

Bolton Council

Meeting of the Council 17th February, 2021 - 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 13th January, 2021.

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

Date and Time 2021	Page and Item Number	Amendment Motion, Question Or Comment	In the name of	Subject	Motion, Amendment or Question
5. BUDGET 2021/2022: COUNCIL TAX 2021/2022: 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 2021/2022					
10 th February, 2021	Council Summons	Motion	Councillor Greenhalgh	2021/22 Budget, Council Tax and Other Associated Financial Matters	See Council Summons for main motion

Date and Time 2021	Page and Item Number	Amendment Motion, Question Or Comment	In the name of	Subject	Motion, Amendment or Question
31 st January, 2021 12.53 p.m.	Council Summons	Amendment 1	Councillor Heslop	2021/22 Budget, Council Tax and Other Associated Financial Matters	See attachment A
9 th February, 2021 17.15 p.m.	Council Summons	Amendment 2	Councillor Hayes	2021/22 Budget, Council Tax and Other Associated Financial Matters	See attachment B
10 th February, 2021 13.47 p.m.	Council Summons	Amendment 3	Councillor Wilkinson	2021/22 Budget, Council Tax and Other Associated Financial Matters	See attachment C
6. Recommendation to Council					
10 th February, 2021	Council Summons	Motion	Councillor Greenhalgh	Local Council Tax Support Scheme	That the proposals as detailed in the report in relation to the Local Council Tax Support Scheme be approved with effect from 1 st April, 2022

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<p>7. Changes In Committee Membership and Appointments To Other Bodies</p> <p>Motion to be moved by Councillor Dean:-</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 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:- <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cllr Mrs. Fairclough • Cllr Morgan • Cllr Donaghy • Cllr Haworth • Cllr Murray • Cllr Newall • Cllr Pattison • Cllr Ismail • Cllr Allen • Cllr Brady • Cllr Hornby 					

Date and Time 2021	Page and Item Number	Amendment Motion, Question Or Comment	In the name of	Subject	Motion, Amendment or Question
8. Committee Proceedings					
Planning Committee					
Motion to be moved by Councillor Walsh (See Section D).					
9. Scrutiny Committees					
Composite Motion to be moved by Councillor Donaghy					
(A) Corporate and External Issues Scrutiny Committee (See Section E)					
(B) Children's Services and Culture Scrutiny Committee (See Section F)					
(C) Health Overview and Adult Social Care Scrutiny Committee (See Section G)					
10. Motions under Standing Order No 4					
(a) Council Finances					
Motion to be moved by Councillor Peel					
(b) Care Workers Pay					
Motion to be moved by Councillor Sherrington					

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(c)		Community Speed Watch Initiatives Motion to be moved by Councillor Murray			
(d)		Climate and Ecological Emergency Bill Motion to be moved by Councillor McKeon			
(e)		Action Plan for Greater Manchester Police Councillor Hayes			

Attachment A

Amendment in the name of Councillor Heslop

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.

Attachment B

Amendment in the name of Councillor Hayes

“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.”

Attachment C

Amendment in the name of Councillor Wilkinson

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.

Date: 10th February 2021
Your Ref:
Our Ref: VR/JF
WP No:

Bolton Council

Chief Executive's Department
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BL1 1RU

Members of the Council

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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 8th February 2021.

The papers are for information and provide the background to the Cabinet's recommendations to the Council on 17th February 2021 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 2021/2022.
- (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 Deputy Chief Executive in order to ensure that any such alternative proposal is financially viable and robust.
- (d) Should it be necessary for the Deputy Chief Executive 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 Deputy Chief Executive to consider the proposal in order to be able to advise the Council accordingly.

Continued.....

Tony Oakman, 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

Tony Oakman, Chief Executive

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