

Full Council

Minutes of meeting held in Court Room at Eastbourne Town Hall, Grove Road, BN21 4UG on 19 February 2020 at 6.00 pm

Present:

Councillor Steve Wallis (Mayor)

Councillors Sammy Choudhury (Deputy Mayor), Caroline Ansell, Margaret Bannister, Colin Belsey, Helen Burton, Peter Diplock, Jonathan Dow, Tony Freebody, Stephen Holt, Jane Lamb, Robin Maxted, Paul Metcalfe, Md. Harun Miah, Colin Murdoch, Jim Murray, Amanda Morris, Pat Rodohan, Dean Sabri, Alan Shuttleworth, Robert Smart, Colin Swansborough, Barry Taylor, David Tutt, Candy Vaughan and Rebecca Whippy

Officers in attendance:

Robert Cottrill (Chief Executive), Peter Finnis (Assistant Director for Corporate Governance), Ian Fitzpatrick (Deputy Chief Executive and Director of Regeneration and Planning), Homira Javadi (Chief Finance Officer) and Sarah Lawrence (Senior Committee Officer)

25 Minutes of the meeting held on 10 July 2019.

The minutes of the meeting held on 10 July 2019 were presented and the Mayor was authorised to sign them as a correct record.

26 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).

No declarations of interest were made.

27 Mayor's announcements.

The Mayor drew attention to the list of the mayoral engagements attended since the last meeting set out in the agenda. He thanked Councillor Choudhury for his support and for his attendance at many events.

The Mayor extended his congratulations to Councillor Ansell who had been elected as the MP for the Eastbourne Constituency in the General Election on 12 December.

The Mayor invited all members to attend a reception for the Claremont Hotel on 29 February 2020, 6 pm at the Town Hall. The event would raise funds for local residents affected by the fire and for the fire authority.

Councillors were advised that tickets for the Mayor's Charity Event on 28 March 2020, which was being held in aid of People Matter, were sold out. However, anyone wishing to contribute to the charity could still do so.

Finally, the Mayor advised that the Council had won the national Re:generate Revo Gold Award, which recognises the best examples of development and investment in the UK. In addition, Legal and General had been shortlisted in the Re:new category for its £85 million investment in The Beacon Centre in Eastbourne. Councillor Tutt thanked all those who had contributed to winning the prestigious national retail award, and recognised, in particular, Lisa Rawlinson (Strategy and Partnership Lead - Growth and Prosperity) for her work. The award trophy was displayed during the meeting.

28 Notification of apologies for absence.

Apologies for absence were reported from Councillor di Cara.

29 Public right of address.

No public speakers had been registered.

30 Order of Business.

Business proceeded in accordance with the summons.

31 Council Budget and Setting of the Council Tax for 2020/21

This matter was reported and the resolutions set out in the report moved by Councillor Holt on behalf of the Cabinet and seconded by Councillor Tutt. The Council considered the Section 25 Statement of the Section 151 Officer (Chief Finance Officer), a General Fund Summary and the recommendations from the meeting of Cabinet held on 5 February 2020, in respect of the:

- General Fund Budget 2020/21 and Capital Programme
- Housing Revenue Account (HRA) Revenue Budget and Rent Setting 2020/21 and HRA Capital Programme 2019-23; and
- Treasury Management and Prudential Indicators 2020/21, Capital Strategy and Investment Strategy

Councillor Holt made his budget speech setting out the proposals, and Councillor Smart responded on behalf of the opposition.

The budget was debated by members from across the Council. As part of this debate, Members thanked the Chief Finance Officer and her team for the preparation of the budget.

The motion was put to a recorded vote, and carried.

RESOLVED (By 17 votes to 8 with 1 abstention) - That approval be given to the following:

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1. The recommendations as detailed in the reports from the Chief Finance Officer and the Director of Service Delivery to Cabinet on 5 February 2020:
 - (i) To agree the General Fund budget for 2019/20 (Revised) and 2020/21 (original) Appendix 1 including growth and savings proposals for 2020/21, as set out in Appendix 2 to the Cabinet Report.
 - (ii) To agree the charge for Council Tax for Eastbourne Borough Council Band D change to £251.71, an increase of 2% for 2020/21.
 - (iii) To agree the revised General Fund capital programme 2020/21, as set out in Appendix 3 to the Cabinet Report.
 - (iv) To approve the Treasury Management Strategy and Annual Investment Strategy for 2020/21 as set out in Appendix A to the Cabinet Report.
 - (v) To approve the Minimum Revenue Provision Policy Statement 2020/21, as set out at paragraph 8 of the Cabinet Report.
 - (vi) To approve the Prudential and Treasury Indicators 2020/21 to 2022/23, as set out at paragraph 6 of the Cabinet Report.
 - (vii) To approve the Capital Strategy, as set out at Appendix E to the Cabinet Report.
 - (viii) To approve the Housing Revenue Account (HRA) income and expenditure proposals, including revised HRA budget for 2019/20 and the budget for 20/20/21, rents and service charges and the arrangements for finalising Eastbourne Homes' management fee, including to:
 - a) Agree the HRA budget for 2020/21 and revised 2019/20 budget as set out at Appendix 1 to the Cabinet report.
 - b) Agree that social and affordable rents (including Shared Ownership) are increased by 2.7% in line with Government policy.
 - c) Agree that service charges for general needs properties are increased by 2.7% (CPI +1%).
 - d) Agree that the service charge for the Older Persons' Sheltered Accommodations increases by an average of 0.5%.
 - e) Agree that the support charges for Sheltered Housing Residents are set at £7.70 per unit, per week, an increase of 20p.

- f) Agree that heating costs are increased by 2.7% (CPI+1%) in line with estimated costs set at a level designed to recover the actual cost.
- g) Agree that water charges are increased by 2.7% (CPI+1%) designed to recover the estimated cost of metered consumption.
- h) Agree that garage rents are increased by 3.4% (September RPI+1).
- i) Agree to give 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.
- j) Agree the HRA Capital Programme as set out at Appendix 2 to the Cabinet report.
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 5 February 2020 the Business Rates return to the Government (NNDR1) had been finalised with no changes to the previous net budget assumptions.
4. That consequent upon a General Fund budget of £13,522,133 and other matters, the basic amount (Band D) of Council Tax for the Borough Council's functions will be £251.71 calculated as follows:

	£'000	£'000
Gross Expenditure:		
General Fund		100,670
HRA		19,104
Business Rates payable to Government		11,104
Collection Fund Deficit (Council Tax)		60
		<u>130,938</u>
Less Income:		
Service Income	(101,235)	
Contribution from Reserves	(3,581)	
Other Government Grants	(2,220)	
Business Rates income	(15,130)	
		<u>(122,166)</u>
COUNCIL TAX REQUIREMENT		<u><u>8,772</u></u>
Band 'D' Council Tax		£251.71

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 5 February 2020 the Cabinet agreed the Council Tax Base of 34,848.6 for Band 'D' equivalent properties for the year 2020/21 (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 2020/21 as £8,771,741.
7. That the following amounts be now calculated by the Council for the year 2020/21 in accordance with Sections 31 to 36 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, as amended:

(a)	£130,937,574	being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 31A(2) of the Act.
(b)	£122,165,833	being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 31A(3) of the Act.
(c)	£8,771,741	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 31A(4) of the Act as its Council Tax requirement for the year. (Item R in the formula in Section 31B of the Act).
(d)	£251.71	being the amount at 5(c) above (Item R), all divided by Item T (4 above), 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 the Police and Crime Commissioner for Sussex has issued a precept 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. The East Sussex County Council and East Sussex Fire and Rescue Authority figures are based on current recommendations to be considered by their respective budget setting meetings.

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 2020/21 for each of the categories of dwellings:

	Council Tax Valuation Bands							
	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
	6/9 £	7/9 £	8/9 £	1 £	11/9 £	13/9 £	15/9 £	2 £
Precepting Authorities								
Eastbourne Borough Council	167.81	195.77	223.74	251.71	307.65	363.58	419.52	503.42
East Sussex County Council	994.68	1,160.46	1,326.24	1,492.02	1,823.58	2,155.14	2,486.70	2,984.04
Sussex Police Authority	133.27	155.49	177.70	199.91	244.33	288.76	333.18	399.82
East Sussex Fire Authority	63.69	74.30	84.92	95.53	116.76	137.99	159.22	191.06
Aggregate of Council Tax Requirements	1,359.45	1,586.02	1,812.60	2,039.17	2,492.32	2,945.47	3,398.62	4,078.34

10. Determine that the Council's basic amount of Council Tax for 2020/21 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 2020/21 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.

Recorded vote taken in accordance with the requirements of the Local Authorities (Standing Orders) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2014:

For the Motion:

Councillors Bannister, Burton, Choudhury, Diplock, Dow, Holt, Maxted, Miah, Morris, Murray, Rodohan, Sabri, Shuttleworth, Swansborough, Tutt, Vaughan and Whippy (17)

Against the Motion:

Councillors Ansell, Belsey, Freebody, Lamb, Metcalfe, Murdoch, Smart and Taylor. (8)

Abstention:

Councillor Wallis (The Mayor) (1).

32 Matters referred from Cabinet or other Council Bodies.**a) Treasury Management and Prudential Indicators 2020/21, Capital Strategy & Investment Strategy.**

The Mayor advised that this item was no longer required, as the recommendations had already been incorporated and voted upon above as part of the 'Council Budget and Setting of the Council Tax for 2020-21'.

b) Corporate Plan 2020-24

Councillor Tutt moved and Councillor Shuttleworth seconded the recommendations of the Cabinet to adopt the Corporate Plan 2020-24.

Councillor Tutt thanked all of those who had responded to the draft Plan to date and highlighted that he still wished to reflect in the document some comments received from the Chamber of Commerce. Councillor Freebody advised that if this was not the final version, he would wish to see reference to IT Infrastructure and high speed broadband, and Councillor Ansell advised that she would wish to see reference to Eastbourne as the gateway to the national park, as set out in a Council motion approved in 2014.

On advice of the Monitoring Officer, Councillor Tutt agreed to amend his motion to recommend the adoption of the Plan, subject to delegation to officers in consultation with Group Leaders to make any additional adjustments, taking into account representations at the meeting and from external organisations.

Thanks were extended to Bryn Mabey (Customer Communications and Engagement Lead) who was in the process of developing an 'easy to read' version of the Plan, so that it could be accessible to all residents, including those with additional learning needs.

RESOLVED (Unanimous) - To adopt the new Corporate Plan for 2020-2024, subject to delegation to the Director of Regeneration and Planning in consultation with Group Leaders to make any additional adjustments needed, taking into account the representations made at this meeting and from external organisations.

c) Local Council Tax Reduction Scheme

Councillor Tutt moved and Councillor Shuttleworth seconded the recommendations of the Cabinet.

RESOLVED (Unanimous) -

(1) To adopt the 2019/20 Local Council Tax Reduction Scheme as the 2020/21 scheme.

(2) That the Exceptional Hardship Scheme be continued in 2020/21.

d) Financial Procedure Rules

Councillor Holt moved and Councillor Tutt seconded the recommendations set out in the report of the Chief Finance Officer. Thanks were extended to the Chief Finance Officer and her team on the development of the revised Financial Procedure Rules.

RESOLVED (Unanimous) - That the Council approves the Financial Procedure Rules attached as Appendix 2 to the Council Agenda Report, for inclusion as Part 4 of the Council's Constitution.

e) Amended Code of Conduct for Members

Councillor Sabri moved and Councillor Freebody seconded the recommendations of the report of the Monitoring Officer.

RESOLVED (Unanimous) - That the Council adopts the amended Code of Conduct for Members, set out at Appendix 3 to the Council agenda report, for inclusion in the Council's Constitution.

33 Calendar of Meetings 2020/21

Councillor Tutt moved and Councillor Freebody seconded approval of the calendar of meetings for 2020/21. It was noted that the final approval would take place at the annual meeting of Council.

RESOLVED (Unanimous) - That the Council agrees the proposed Calendar of Meetings for 2020/21.

34 Urgent decisions taken by the Cabinet or Cabinet members**a) IT Provisions Decision Notice - Executive decision taken by Leader (16 December 2019)**

The Council noted the urgent decision made since the last meeting by the Leader on 16 December 2019 in respect of IT Provisions.

35 Discussion on minutes of Council Bodies.

The minutes of the following Council bodies were submitted to the meeting.

Committee	Date
Planning Committee	23 July 2019, 27 August 2019, 24 September 2019, 24 September 2019, 22 October 2019, 10 December 2019 and 21 January 2020.
Conservation Area Advisory Group	2 July 2019, 20 August 2019, 1 October 2019, 26 November 2019

Audit and Governance Committee	24 July 2019
Scrutiny Committee	2 September 2019
Cabinet	9 July 2019
Licensing Committee	29 August 2019 and 30 September 2019

No following items had been raised for discussion in accordance with Council procedure 14.

RESOLVED (Unanimously):

That the minutes of the above council bodies be accepted.

36 Motions.

No motions had been submitted.

The meeting ended at 7.27 pm

Councillor Steve Wallis (Mayor)