

Full Council

Minutes of meeting held in Court Room at Eastbourne Town Hall, Grove Road, BN21 4UG on 22 February 2023 at 6.00 pm.

Present:

Councillor Pat Rodohan (Mayor).

Councillors Josh Babarinde, Margaret Bannister, Colin Belsey, Penny di Cara, Peter Diplock, Jonathan Dow, Tony Freebody, Stephen Holt, Jane Lamb, Robin Maxted, Amanda Morris, Colin Murdoch, Jim Murray, Hugh Parker, Kshama Shore, Alan Shuttleworth, Robert Smart, Colin Swansborough, Barry Taylor, David Tutt and Steve Wallis.

Officers in attendance:

Robert Cottrill (Chief Executive), Homira Javadi (Director of Finance and Performance (Chief Finance Officer)), Sarah Lawrence (Committee Team Manager), Simon Russell (Head of Democratic Services), Kate Slattery (Solicitor), Ian Fitzpatrick (Deputy Chief Executive and Director of Regeneration and Planning) and Tim Whelan (Director of Service Delivery).

47 Minute of Silence

The Council held a minute of silence for the earthquake victims of Turkey and Syria. The Mayor sent sympathy to those living in Eastbourne and beyond, in particular those who were Turkish or Syrian, who had lost family in the earthquake.

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48 Minutes of the meeting held on 16 November 2022

The Council considered the minutes of the meeting held on 18 November 2022 for approval. Councillor Smart asked for an amendment to the Minute 45(2), to include the addition of 'but they are only a starting point' in relation to the record on his statement on Eastbourne Local Plan Growth Strategy Consultation.

This amendment was approved by the Council.

RESOLVED (unanimously) – That the minutes of the meeting of Full Council of

16 November 2022 be approved and signed as a correct record, subject to the insertion of the words 'but they are only a starting point' into minute 45(2) so that the sentence would read:

“Councillor Smart advised that he shared the Leader’s concerns that the housing numbers were flawed, *but they are only a starting point*, and that he would have wished to see the consultation started earlier and would like to see greater emphasis on employment sites”.

49 Declarations of disclosable pecuniary interests (DPIs) by members as required under Section 31 of the Localism Act and of other interests as required by the Code of Conduct (please see note at end of agenda).

During the discussion on item 'Council Budget and Setting of the Council Tax for 2023/24', Councillor Babarinde declared a personal interest as a Trustee of The Towner, as this was mentioned in the discussion of the Capital Programme.

50 Mayor's announcements.

The Mayor drew Members’ attention to the list of his and the Deputy Mayor’s activities from November 2022 to February 2023.

51 Notification of apologies for absence.

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Sammy Choudhury, Md. Hurun Miah, Candy Vaughan and Rebecca Whippy.

52 Public right of address.

The Mayor confirmed that three members of the public had requested to speak, and would be called on to speak at the start of the relevant agenda item:

- David Everson (Chair of Eastbourne EcoAction Network Transport Group) and Christina Ewbank (Eastbourne Chamber of Commerce) had registered to speak on Agenda Item 7d – Scrutiny of Gatwick Airport’s Carbon Neutral Accreditation.
- Fiona Mullen (Royal Parade Against Fisherman's Green Seafront Housing Development Group, and originator of the petition in relation to Fisherman's Green) had registered to speak on Agenda Item 10a – Eastbourne Local Plan – Projecting our Green and Leisure Spaces.

53 Order of business.

The Mayor advised that he would be changing the order of business to take first the items with public speakers and attendees, as follows:

- Agenda Item 10a – Eastbourne Local Plan – Protecting our Green and Leisure Spaces.

- Agenda Item 7d – Scrutiny of Gatwick Airport’s Carbon Neutral Accreditation (response to Council Motion)

Then all remaining items would be taken in the order as set out on the agenda.

54 Motion:

54a Eastbourne Local Plan - Protecting our Green and Leisure Spaces.

Councillor Holt moved and Councillor Shuttleworth seconded an altered motion in relation to Eastbourne Local Plan – Protecting our Green and Leisure Spaces. Under section 13.4 of the Constitution, the Council gave its consent to a revised motion being tabled as follows:

“This Council notes:

- That the Government requires a Local Plan to be produced.
- The Government states that Planning Officers have to identify what could be considered viable to the point which meets Government Housing Targets.
- For Eastbourne, this means 738 homes a year - which with the sea and National Park is unrealistic.
- Our leisure and green spaces are critical to our tourist economy and local residents’ livelihoods and well being.
- That there is a need to build more houses in light of a housing crisis.
- That over 4,500 objections have been made to the Local Plan’s identification of Fisherman’s Green, including by Eastbourne Borough Council Leader Councillor David Tutt.

This Council:

- Thanks those residents who have lodged their own objections, showing the strength of local support to protect valuable green and leisure spaces which have added weight to our own evidence.
- Welcomes the statement made by Rt Hon Michael Gove in the House of Commons that “Eastbourne Borough Council can remove Fisherman’s Green from the Local Plan without incurring any sanctions”
- Recognises that by implication this statement means that Local Authorities are at liberty to remove any sensitive sites from their Local Plan without incurring any sanctions.
- That in light of this change in the position of Government this Council resolves to withdraw Fisherman’s Green from the draft Local Plan and recommend to Cabinet withdrawing other sensitive sites. “

Councillor Smart moved and Councillor di Cara seconded an amendment to the motion, so that the motion would read as follows:

“This Council notes:

- That the Government requires a Local Plan to be produced.
- Our leisure and green spaces are critical to our tourist economy and local residents’ livelihoods and wellbeing.
- That there is a need to build more houses in light of a housing crisis.
- That over 4,500 objections have been made to the Local Plan’s identification of Fisherman’s Green.

This Council:

- Thanks those residents who have lodged their own objections, showing the strength of local support to protect valuable green and leisure spaces.
- Thanks the Secretary of State for confirming that the decision to develop Fisherman's Green is the Council's alone."

The public speaker, Fiona Mullen (Royal Parade Against Fisherman's Green Seafront Housing Development Group, and originator of the petition in relation to Fisherman's Green) spoke in relation to the matter for 3 minutes.

The Council debated the motion and the amendment together.

The amendment proposed by Councillor Smart was put to a vote and lost by 7 for, 13 against, with 2 abstentions.

The altered motion as proposed by Councillor Holt was put to a vote and carried by 14 votes for, 0 against, with 8 abstentions.

RESOLVED (by 14 to 0 with 8 abstentions) that:

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- The Government states that Planning Officers have to identify what could be considered viable to the point which meets Government Housing Targets.
- For Eastbourne, this means 738 homes a year - which with the sea and National Park is unrealistic.
- Our leisure and green spaces are critical to our tourist economy and local residents' livelihoods and well being.
- That there is a need to build more houses in light of a housing crisis.
- That over 4,500 objections have been made to the Local Plan's identification of Fisherman's Green, including by Eastbourne Borough Council Leader Councillor David Tutt.

This Council:

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- Welcomes the statement made by Rt Hon Michael Gove in the House of Commons that "Eastbourne Borough Council can remove Fisherman's Green from the Local Plan without incurring any sanctions"
- Recognises that by implication this statement means that Local Authorities are at liberty to remove any sensitive sites from their Local Plan without incurring any sanctions.
- That in light of this change in the position of Government this Council resolves to withdraw Fisherman's Green from the draft Local Plan and recommend to Cabinet withdrawing other sensitive sites.

55 Matter referred from Cabinet, Committees and other Council Bodies:**55a Scrutiny of Gatwick Airport's Carbon Neutral Accreditation (response to Council Motion)**

Councillor Shore moved and Councillor Lamb seconded the recommendations of the Scrutiny Committee held on 6 February, in relation to the Scrutiny of Gatwick Airport's Carbon Neutral accreditation and the effect of the development of the Northern Runway on Eastbourne Borough Council's Carbon Neutral pledge for 2030. This had been referred to the Committee for consideration following a motion to Full Council on 22 July 2022.

The public speakers, David Everson (Chair of Eastbourne EcoAction Network Transport Group) and Christina Ewbank (Eastbourne Chamber of Commerce) each spoke for 3 minutes on this item.

The Members discussed the recommendation of the Scrutiny Committee, and the representations made by the public speakers. There were different views as to whether the recommendations were appropriate, in the context of the Council's declaration of a Climate Emergency, potential financial benefits to the local economy of the use of the northern runway, and whether or not Gatwick Airport could achieve carbon neutrality across scope 3 emissions.

The recommendations were put to a vote and carried.

RESOLVED (by 12 votes for, 8 against, and 2 abstentions) that:

1. The Council makes any support for Gatwick Airport's Northern Runway Project conditional on Gatwick Airport's production and pursuit of a credible plan, in partnership with its Scope 3 stakeholders, to work towards carbon neutrality across its Scope 3 emissions by 2030; and
2. The Council calls on any Government to mandate a faster transition to low-carbon aircraft fuels, and to provide meaningful support to the fuel industry, airlines, manufacturers and other aviation industry stakeholders to achieve this.

56 Other Matters referred from Cabinet, Committees and other Council Bodies:**56a Council Budget and Setting of the Council Tax for 2023/24.**

Councillor Holt moved and Councillor Tutt seconded the recommendations set out in the agenda in relation to the Council Budget and setting of the Council Tax for 2023/24. This incorporated recommendations from Cabinet on 8 February 2023 regarding the General Fund Revenue Budget 2023/24 and Capital Programme, Treasury Management and Prudential Indicators 2023/24, Capital Strategy and Investment Strategy and Housing Revenue Account (HRA) Revenue Budget and Rent Setting 2023/24 and HRA Capital Programme 2023-26.

Councillor Smart moved and Councillor Shore seconded the following amendment as set out in an addendum tabled at the meeting:

“That the budget and council tax recommendations for 2023/24 are as set out in the report subject to the following amendment:

To reduce external debt through receipts from a more realistic approach to capital disposals as recommended by the CIPFA External Financial Review.”

Councillor Holt then presented the budget proposals which included a recommended 2.99% increase and set the context for these proposals in terms of funding and priorities, as well as the help that was available to those who were struggling with the cost of living.

Councillor Smart then spoke to his amendment and on behalf of the opposition in response to the budget and set out why he considered that additional focus on capital disposals was required.

The Council debated the budget and amendment together.

Prior to the Council was moving the vote, Councillor Smart and then Councillor Holt were given the opportunity to sum up.

The Mayor highlighted that it was required by legislation that all votes on the budget were recorded votes.

The amendment was then put to a vote and was lost, with the following votes recorded:

For: Councillors Belsey, di Cara, Lamb, Murdoch, Shore, Smart and Taylor (7)

Against: Councillors Babarinde, Bannister, Diplock, Dow, Freebody, Holt, Maxted, Morris, Murray, Parker, Rodohan, Shuttleworth, Swansborough, Tutt, and Wallis (15).

Abstentions: None

The original proposals on the budget were then put to a vote and were carried, with the following votes recorded:

For: Councillors Babarinde, Bannister, Diplock, Dow, Holt, Maxted, Morris, Murray, Parker, Rodohan, Shuttleworth, Swansborough, Tutt, and Wallis. (14)

Against: Councillors Belsey, di Cara, Lamb, Murdoch, Shore, Smart and Taylor (7)

Abstentions: Councillor Freebody (1).

RESOLVED (by 14 votes to 7, with 1 abstention)–

1. The recommendations as detailed in the reports from the Chief Finance Officer to Cabinet on 8 February 2023:

- (i) To approve the General Fund budget for 2022/23 (Revised) and 2023/24 (Original).
- (ii) To approve an increase in the Council Tax for Eastbourne Borough Council of 2.99% resulting in a Band D charge of £269.68 (per annum) for 2023/24.
- (iii) To approve the revised General Fund capital programme 2023/24.
- (iv) To approve the Treasury Management Strategy and Annual Investment Strategy for 2023/24.
- (v) To approve the Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP) Policy Statement 2023/24.
- (vi) To approve the Prudential and Treasury Indicators 2023/24 to 2025/26.
- (vii) To approve the Capital Strategy.
- (viii) To endorse the continuation of the Flexible use of Capital Receipts.
- (ix) To approve the Housing Revenue Account (HRA) income and expenditure proposals, including revised HRA budget for 2022/23 and the budget for 2023/24, HRA Capital Programme 2022-26, rents and service charges and the arrangements for finalising Eastbourne Homes' management fee, including:
 - That social and affordable rents (including Shared Ownership) are increased by 7% in line with Government policy.
 - That the average General Needs Housing Benefit (HB) Eligible service charge will be £5.39 per week.
 - That the average HB Eligible service charge for Retirement Housing will be £38.36 per week.
 - That the Support charge for Retirement Housing will be £5.82 per unit.
 - That the average Non-HB Eligible heating charges will be £3.73 per week.
 - That the average non-HB Eligible water charges will be £3.56.
 - That Garage rents are increased by 7%.
- (x) The Council introduce from 1 April 2024 a new discretionary Council Tax premium on second homes of up to 100% and apply a premium of up to 100% on homes which have been empty for longer than 1 year following the Levelling Up and Regeneration Bill becoming law.
- (xi) To grant delegated authority to the Chief Executive, in

consultation with the Cabinet Portfolio holders for Financial Services and Direct Assistance Service and the Chief Finance Officer to finalise Eastbourne Homes' Management Fee and Delivery Plan.

2. That delegated authority is given to the Chief Finance Officer to amend the budget for any presentational changes ensuring the Council Tax Requirement at 6 below remains unchanged.
3. That it be noted, that since the Cabinet meeting on 8 February the Business Rates return to the Government (NNDR1) has been finalised with no changes to the previous net budget assumptions.
4. That consequent upon a General Fund budget of £9,518,253 and other matters, the basic amount (Band D) of Council Tax for the Borough Council's functions will be £269.68 (representing an increase of 2.99%) calculated as follows:

Gross Expenditure	£	£
Borough Gross Expenditure		93,594,526
Surplus Income over Expenditure		0
Total		93,594,526
Less Income:		
Service Income	(75,621,658)	
Business Rate Income	(5,144,044)	
Other Government Grants	(1,927,032)	
Collection Fund Surplus (Council Tax)	(121,000)	
Contributions To/ (From) Reserves	(1,262,539)	
Total		(84,076,272)
Total Council Tax Requirement		9,518,253
Band D Council Tax		£269.68

The statutory resolutions relating to this matter are given at paragraphs 5 and 6 below.

5. That it be noted that at its meeting on 14 December 2022 the Cabinet agreed the Council Tax Base of 35,294.8 for Band 'D' equivalent properties for the year 2023/24 (Item T in the formula in section 31B of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, as amended).
6. Calculate that the Council Tax requirement for the Council's own purposes for 2023/24 as £9,518,253.
7. That the following amounts be now calculated by the Council for the year 2023/24 in accordance with Sections 31 to 36 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, as amended:

A	£93,594,526	being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 31 A (2) of the Act.
B	£84,076,272	being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 31 A (3) of the Act.
C	£9,518,253	being the amount by which the aggregate at 5 (A) above exceeds the aggregate at 5 (B) above, calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 31 A (4) of the act as its Council Tax requirement for the year.
D	£269.68	being the amount at 5 (C) above, all divided by the taxbase of 35,294.8, calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 31B of the Act, as the basic amount of its Council Tax for the year.

8. To note that East Sussex County Council, the Sussex Police and Crime Commissioner and the East Sussex Fire Authority have issued precepts to the Council in accordance with Section 40 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, as amended, for each category of dwellings in the Council's area as indicated in the table below.
9. That the Council, in accordance with Sections 30 to 36 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, as amended, hereby sets the aggregate amounts shown in the table below as the amounts of Council Tax for 2023/24 for each of the categories of dwellings.

MAJOR PRECEPTOR	BAND A	BAND B	BAND C	BAND D	BAND E	BAND F	BAND G	BAND H
	£ p	£ p	£ p	£ p	£ p	£ p	£ p	£ p
East Sussex Fire Authority (ESFA)	69.58	81.18	92.77	104.37	127.56	150.76	173.95	208.74
Sussex Police and Crime Commissioner (SPCC)	159.94	186.60	213.25	239.91	293.22	346.54	399.85	479.82
East Sussex County Council (ESCC)	1,129.20	1,317.40	1,505.60	1,693.80	2,070.20	2,446.60	2,823.00	3,387.60
Eastbourne Borough Council	179.79	209.75	239.71	269.68	329.61	389.54	449.46	539.36
Total Council Tax Requirement	1,538.51	1,794.92	2,051.34	2,307.76	2,820.59	3,333.43	3,846.26	4,615.52

10. Determine that the Council's basic amount of Council Tax for 2023/24 is not excessive in accordance with the principles approved under Section 52ZB of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, as amended.

11. As the billing authority, the Council has not been notified by a major precepting authority that its relevant basic amount of Council Tax for 2023/24 is excessive and that the billing authority is not required to hold a referendum in accordance with Section 52ZK Local Government Finance Act 1992, as amended.

(At the end of this agenda item at 8.30 pm, the Council took a 10 minute recess).

56b Local Council Tax Reduction Scheme 2023/24.

Councillor Holt moved and Councillor Shuttleworth seconded the recommendation referred from the meeting of Cabinet held on 14 December 2022, in support of the adoption of the Local Council Tax Reduction Scheme for 2023/24.

In seconding the proposal, Councillor Shuttleworth advised in his role as Cabinet Member for Direct Assistance Services that he would like to see the scheme reviewed in 2024/25 to extend the scheme for a 100% rebate.

The proposals were discussed and received support from across the Council.

RESOLVED (unanimously) –

- (1) To adopt the 2022/23 Local Council Tax Reduction Scheme as the 2023/24 scheme.
- (2) Subject to Full Council adoption of the Scheme, Cabinet has granted the Director of Service Delivery delegated authority:
 - (a) to implement the Scheme, such delegated authority to include any measures necessary for or incidental to its management and administration; and
 - (b) if necessary, and in accordance with paragraph 2.3, to amend the Scheme in consultation with the Lead Member for Direct Assistance Services.
- (3) To continue the Exceptional Hardship Scheme in 2023/24, subject to funds being available.

56c Approval of Licensing Fees and Charges 2023-24.

Councillor Maxted (Chair of the Licensing Committee) moved and Councillor Tutt seconded the recommendation referred from the meeting of Licensing Committee held on 16 January 2023, to approve the licensing fees from 1 April 2023.

The recommendation was put to a vote and carried.

RESOLVED (unanimously) - To approve the Licensing fees proposed within

Report Appendix 1 to apply from 1 April 2023.

57 Appointment of Monitoring Officer

Councillor Tutt moved and Councillor Smart seconded the recommendations set out in the report of the Chief Executive, recommending the appointment of Simon Russell as the new Monitoring Officer. In speaking to the recommendations, both Councillors thanked the outgoing Monitoring Officer, Oliver Dixon, for his excellent service to the Council and advice in this role and wished him well.

The recommendation was put to the Council and carried.

RESOLVED (unanimously) –

That the Council approve the appointment of Simon Russell as Monitoring Officer with effect from 1 April 2023.

(Note: Simon Russell, Head of Democratic Services, left the room during the discussion of this item).

58 Members' Allowances Scheme - Report of the Independent Remuneration Panel (IRP) Revisit

The Council received for consideration the report by an Independent Remuneration Panel (IRP) making recommendations in respect of the Members Allowance Scheme, and the report of the Head of Democratic Services setting out the options available to the Council. It had been agreed when last reviewed in November 2020 that the report would be brought back in February 2023 for reconsideration ahead of the next election.

Councillor Tutt moved and Councillor Smart seconded option c) to reject the Panels' recommendation in full and ask for a Panel to be reconvened early in the new Council, with a report due back to Full Council in November 2023. The compelling reason for doing so was that the report was now dated and the level of inflation was much higher than may have been expected three years ago. It was noted that the allowances had not increased since 2007.

Councillor Freebody moved and Councillor Wallis seconded an alternative proposal to accept option a), to accept the Panel's recommendation in full in relation to the levels of Basic Allowance, Special Responsibility Allowances and IT Allowances', for the reason that there was a need for an increase in allowances now to attract Councillors from a range of backgrounds, but with the addition that a further review be undertaken early in the Council to bring forward any further update in 2024, if required.

The Council debated the two proposals together.

In response to a question raised by Councillor Smart, it was confirmed that the Council could not commit itself in advance to accept any recommendations of a new IRP Panel without debate, when reported in November 2023.

The alternative proposal was put to a vote and lost by 6 votes for, 12 against, with 4 abstentions.

The original proposal was put to a vote and carried by 16 votes for to 6 against, with 0 abstentions.

RESOLVED (By 16 votes to 6) – That the Council agree option c), to reject the Panels' recommendation in full for the reasons that the recommendations of the Panel were now out of date, but this was subject to an Independent Review Panel being called early in the new Council to undertake a review, to report back to Full Council in November 2023.

59 Motions.

59a Notice of Motion - Protecting residents from soaring energy bills

Councillor Babarinde moved and Councillor Parker seconded the motion set out in the agenda in relation to protecting residents from soaring energy bills as below:

"This Council notes:

In the Government's November 2022 Autumn Statement, the Chancellor announced a 20% increase in the 'Energy Price Guarantee' from £2,500 a year to £3,000 a year from 1 April 2023.

This Council:

Calls on the Government to scrap the planned April 2023 increase in the Energy Price Guarantee to protect local residents from soaring energy bills."

An alternative motion was moved by Councillor Lamb and seconded by Councillor Shore that:

"Eastbourne Borough Council has rightly recognised the impact on residents of the cost of living crisis. The Council therefore resolves to:

1. Investigate a revision to the council tax scheme when considered for 2024/25 to exempt the lowest income households totally from council tax.
2. Improve the energy efficiency of council owned homes to reduce bills.
3. Encourage more uptake of cheaper solar energy generation to take advantage of Eastbourne's record hours of sunshine."

The Council debated the motion and alternative motion together.

Councillor Babarinde agreed as part of the summing up to incorporate the

alternative motion into his motion, with the consent of the Council.

The motion as amended was put to a vote and carried.

RESOLVED (by 17 votes to 0 with 5 abstentions).

This Council notes:

In the Government's November 2022 Autumn Statement, the Chancellor announced a 20% increase in the 'Energy Price Guarantee' from £2,500 a year to £3,000 a year from 1 April 2023.

This Council:

1. Calls on the Government to scrap the planned April 2023 increase in the Energy Price Guarantee to protect local residents from soaring energy bills.
2. Has rightly recognised the impact on residents of the cost of living crisis, and therefore resolves to:
 - Investigate a revision to the Council Tax Scheme when considered for 2024/25 to exempt the lowest income households totally from Council Tax;
 - Improve the energy efficiency of Council owned homes to reduce bills; and
 - Encourage more uptake of cheaper solar energy generation to take advantage of Eastbourne's record hours of sunshine.

59b Holding Southern Water to account for sewage discharges in the sea

Councillor Babarinde moved and Councillor Murray seconded the motion as set out in the agenda in relation to holding Southern Water to account for sewage discharges in the sea as below:

Motion submitted by Councillor Babarinde:

"The Council notes:

- That the Southern Water was consistently in breach of the legal requirements with regard to the discharge of sewage.
- In the last two years water companies in England dumped raw sewage 775,568 times lasting 5,768,679 hours.
- Water company executives have paid themselves £51 million, including £30.6 million in bonuses, over the last two years.
- That the Environment Agency downgraded Eastbourne's seawater quality from 'Good' to 'Sufficient' in 2022.
- That the Full Council passed a motion in 23 February 2022 which included a call for urgent action by Southern Water to prevent sewage discharges, and called on the Government to introduce a sewage tax on water companies to begin compensating for their discharges, and to help fund a cleaner sea.

This Council:

1. Reiterates its call for Southern Water to take robust action to prevent

sewage discharges from occurring off the south coast.

2. Endorses the action taken by the Leader and the Chief Executive requesting an urgent meeting with the Chief Executive of Southern Water to hold the organisation to account for its raw sewage dumping along Eastbourne's coastline.
3. Calls on the Government to ban bonuses for water company executives."

An amendment was moved by Councillor di Cara and seconded by Councillor Shore, to add recommendations 4 to 8 to the motion as follows:

"This Council:

4. Backs local sea swimmers and our MP's campaign to redefine the bathing season to extend testing for quality assurance and public confidence.
5. Investigates a physical, beachfront water quality alert to complement the beachboy app to ensure no digital disadvantage to those not online.
6. Makes a submission to the Government's consultation and positively endorses a proposal that water companies become statutory consultees for planning purposes.
7. Invites the project team from the local Blue Heart initiative to speak to members of the Council's Scrutiny Committee to present their progress on managing rainwater runoff, so important to our sea bathing water quality outcomes."
8. Uses Council planning powers to mandate water run off measures on new builds wherever feasible, to reduce pressure on combined sewers and cut discharges."

In speaking to the motion, Councillor Babarinde with the consent of the Council, agreed to incorporate the amendment into his motion.

The Council debated the motion as amended.

The motion as amended was put to a vote and carried.

RESOLVED (unanimously) that:

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- Water company executives have paid themselves £51 million, including £30.6 million in bonuses, over the last two years.
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fund a cleaner sea.

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3. Calls on the Government to ban bonuses for water company executives.
4. Backs local sea swimmers and our MP's campaign to redefine the bathing season to extend testing for quality assurance and public confidence.
5. Investigates a physical, beachfront water quality alert to complement the beachboy app to ensure no digital disadvantage to those not online.
6. Makes a submission to the Government's consultation and positively endorses a proposal that water companies become statutory consultees for planning purposes.
7. Invites the project team from the local Blue Heart initiative to speak to members of the Council's Scrutiny Committee to present their progress on managing rainwater runoff, so important to our sea bathing water quality outcomes.
8. Uses Council planning powers to mandate water run off measures on new builds, wherever feasible, to reduce pressure on combined sewers and cut discharges.

60 Calendar of Meetings 2023/24.

Councillor Tutt moved and Councillor Smart seconded that the proposed calendar of meetings for 2023-24. It was noted that the dates would be subject to formal ratification at annual council in line with legislation.

RESOLVED – That the Calendar of Meetings 2023-24 be approved.

61 Discussion on minutes of council bodies.

The minutes of the following Council bodies were submitted to the meeting for information as part of the agenda:

- Planning Committee - 14 November 2022 and 23 January 2023
- Audit and Governance Committee – 23 November 2022
- Scrutiny Committee – 5 December 2022, 9 January 2023 and 6 February 2023
- Cabinet – 14 December 2022 and 8 February 2023

- Licensing Committee – 16 January 2023

Councillor Tutt had requested to speak in respect of Agenda Item 12(i), Minutes of the Cabinet held on 8 February 2023, page 149, Minute 43. Councillor Tutt explained that this was a ruse to have the opportunity to speak at the last Full Council of this Council year and term. He thanked the Mayor and Mayoress for the excellent work they had done over the last two years, and Members who had served during the last 4 years. He advised that he would not be standing for election May, having served on the Council for 36 years and 19 years as the Leader of the Council, and he thanked officers and members past and present for their support and friendship.

The Council agreed acceptance of the minutes.

62 Date of Next Meeting

It was noted that the next scheduled meeting of Full Council would be the Annual Council meeting on 24 May 2023 at 6 pm.

The meeting ended at 10.05 pm

Councillor Pat Rodohan (Mayor)