

Bolton Council

Meeting of the Council 15th February, 2023 - Order of Business

1. Prayers
2. Mayor's Communications (if any)
3. Declarations of Interests
4. Proceedings of the Meeting of the Council held on 18th January, 2023.

Motions, amendments and questions of which notice has been given and items upon which comment will be made

Date and Time 2023	Page and Item Number	Amendment Motion, Question Or Comment	In the name of	Subject	Motion, Amendment or Question
5. BUDGET 2023/2024: COUNCIL TAX 2023/2024: AND OTHER ASSOCIATED FINANCIAL MATTERS (PLEASE SEE ATTACHED ADVICE FROM BOROUGH SOLICITOR) PLEASE NOTE THAT THE COUNCIL NOW HAS TO RECORD HOW MEMBERS VOTE WITH RESPECT TO THE MOTION AND AMENDMENTS RELATING TO THE BUDGET AND COUNCIL TAX 2023/2024					
8 th February, 2023	Council Summons	Motion	Councillor Cox	2023/24 Budget, Council Tax and Other Associated Financial Matters	See Council Summons for main motion
1 st February, 2023 21.51 p.m.	Council Summons	Amendment 1	Councillor Peel	2023/24 Budget, Council Tax and Other Associated Financial Matters	See attachment A

Date and Time 2023	Page and Item Number	Amendment Motion, Question Or Comment	In the name of	Subject	Motion, Amendment or Question
1 st February, 2023 21:52 p.m.	Council Summons	Amendment 2	Councillor Donaghy	2023/24 Budget, Council Tax and Other Associated Financial Matters	See attachment B
7 th February, 2023 11:18 a.m.	Council Summons	Amendment 3	Councillor Grant	2023/24 Budget, Council Tax and Other Associated Financial Matters	See attachment C
8 th February, 2023 22:20 p.m.	Council Summons	Amendment 4	Councillor Heslop	2023/24 Budget, Council Tax and Other Associated Financial Matters	See attachment D
13 th February, 2023 15:41 p.m.	Council Summons	Amendment 5	Councillor Hayes	2023/24 Budget, Council Tax and Other Associated Financial Matters	See attachment E
15 th February, 2023 10:16 a.m.	Council Summons	Amendment 6	Councillor D. Wilkinson	2023/24 Budget, Council Tax and Other Associated Financial Matters	See attachment F
6. Changes In Committee Membership and Appointments To Other Bodies That Councillor Allen be removed as a member of the Licensing and Environmental Regulation Committee					

Date and Time 2023	Page and Item Number	Amendment Motion, Question Or Comment	In the name of	Subject	Motion, Amendment or Question
7. Committee Proceedings					
Planning Committee Motion to be moved by Councillor Walsh (See Section D) .					
8. Scrutiny Committees Composite Motion to be moved by Councillor Donaghy					
(A) Corporate and External Issues Scrutiny Committee (See Section E)					
(B) Health Overview and Adult Social Care Scrutiny Committee (See Section F)					
(C) Children's Services Scrutiny Committee (See Section G)					

Date: 9th February 2023
Your Ref:
Our Ref: VR/JF
WP No:

Bolton Council

Chief Executive's Department
2nd Floor
Town Hall
Bolton
BL1 1RU

Members of the Council

Tel: 01204 333333

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Dear Member,

Budget Item – The Council

I enclose copies of the relevant reports which the Cabinet considered at its meeting on 6th February 2023.

The papers are for information and provide the background to the Cabinet's recommendations to the Council on 15th February 2023 with regard to the setting of the Budget and have been updated to take into account the recommendations of the Cabinet.

You have also been sent the Summons and Agenda for this meeting which details the motion to be moved by the Leader of the Council regarding the Budget.

The Borough Solicitor requests members note the following points with respect to procedure at the Budget Council meeting.

- (a) It will be necessary for the Council to come to a clear resolution as to the Budget and to set the Council Tax for 2023/2024.
- (b) In accordance with Standing Order 12, the 5 minute limit on speaking will not apply to the mover of a motion in relation to the Budget and the Mayor will allow the mover of each amendment to the Budget Motion to speak on the Budget for more than 5 minutes.
- (c) Any member intending to make any Budget proposal which differs from the propositions put forward on behalf of the Cabinet is encouraged first to discuss the proposals with the Borough Treasurer in order to ensure that any such alternative proposal is financially viable and robust.
- (d) Should it be necessary for the Borough Treasurer to consider and advise the Council on any proposal which is moved at the Council meeting, the Mayor will be recommended to adjourn the meeting for sufficient time to enable the Borough Treasurer to consider the proposal in order to be able to advise the Council accordingly.

Continued.....

Sue Johnson, Chief Executive

Bolton Blackrod Farnworth Horwich Kearsley Little Lever South Turton Westhoughton ...all in the family

- (e) Could members also note that under Section 106 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 you must make it known in the meeting of the Council if any payment and instalment of Council Tax which you are liable has been overdue for 2 months or more. Please note, it is a criminal offence to fail to comply with Section 106 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992.

If you are in any doubt as to your own position and would like some advice please contact Helen Gorman.

Yours sincerely

Vicky Ridge
Democratic Services Manager

Attachment A

Amendment in the name of Councillor Peel

Council Revenue And Capital Budget

This council recognises that since the start of austerity, council tax has increased year by year, whilst services have been cut, consequently people have not seen better services for higher payments.

The additional cash that would be raised in the proposed Council Tax rise of 3.99%, as in the Conservative motion, again leads to no improvement to services.

Council therefore resolves that this situation of declining services for higher payments is unsustainable, and that the General Levy of Council Tax be increased by 2.99% in order to specifically build back priority council services for the first time in 12 years. This would lead to additional income of £1.3 million.

Council resolves that a major priority for our borough is the epidemic of fly tips, dirty streets and lack of enforcement. Council further notes that since charges for rodent control were introduced, the number of services requests has reduced from nearly 5,000 to just 1,200, and that this has led to an out-of-control rat population.

Therefore:

£800,000 be allocated to environmental services for cleaner streets and fly tip enforcement. This new investment has been fully costed by officers and includes:

- The restoration of the Behaviour Change Teams, with enforcement powers
- The provision of new CCTV cameras to help tackle fly tips
- The restoration of the removal of fly tips from unadopted back streets
- Additional capacity into waste and neighbourhood services
- Additional focus of street sweeping and fly tip enforcement and removal in higher footfall areas, and areas of high demand
- The restoration of the street sweeping service between December and March
- The reemployment of at least 13 new officers to undertake these additional duties.

£50,000 to restore the free rodent control service. Council resolves that only by bringing back the popular free service, can we begin to resolve the rat epidemic in Bolton. Furthermore, a PDG will be established to look at resolving the issues of 'no show' appointments, education and repeat visits.

In addition.

The Cost of Living Crisis is causing real suffering for many families across our borough, therefore to provide further help:

An additional £200,000 be added to the councils Local Welfare Provision Scheme for help with household energy bills and the provision of essential household items.

£100,00 be invested in the Care and Repair Service to support older residents and those with a disability, with boiler repairs, servicing and replacements, as well as other gas and electrics works.

In addition.

That the overall cuts to Children's Services be reduced by £150,000, specifically under the 'vacancy management' option. This will allow essential posts to be retained, which will allow the service to better plan ahead for future years.

That in respect to the additional £1m one-off funds received for 2023/24:

That the Cabinet recommendation of £500,000 be allocated for environmental improvement and public safety schemes be not approved, and together with reference to the unallocated £500, 000, Council instead resolves to allocate the full £1 Million as follows:

1. £200,000 in order to: a) establish a new community hub base at Heaton Fold for all of the environmental based voluntary groups in the borough, b) to establish a fund to properly equip those voluntary groups c) the provision of skips for community clean up days. Council notes that this project has already been long campaigned for by our volunteers and has been fully costed by officers and would be known as Bolton Green Umbrella Centre.
2. £200,000 to be allocated towards a borough wide clean up operation, working with the voluntary sector, and other partners, in order to tackle the worse fly tip hot spots in all parts of the borough. Officers will devise a programme of projects, based upon existing enforcement data.
3. £400,000 to be allocated to a new borough wide Community Safety fund for capital schemes that will assist in the fight against crime and anti-social behaviour. Schemes would include, but are not exclusive to, new CCTV cameras, ginnel gating, new street lighting in poorly lit residential areas, and 'target hardening' grants to households, for new locks, security lights etc. Officers will devise a programme of projects, based upon police data and ward members' support.
4. £200,000 for additional investment and maintenance into parks, recreational land and play areas across the borough. Officers will devise a programme of projects, based upon condition surveys of existing facilities.

Attachment B

Amendment in the name of Councillor Donaghy

Council Capital Budget

That in respect to the additional £1m one-off funds received for 2023/24:

That the Cabinet recommendation of £500,000 be allocated for environmental improvement and public safety schemes be not approved, and together with reference to the unallocated £500, 000, Council instead resolves to allocate the full £1 Million as follows:

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4. £200,000 for additional investment and maintenance into parks, recreational land and play areas across the borough. Officers will devise a programme of projects, based upon condition surveys of existing facilities.

Attachment C

Amendment in the name of Councillor Grant

The attached is a joint amendment in the name of Horwich & Blackrod First Independents, Farnworth & Kearsley First and Little Lever & Darcy Lever First.

1. Council rejects the Cabinet recommendation which seeks to allocate £500k from the Greater Manchester Waste Disposal Authority rebate for environmental improvement and public safety schemes.
 2. The council agrees that this £500k along with the further unallocated £500k from GMWDA, totalling £1million, should be split equitably and £50k be allocated to all wards for environmental improvements, community and public safety schemes. For example:
 - . Alley gating schemes
 - . Refurbishment of parks and community open spaces
 - . Planting of trees and other environmentally beneficial schemes
 - . Highways improvements and road safety schemes
- Ward Members are encouraged to use their creativity for the benefit of their communities.
3. Ward councillors will determine how their ward's £50k will be spent, and in consultation with town councils, where one exists.
 4. The one-off funds must be separate to the new Community Alliance funding; however, ward members can determine a level of contribution.
 5. Where a town council identifies a project for improvement, ward members can decide to contribute from these one-off monies, however town councils would be expected to match fund any agreed project.

Attachment D

Amendment in the name of Councillor Heslop

The town of Kearsley including the three villages of Stoneclough, Prestolee and Ringley has without doubt suffered more than any of the former Urban District Councils – UDC's - that were forced into Bolton Council control under the Local Government Act 1972.

Kearsley and villages' assets have been stripped by successive administrations at Bolton Council that has included the sale of Kearsley's Town Hall – which subsequently burned down following its purchase by developers, the demolition Kearsley's civic hall, the removal of sports facilities and the closure and demolition of Kearsley's library.

More recently, this council closed Kearsley's Children's Centre, leased the building out to a third party and has lost the lease terms that detailed residual use for the community. In the villages, a community centre that was attached to a primary school in Prestolee has been lost because the school converted to Academy Status and again there are no clear terms for local use of the Community Centre. Yards away, one of the last remaining Council-owned buildings in the ward of Kearsley has been put on the administration's SAMP with the aim of seeking a Community Asset Transfer – CAT.

This Council continues to sell off Kearsley's assets in addition to – in 2017 - putting its residents in debt by £4.3 million to fund the Bolton Masterplan.

Other former UDC's have received funding amounting to at least £3 million yet Kearsley has only received around £160,000.

Despite having a population of more than 12,000, Kearsley and villages does not have a single community facility.

This Council agrees that Kearsley has clearly been left behind and that it is now time to restore some of the facilities that have been previously removed.

This Council agrees that the £1 million available capital that has recently been identified should be earmarked for a community hub/library in Kearsley.

Attachment E

Amendment in the name of Councillor Hayes

In considering the budget, Council takes into account its view that;

- The Conservative Government has continued with what appears to be a deliberate policy of undermining and under funding local government. Since 2010/11 reductions in Government funding have forced Bolton to make cuts of over £220 million;
- Despite the best efforts of dedicated employees, most services are far below an acceptable level, and this budget will see them deteriorate further;
- Use of reserves to balance this year's budget will mean cuts next year will need to be greater than would otherwise be the case;
- The Conservative Government, despite promises over many years, has once again failed to design a satisfactory scheme for funding Adult Social Care and is expecting local Council Tax payers to continue to fund a considerable proportion of this;
- The Conservative Government has again failed to deliver its promised Fair Funding Review first promised in the 2016/17 finance settlement, or the proposed Business Rates reset which was due to be implemented in 2020/21;

Council also considers that the short lived Truss/Kwarteng Conservative administration totally trashed the nation's economy and greatly added to the inflationary pressures faced by this Council.

Council cannot continue to justify presiding over such a poor level of service to its residents and resolves to instruct the local Conservative administration to urgently seek increased resources from the Conservative Government. Council resolves to ask the Borough's Members of Parliament for their support.

Attachment F

Amendment in the name of Councillor D. Wilkinson

Council welcomes the return to this Council of £1 million of balances from the Greater Manchester Waste Disposal Authority.

Council believes that this 'windfall' should be used to benefit all the Borough, and that it is inappropriate to use it as inducements to other political groups to support the Conservative Group's budget.

Accordingly, Council resolves that in the current financial situation this amount should be used as a rebate to Council Tax payers which will be equivalent to a Council Tax reduction of approximately 0.77%.