G	£2,032.73	£2,046.95	£2,025.07	£1,996.60
H	£2,439.28	£2,456.34	£2,430.08	£2,395.92

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 2009/10 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	£34.24	£89.51
B	£39.95	£104.42
C	£45.66	£119.34
D	£51.37	£134.26
E	£62.78	£164.10
F	£74.20	£193.93
G	£85.61	£223.77
H	£102.74	£268.52

- (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 2009/10 for each of the categories of dwellings shown below:-

- (i) Part of the Council's Area

<u>Valuation</u> <u>bands</u>	<u>Parish of</u> <u>Blackrod</u>	<u>Parish of</u> <u>Horwich</u>	<u>Parish of</u> <u>Westhoughton</u>
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				<u>All other parts of the Council's area</u>
	£	£	£	£
A	£936.84	£942.53	£933.78	£922.39
B	£1,092.98	£1,099.61	£1,089.40	£1,076.12
C	£1,249.12	£1,256.71	£1,245.04	£1,229.85
D	£1,405.27	£1,413.80	£1,400.67	£1,383.59
E	£1,717.55	£1,727.98	£1,711.93	£1,691.05
F	£2,029.83	£2,042.15	£2,023.19	£1,998.52
G	£2,342.11	£2,356.33	£2,334.45	£2,305.98
H	£2,810.54	£2,827.60	£2,801.34	£2,767.18

- (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 48.1p in the pound for small businesses and 48.5p in the pound for larger businesses for the financial year 2009/10.
- (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 Social Care	28th January 2009
Children's Services	26th January 2009
Corporate Resources	20th January 2009
Development ,Housing & Regeneration	19th January 2009
Environmental Services and Cleaner, Greener Safer	20th January 2009
Culture, Young People and Sport	19 th January 2009

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

Adult Services	10th February 2009
Children's Services Young People and Sport	12th February 2009
Corporate Issues	9th February 2009
Development & Regeneration	2nd February 2009
Environmental Services	11th February 2009

- (xiii) That the following suggestions of the Conservative Group be accepted:-

- (1) the consideration of appropriate events and initiatives in the future such as the recent economic summit to develop a partnership approach amongst relevant agencies to the global financial problems to support hard working families;
- (2) the use of the mobile library for mobile workshop debt advice targeted across the Borough and the consideration of other means the Council can help local people deal with the financial issues they may be facing;
- (3) the consideration of rent free / low rent access to industrial units;
- (4) support for local procurement and to hold further discussions on the proposed contractors framework at a suitable PDG;

- (5) the promotion of rate rebates to small businesses;
- (6) for the Leader of the Council to request, on behalf of the Council, that banks holding Council Loans and deposits confirm an ethical lending policy to support Bolton Businesses; and
- (7) to tackle town centre fly posting, grotspots and graffiti and to identify suitable funds

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

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

“Council recognises the real concern of residents at the state of the Borough’s roads and pavements, particularly those in residential areas, and at the current inability to recycle many forms of plastic other than bottles. Council also reaffirms its desire to encourage decision making at a local level.

“Accordingly, Council resolves to amend the Budget as follows:

- a) a sum of £100,000 (funded from the ongoing contingency) to be added to Area Forum budgets (on the basis of £5,000 per ward). This is a partial move towards mainstreaming this money as resolved last year;
- b) a further one-off sum of £200,000 to be added to Area Forum budgets (on the basis of £10,000 per ward) to ensure that total budgets available are the same as for 2008/09;
- c) a one-off sum of £500,000 to improve roads and pavements in residential areas;
- d) a one-off sum of £30,000 to be set aside for a possible extension to plastics recycling (yoghurt pots, margarine tubs, and similar rigid plastics) possibly by establishment of ‘bring centres’ until

such time as this is covered by the proposed GMWDA contract. The appropriate Policy Development Group be asked to urgently investigate how this might be done for one full year as a pilot, with further extension and funding dependent on the outcome of the pilot. If the PDG or Executive Member deems this not to be feasible, the one-off money set aside shall be added to that specified under paragraph c) above.

“It is intended that the one-off allocations referred to in b and d above will be funded from the one-off contingency. It is intended that the one-off allocation referred to in c above will be funded from the Manchester Airport dividend expected to be received later this year (approximately £950,000 is expected to be available from this source), with any residue being allocated to balances. Council recognises that the current international financial situation may mean that there are other urgent calls upon this money: if this becomes likely, or if receipts from the dividend are significantly lower than expected, discussions will be held with the mover and seconder of this Amendment at an early stage. Although this one-off allocation is intended for use during 2009/10 it is recognised that the date of receipt might inevitably mean some overrun into the following municipal year.

“Council reiterates its intention to mainstream Area Forum budgets and will attempt to incorporate all the £200,000 (item b above) – half in 2010/11 and half in 2011/12.

“At the time that the dividend from Manchester Airport is received, the appropriate Policy Development Group will be asked to consider how best the amount remaining after implementation of c) above can be used to stimulate the local economy, or whether it should be added to balances.

“Council recognises the extreme budget pressures on social care brought about by demographic changes,

higher levels of expectations and government policy, and resolves in principle to establish a form of zero based budgeting or similar technique as a pilot in a selected part of the social care areas of Adult Services to help develop a way forward. The Director of Corporate Resources is hereby asked to present a report to the Executive within three months to determine how this will be done.”

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 Shaw -

In accepting the difficulties caused by the recession, a situation which, as the Prime Minister admitted this week will “get even worse”, this Council agrees that long term planning is needed to reduce the impact of annual council tax rises. The agreement to begin the forward planning for 2010 is welcomed but the Council regrets the annual cuts in services and missed opportunities to lessen the impact for 2009/2010 which with a total payable is over 4% when the LGA reports that the average national rise is 3%

Accordingly Council agrees to implement a series of measures to address this in both the short and medium terms:

1. Members should give a lead and accept changes which will reduce the tax burden without cutting services to the public and therefore agree:

to cut members postage costs by requiring members to collect post when in the Town Hall so that postage becomes the exception not the rule;
to end the annual reception for Members and spouses; and

to end the provision of daily national newspapers for members giving estimated savings of £20,000.

2. Following the year-end report due at Corporate Scrutiny on publishing to reduce the number and frequency of publications and to end unnecessary publications, like the Bolton Calendar, with an initial target saving of £200,000.
3. To agree to freeze all non front-line vacancies for six months and to then subject them to a member review panel. If however line management determine that the vacancy should not be filled to allow a bid of up to 50% of the saving in year 1 and 25% in year 2 for service improvement.
4. To extend the review by External Issues Scrutiny Committee of grants to outside bodies to ensure best value, avoid duplication and thus target grant aid more specifically to the aims and aspirations of the Council.
5. Ensure that events promoted or supported by the Council are fully costed including all overheads and other expenses, and details, including other sources of funding used, are reported to the appropriate Executive Member.
6. Review funding to outside bodies like NWRA, AGMA and all other similar organisations.
7. Review the use of all assets, including not just land and property but vehicles, IT, furnishings and other equipment to ensure their proper use and that replacement takes place only when absolutely necessary.

By measures such as these this Council recognises and responds to the need to protect council tax-payers from the burdens of unnecessary taxation.

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.

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(The meeting started at 7.00 p.m. and finished at 8.25 p.m.)