

COUNCIL

At a meeting of the Council on Wednesday, 5 March 2014 in the Council Chamber, Runcorn Town Hall

Present: Councillors Ratcliffe, Baker, D. Cargill, E. Cargill, Cassidy, Cole, Dennett, Edge, Fry, Gerrard, Harris, P. Hignett, R. Hignett, S. Hill, V. Hill, Howard, Jones, Lea, M. Lloyd Jones, P. Lloyd Jones, C. Loftus, K. Loftus, Logan, A. Lowe, J. Lowe, MacManus, A. McInerney, T. McInerney, Nelson, Osborne, Parker, Philbin, Polhill, C. Plumpton Walsh, N. Plumpton Walsh, Roberts, Rowe, Sinnott, G. Stockton, J. Stockton, Thompson, Wainwright, Wallace, Wharton, Wright, Woolfall and Zygadlo

Apologies for Absence: Councillors M. Bradshaw, J. Bradshaw, Fraser, Gilligan, Hodge, Horabin, McDermott, Morley and Nolan

Absence declared on Council business: None

Officers present: M. Reaney, A. Scott, G. Cook, D. Johnson, I. Leivesley, D. Parr, E. Dawson, S. Baker and W Rourke

Also in attendance: Three members of the public

Action

COU82 MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Mayor made the following announcements:

- She had the pleasure of opening a new school library at Our Lady's School, Palacefields, Runcorn;
- She had attended the launch of the New Centre of Excellence at Riverside College, which had also been attended by the Duke of Westminster;
- She wished to thank all those that had attended the Civic Ball at Halton Stadium. This had also been attended by the Lord Mayors of Chester and Liverpool, and six other Mayors from neighbouring authorities;
- She had attended the Pink Ball, which raised funds for breast cancer charities, and was held in memory of the late Maureen King; and
- She announced the introduction of a new Mayor's Award, which was similar to the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme, which encouraged children aged 10-13 to become involved in a range of activities. The Grange School and West Runcorn Youth Club had agreed to pilot the Award.

COU83 TREASURY MANAGEMENT STATEMENT 2014/15
(MINUTE EXB 144 REFERS)

The Executive Board had considered a report which proposed the Treasury Management Strategy for 2014/15, appended to the report and which detailed the following:

- Treasury limits in force which would limit the treasury risk and activities of the Council;
- The current treasury position;
- Prospects for interest rates;
- The borrowing strategy;
- Policy on borrowing in advance of need;
- The annual investment strategy;
- Debt rescheduling;
- Minimum Revenue Provision policy statement;
- Creditworthiness policy;
- Policy on use of external service providers;
- Treasury Indicators; and
- Adopting the CIPFA Code of Practice

RESOLVED: That the policies, strategies, statements and prudential and treasury indicators outlined in the report, be adopted.

Operational
Director - Finance

COU84 BUDGET 2014/15 (MINUTE EXB 145 REFERS)

The Executive Board had considered a report setting out a recommendation to Council in respect of the Budget, Capital Programme and Council Tax for 2014/15. Since then the Cheshire Fire Authority and the Cheshire Police and Crime Commissioner had set their budgets and council tax precepts and these had been included in the report to full Council.

The report included detail on the following:-

- Medium Term Financial Strategy;
- Budget Consultation
- Review of the 2013/14 Budget;
- 2014/15 Budget;
- the Local Government Finance Settlement;
- Budget Outlook;
- Halton's Council Tax;
- Parish Precepts;
- Average Council Tax;
- Police Precept;
- Fire Precept;
- Total Council Tax;
- Capital Programme;

- Prudential Code; and
- School Budgets.

The Executive Board had recommended that Council adopt the resolution set out in Appendix A of the report, which included setting the budget at £108.243m and the Band D Council Tax for Halton (before Parish, Police and Fire precepts) of £1,181.56.

Councillor Wharton, Resources Portfolio Holder, thanked all the Officers involved for their support in producing this budget and wished to record his thanks to the Members of the Executive Board, the Budget Working Group and the Chairs of the Policy and Performance Boards for their contribution.

The Mayor advised that, following the introduction of the Local Authorities (Standing Orders) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2014, there was now a requirement for Councils to adopt the practice of recorded votes on matters relating to budget setting, and that each Members' vote be recorded in the minutes of the meeting. Therefore, it was

RESOLVED: That a recorded vote be taken.

The following Councillors voted for the motion:

Councillors Baker, D Cargill, E Cargill, Cassidy, Cole, Dennett, Edge, Fry, Gerrard, Harris, P Hignett, R Hignett, S Hill, V Hill, Howard, Jones, Lea, M Lloyd Jones, P Lloyd Jones, C Loftus, K Loftus, Logan, A Lowe, J Lowe, Macmanus, A McInerney, T McInerney, Nelson, Osborne, Parker, Philbin, C Plumpton Walsh, N Plumpton Walsh, Polhill, Ratcliffe, Roberts, Rowe, Sinnott, G Stockton, J Stockton, Thompson, Wainwright, Wallace, Wharton, Woolfall, Wright and Zygadlo.

There were no votes against the motion and no abstentions.

RESOLVED: That

- 1) the policies outlined in the report be adopted, including the Budget for 2014/15, the savings set out in Appendix B and the Capital Programme set out in Appendix F;
- 2) it be noted that at the meeting on 11th December 2013 the Council agreed the following:
 - (a) The Council Tax Base 2014/15 for the whole Council area is 31,400 (item T in the formula in Section 31B(3) of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, as amended (the Act); and
 - (b) For dwellings in those parts of its area to which a Parish

precept relates, be set out as follows:

Parish	Tax Base
Hale	643
Daresbury	150
Moore	316
Preston Brook	319
Halebank	494
Sandymoor	950

being the amounts calculated by the Council, in accordance with Regulation 6 of the Regulations, as the amounts of its Council Tax Base for the year for dwellings in those parts of its area to which special items relate.

- 3) calculate that the Council Tax requirement for the Council's own purposes for 2014/15 (excluding Parish precepts) is £37,100,984.
- 4) in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 (Sections 31 to 36), the following amounts be now calculated by the Council for the year 2013/14 and agreed as follows:
 - (a) £313,613,399 – being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 31A(2) of the said Act, taking into account all precepts issued to it by Parish Councils;
 - (b) £276,451,820 – being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 31A(3) of the Act;
 - (c) £37,161,579 – being the amount by which the aggregate at 3(a) above exceeds the aggregate at 3(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 31A(4) of the Act);
 - (d) £1,183.49 – being the amount at 3(c) above (item R), all divided by item T (2 above), calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 31B(1) of the Act, as the basic amount of its Council Tax for the year (including Parish precepts);
 - (e) £60,595 – being the aggregate amount of all special items (Parish precepts) referred to in Section 34(1) of the Act, each individual Parish precept being:

	£
Hale	15,400
Daresbury	3,475
Moore	4,300
Preston Brook	8,000
Halebank	13,820
Sandymoor	15,600

- (f) £1,181.56 being the amount at 3(d) above less the result given by dividing the amount at 3(e) above by item T (2(a) above), calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 34(2) of the Act, as the basic amount of its Council Tax for the year for dwellings in those parts of its area to which no special item relates;

- (g) Part of the Council's Area

	£
Hale	1,205.51
Daresbury	1,204.73
Moore	1,195.17
Preston Brook	1,206.64
Halebank	1,209.54
Sandymoor	1,197.98

being the amounts given by adding to the amounts at 3(e) above the amounts of the special item or items relating to dwellings in those parts of the Council's area mentioned above divided in each case by the amount at 2(b) above, calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 34(3) of the Act, as the basic amounts of its Council Tax for the year for dwellings of its area to which one or more special items relate;

(h) Part of the Council's Area

Band	Hale	Daresbury	Moore	Preston Brook	Halebank	Sandymoor	All other Parts of the Council's Area
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
A	803.68	803.16	796.78	804.43	806.36	798.66	787.71
B	937.62	937.01	929.58	938.50	940.75	931.76	918.99
C	1,071.57	1,070.88	1,062.38	1,072.57	1,075.15	1,064.88	1,050.28
D	1,205.51	1,204.73	1,195.17	1,206.64	1,209.54	1,197.98	1,181.56
E	1,473.40	1,472.45	1,460.76	1,474.78	1,478.33	1,464.20	1,444.13
F	1,741.29	1,740.17	1,726.36	1,742.93	1,747.12	1,730.42	1,706.70
G	2,009.19	2,007.89	1,991.95	2,011.07	2,015.90	1,996.64	1,969.27
H	2,411.02	2,409.46	2,390.34	2,413.28	2,419.08	2,395.96	2,363.12

being the amounts given by multiplying the amounts at 3(f) and 3(g) above by the number which, in the proportion set out in Section 5(1) of the Act, is applicable to dwellings listed in a particular band divided by the number which in that proportion is applicable to dwellings listed in Valuation Band D, calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 36(1) of the Act, as the amounts to be taken into account for the year in respect of categories of dwellings listed in different valuation bands;

- 5) it is further noted that for the year 2014/15 the Cheshire Police and Crime Commissioner has stated the following amounts in precepts issued to the Council, in accordance with Section 40 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 for each of the categories of dwellings shown below:

Police Precept 2014/15

	£
A	102.14
B	119.16
C	136.19
D	153.21
E	187.26
F	221.30
G	255.35
H	306.42

- 6) it is further noted that for the year 2014/15 the Fire Authority have stated the following amounts in precepts issued to the Council, in accordance with the Local

Government Act 2003 for each of the categories of dwellings shown below:

Fire Precept 2014/15

	£
A	46.06
B	53.74
C	61.41
D	69.09
E	84.44
F	99.80
G	115.15
H	138.18

- 7) that, having calculated the aggregate in each case of the amounts at 3(i), 4 and 5 above, the Council, in accordance with Section 30(2) of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, hereby sets the following amounts as the amounts of Council Tax for the year 2014/15 for each of the categories of dwellings shown below:

Band	Hale	D'bury	Moore	Preston Brook	Halebank	Sandymoor	All other Parts of the Council's Area
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
A	951.88	951.36	944.98	952.63	954.56	946.86	935.91
B	1,110.52	1,109.91	1,102.48	1,111.40	1,113.65	1,104.66	1,091.89
C	1,269.17	1,268.48	1,259.98	1,270.17	1,272.75	1,262.48	1,247.88
D	1,427.81	1,427.03	1,417.47	1,428.94	1,431.84	1,420.28	1,403.86
E	1,745.10	1,744.15	1,732.46	1,746.48	1,750.03	1,735.90	1,715.83
F	2,062.39	2,061.27	2,047.46	2,064.03	2,068.22	2,051.52	2,027.80
G	2,379.69	2,378.39	2,362.45	2,381.57	2,386.40	2,367.14	2,339.77
H	2,855.62	2,854.06	2,834.94	2,857.88	2,863.68	2,840.56	2,807.72

being satisfied that:

- (a) The total amount yielded by its Council Taxes for the said financial year will be sufficient, so far as is practicable, to provide for items mentioned at 3(a) to (c) above; and, to the extent that they are not, to be provided for by any other means;

- (b) Those amounts which relate to a part only of its area will secure, so far as is practicable, that the precept or portion of a precept relating to such part will be provided for only by the amount yielded by such of its Council Taxes as relate to that part;
- 8) the Operational Director, Finance, be authorised at any time during the financial year 2014/15 to borrow on behalf of the Council by way of gross bank overdraft such sums as he shall deem necessary for the purposes of this paragraph, but not such that in any event the said overdraft at any time exceeds £10m (£0.5m net) as the Council may temporarily require.

COU85 2013/14 REVISED CAPITAL PROGRAMME (MINUTE EXB 155 REFERS)

The Executive Board had considered a report of the Operational Director, Finance, on the 2013/14 revised Capital Programme.

The Council's Capital Programme had been revised to reflect a number of changes in spending profiles and funding, as schemes developed. These were detailed in Appendix 1.

RESOLVED: That the revisions to the Council's 2013/14 Capital Programme set out in paragraph 3.2 of the report be approved.

Operational
Director - Finance

COU86 CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2014-15 (MINUTE EXB 151 REFERS)

The Executive Board had considered a report of the Strategic Director, Children and Enterprise, which provided a summary of the 2014/15 Capital Programme for the Children and Enterprise Directorate.

Council was advised that in December 2013, the Department for Education announced the schools capital grant allocations for 2014/15, as set out in the table in the report. It was noted that this funding would support the following projects:

- Capital Maintenance;
- Basic Need Three Year Capital allocation;
- Universal Free School Meals Capital; and
- Devolved Formula Capital.

RESOLVED: That the Capital Programme for 2014/15 for the Children and Enterprise Directorate, be approved.

Strategic Director
- Children and
Enterprise

COU87 ESTABLISHMENT OF A COMBINED AUTHORITY FOR THE LIVERPOOL CITY REGION (MINUTE EXB 150 REFERS)

The Executive Board considered a report of the Chief Executive on the establishment of a Combined Authority for the Liverpool City Region from 1 April 2014.

RESOLVED: That Council

- 1) confirmed its previous decision that the Council should formally become a constituent member of the Liverpool City Region Combined Authority;
- 2) noted the position on the making of the Orders as attached in Appendix 1 and the Parliamentary process currently in train;
- 3) endorsed the Constitution for the Combined Authority as attached in Appendix 2;
- 4) approved the Operating Agreement for the Combined Authority as attached in Appendix 3;
- 5) approved the arrangements set out in the report to appoint members to the Combined Authority and its Committees ;
- 6) noted that no allowances (other than travel and subsistence) will be paid to Members of the Combined Authority, the Scrutiny Pool and other Committees and Boards, with the exception of the Merseytravel Committee;
- 7) agreed that the payment of allowances for co-opted members of the Transport Committee will be dealt with in accordance with the current Merseyside Integrated Transport Authority Scheme and the Council's own scheme be amended accordingly;
- 8) noted that a review of the Combined Authority's arrangements will be undertaken during the first year and reported to the Combined Authority's

Chief Executive

Annual General Meeting in 2015; and

- 9) agreed that approval to make any technical amendments to the Constitution and Operating Agreement for the Combined Authority and any other associated requirements to achieve the creation of the Combined Authority is delegated to the Chief Executive in consultation with the Leader of the Council.

COU88 PAY POLICY STATEMENT 2014/15

Council considered a report of the Strategic Director, Policy and Resources, which contained details of the Council's recommended Pay Policy Statement for 2014/15 (the Statement).

The Localism Act 2011 required every local authority to prepare a pay policy statement each year, which detailed the Council's approach to setting the pay of its employees.

The report detailed the following information:

- Background to the Pay Structure;
- Senior Management Remuneration;
- Recruitment of Chief Officers;
- Additions to Salaries of Chief Officers;
- Pension Contributions;
- Payments on Termination;
- Publication;
- Lowest Paid Employees: and
- Accountability and Decision Making.

RESOLVED: That the Pay Policy Statement for 2014/15 be approved.

Strategic Director
- Policy &
Resources

COU89 OUTSIDE BODIES MEMBERSHIP

The Council noted the following change to the membership of Outside Bodies:

- Bridgewater Community Healthcare Trust - Councillor Morley would replace Councillor Wright.

Chief Executive

COU90 ABSENCE OF AN ELECTED MEMBER

Council was advised that Councillor Frank Fraser had been absent from attending Council meetings due to ill

health. In December 2013, Council had resolved to grant him an extended period of absence from attending meetings, which would conclude on 14 March 2014.

All Members wished to send Councillor Fraser their best wishes for a speedy recovery.

RESOLVED: That Councillor Fraser be granted a further period of absence from attending Council meetings for a period of 3 months, concluding on 6 June 2014.

Chief Executive

Meeting ended at 7.00 p.m.