

MINUTES of the COUNCIL MEETING of the
SOUTH DERBYSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL
held at the Council Chamber, Swadlincote
on Wednesday, 23rd February 2022
at 6.00pm

PRESENT:

Labour Group

Councillor Gee (Chair) and Councillor Dunn (Vice-Chair) and Councillors Bambrick, Heath, Mulgrew, Pearson, Rhind, Richards, Singh, Southerd, Stuart, Taylor and Tilley.

Conservative Group

Councillors Ackroyd, Atkin, Bridgen, Brown, Corbin, Ford, Haines, Hewlett, Lemmon, Muller, Patten and Redfern.

Independent Group

Councillors Angliss.

Non-Grouped

Councillor Wheelton

CL/105 **APOLOGIES**

Council was informed that apologies for absence had been received from Councillors Pegg and Shepherd (Labour Group), Councillors Smith and Watson (Conservative Group), Councillors Dawson, Fitzpatrick MacPherson and Roberts (Independent Group) and Councillor Churchill (Non-Grouped)

CL/106 **TO CONFIRM THE OPEN MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETINGS**

The Open Minutes of the Council Meetings held on the 20th January 2022 (CL/84-CL/104) were approved as a true record and signed by the Chair of the Council.

CL/107 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Council was informed that no declarations of interest had been received

CL/108 **ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE CHAIR**

The Chair of the Council addressed Members informing them of his visits to the Rosliston Forestry Centre the Japanese School of Etwall and the Derbyshire Swimming Championships.

CL/109 **ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE LEADER**

The Leader of the Council informed Council of his visit to the Rosliston Forestry Centre with the Chair of Council and highlighted the Energy Road Show in March.

CL/110 **ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE HEAD OF PAID SERVICE**

The Head of Paid Service informed the Council that following approval at Finance and Management Committee the in principal Freeport Full Business Case had been submitted.

CL/111 **QUESTIONS BY MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC PURSUANT TO COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULE NO. 10**

Council was informed that no questions had been received.

CL/112 **QUESTIONS BY MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL PURSUANT TO COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULE NO. 11**

Council was informed that no questions had been received

CL/113 **TO CONSIDER ANY NOTICES OF MOTION**

Council was informed that no questions had been received

CL/114 **SOCIAL HOUSING DECARBONISATION GRANT**

The Head of Housing presented the report to Council that had been approved at both Housing and Community Services and Finance and Management Committees. Members were informed that the bid had been accepted and requested that Council approved the recommendations. The Head of Housing outlined the Memorandum of Understanding and summarised the proposed works to be undertaken

Councillor Taylor referenced the intention to reduce fuel poverty and requested that the installation of new equipment and changes heating systems do delivery savings for residents.

The Head of Housing ensured that these would be an advantage to residents.

RESOLVED:

1.1 Council approved acceptance of the Social Housing Decarbonisation Grant of £1,099,835

1.2 Council authorised the Chief Executive and Strategic Director (Corporate Resources) to sign the declarations.

CL/115 PROPOSED REVISED COUNCIL TAX REDUCTION SCHEME 2022 – 2023 & CONSULTATION FEEDBACK

The Strategic Director (Corporate Resources) presented the report to Council had been approved by Finance and Management Committee. It was noted that the banded scheme would be more efficient and would support families on low incomes and explained that the removal of the baseline meant that more households would not pay any Council Tax.

Councillor Pearson informed the Council that the scheme had been considered at length by Finance and Management over a number of months and was satisfied of the benefit to residents and to the Council.

RESOLVED:

- 1.1 Further to the recommendation of the Finance & Management Committee, Full Council supported the adoption of a revised Council Tax Reduction Scheme for working-age residents for 2022/2023 to include:**
 - **The introduction of a banded scheme.**
 - **The removal of the baseline, so those on the lowest incomes would no longer need to pay 8.5% or 10% towards their Council Tax.**
 - **The removal of second adult rebate.**
 - **The introduction of a standard £5 non-dependent deduction.**
 - **The treating of Universal Credit claims as a claim for council tax support.**
 - **The introduction of a minimum award.**
 - **Changes to bring the scheme into line with recent changes to other welfare benefits.**
- 1.2 Full Council approved the draft council tax regulations that would support the delivery of the proposed new scheme.**
- 1.3 Full Council delegated authority to the Council's Section 151 Officer to approve the final council tax regulations.**
- 1.4 Full Council approved the transfer of £20,000 Welfare Reform Funding to support any hardship cases that may arise as a result of the implementation of the proposed changes in 2022/2023.**
- 1.5 Full Council noted the consultation activity carried out in relation to the proposed new scheme.**

CL/116 CAPITAL STRATEGY 2021-22 TO 2026-27

The Strategic Director (Corporate Resources) presented the report to Council and highlighted how capital expenditure would be dealt with and how it crossed over with Treasury Management.

RESOLVED:

Council approved the proposed Capital Strategy 2021/22 to 2026/27 as detailed in Appendix 1 of the report.

CL/117 TREASURY MANAGEMENT STRATEGY AND PRUDENTIAL INDICATORS 2022-23

The Strategic Director (Corporate Resources) presented the report to Council and outlined the management of investments and borrowing limits used on a daily basis.

RESOLVED:

- 1.1 Council approved the Treasury Management Strategy for 2022/23 as per Appendix 1 of the report.***
- 1.2 Council approved the Prudential Indicators and Limits for 2022/23 – 2026/27 as per Appendix 2 of the report.***
- 1.3 Council approved the Investment Policy for 2022/23 including the associated counterparty (lending) list as per Appendix 3 of the report.***

CL/118 ANNUAL REPORT OF THE SECTION 151 OFFICER

The Strategic Director (Corporate Resources) presented the annual report to Council which contained the overall view of the Council's future financial position within Housing and General Funding. It was noted that the Housing Revenue Account was in a good position with money set aside for debt repayments and that the risk with the Careline Service due to County Council's funding withdrawal would be covered by the rent increase in 2023/24. It was also noted that the General Fund was in a good position but it was noted that expenditure was expected to grow and that the overall income forecast midterm, which was the worst case scenario, turned out to be a realistic position due to the New Homes Bonus funding regime. The Strategic Director (Corporate Resources) informed Members that whilst trying to guard against the impact of the changes to the funding scheme there was no replacement expected and that whilst 2023/24 should not be a problem but as it continued reserves may run out. It was noted that savings would be made wherever possible but the reduction in services would not be considered.

RESOLVED:

- 1.1 Council considered and noted the Annual Report of the Section 151 Officer.***

- 1.2 Members noted that the Council had due regard to the Annual Report when approving the Budget for 2022/23 and when considering future proposals for new spending and the utilisation of resources.**
- 1.3 Council approved that no new spending commitments be added to the Base Budget and Medium-Term Financial Plan approved by the Finance and Management Committee on 10 February 2022.**
- 1.4 Council approved that the Medium-Term Financial Plan continued to be reviewed and updated on a quarterly basis.**

CL/119 **BUDGET AND COUNCIL TAX SETTING 2022-23**

The Leader of the Council addressed Members regarding the recommendations that had been approved by Finance and Management Committee.

The Leader noted how the Council had distributed Business Grants, food parcels, delivered events to aid recovery following the impact of Covid-19 Pandemic and that even though it continued to impact the way staff worked, service delivery remained at the heart of the Council and thanked officers for their hard work.

The Leader stressed that whilst the Council had benefited from a healthy financial position there were uncertain economic times ahead with spending expected to increase substantially over the next 5 years and there was a necessity to plan for the future setting aside reserves to ensure there would be no cuts to Council services.

It was noted that the Council Tax increase of 2.95% (£4.95) for Band D for 2022/23 was agreed by Finance and Management Committee following the careful consideration of several options.

The Strategic Director (Corporate Resources) presented the report to Council

Councillor Bridgen supported the Leaders comments and thanked Chief Executive and the Section 151 Officer.

RESOLVED:

- 1.1 Members approved the Council's Budget for 2022/23, as detailed in Appendices 1 to 3 of the report.**
- 1.2 Members approved the Council's Medium-Term Financial Plan for the period 2022/23 to 2026/27, as detailed in Appendix 4 of the report approved.**
- 1.3 Members approved the Council Tax resolutions for 2022/23 as detailed in Appendix 5 of the report, including the accompanying Schedules A to C of the report.**

As required by the Council's Procedure Rules a recorded vote was taken:

The Members who voted in favour of the resolution above were:

Councillors Ackroyd, Angliss, Atkin, Bambrick, Bridgen, Brown, Corbin, Dunn, Ford, Gee, Haines, Heath, Hewlett, Lemmon, Mulgrew, Muller, Patten, Pearson, Redfern, Rhind, Richards, Singh, Southerd, Stuart, Taylor, Tilley and Wheelton.

CL/120 **To note the Open Minutes of the South Derbyshire Community Meetings**

The Council noted the Open Minutes of the South Derbyshire Committee Etwall - Area 1 held on the 14th December 2021.

CL/121 **TO RECEIVE AND CONSIDER THE OPEN MINUTES OF THE FOLLOWING COMMITTEE MEETINGS:**

Committee	Date	Minutes No's
Etwall Joint Management Committee	12.01.22	EL/07 to EL/13

RESOLVED:

That the above Committee Meetings Open Minutes were received and approved as a true record.

CL/122 **TO REVIEW THE COMPOSITIONS OF COMMITTEES, SUB-COMMITTEES, AND WORKING PANELS**

The Members reviewed the composition of Committees, Sub-Committees and Working Panels 2021-22

RESOLVED:

Council was informed no amendments were to be made.

CL/123 **TO REVIEW THE COMPOSITIONS OF THE SUBSTITUTE PANELS**

The Members reviewed the composition of Substitute Panels 2021-22

RESOLVED:

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Council was informed no amendments were to be made.

CL/124 **TO REVIEW REPRESENTATION ON OUTSIDE BODIES**

Members reviewed the Outside Bodies representation list.

RESOLVED:

Council was informed no amendments were to be made.

CL/125 **TO REVIEW MEMBER CHAMPIONS**

Members reviewed the Representation of Member Champions.

RESOLVED:

Council was informed no amendments were to be made.

CL/126 **LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972 (AS AMENDED BY THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT [ACCESS TO INFORMATION] ACT 1985)**

RESOLVED:

That in accordance with Section 100(A)(4) of the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended) the press and public be excluded from the remainder of the Meeting for the following items of business on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined under the paragraphs of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Act as indicated in the reports of Committees.

CL/127 **EXEMPT QUESTIONS BY MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL PURSUANT TO COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULE NUMBER 11**

Council was informed that no questions had been received.

The meeting terminated at 18:45hrs

COUNCILLOR M GEE

CHAIR OF THE DISTRICT COUNCIL