

COUNCIL

At a meeting of the Council on Wednesday, 5 March 2008 in the Council Chamber, Runcorn Town Hall

Present: Councillors Hodgkinson (Mayor), P. Blackmore, S. Blackmore, Bradshaw, Bryant, D. Cargill, E. Cargill, Cross, Dennett, Drakeley, Findon, Fraser, Gerrard, Gilligan, Harris, Hignett, Howard, D Inch, Jones, Leadbetter, Lewis, Lloyd Jones, Loftus, A. Lowe, J. Lowe, McDermott, McInerney, Murray, Nelson, Nolan, Norddahl, Osborne, Parker, Philbin, Polhill, E. Ratcliffe, Redhead, Rowan, Rowe, Sly, Stockton, Swain, Swift, Thompson, Wallace, Wharton, Worrall and Wright

Apologies for Absence: Councillors Edge, Higginson, Horabin, C Inch, Marlow, Morley and M. Ratcliffe

Absence declared on Council business: Councillor K. Wainwright

Officers present: L. Cairns, G. Cook, B. Dodd, D. Johnson, I. Leivesley, G. Meehan, D. Parr, M. Reaney, D. Tregoe and J. Whittaker

Also in attendance: 8 Public

Action

(NB Councillors D. Cargill and E. Cargill declared personal interests in respect of Appendix B of the following item of business, in relation to Community Care Services, as a relative was awaiting a care package.)

COU76 BUDGET, CAPITAL PROGRAMME AND COUNCIL TAX FOR 2008/09 - KEY DECISION

The Executive Board had considered a report setting out a recommendation to Council in respect of the Budget, Capital Programme and Council Tax for 2008/09. Since then, the Cheshire Police and Fire Authorities had set their budgets and council tax precepts and an updated report had been circulated for Members' attention providing information in respect of:

- the Local Government Finance Settlement;
- the Budget 2008/09;
- the Budget Outlook;
- the Capital Programme;
- Halton's Council Tax;
- Parish Precepts;

- Average Council Tax;
- Police and Fire Precepts;
- Total Council Tax;
- the Prudential Code; and
- Capital Financing.

The Executive Board had recommended that Council adopt the resolution set out in Appendix A of the report, which included setting the Budget at £101.895m and the Band D Council Tax for Halton (before Parish, Police and Fire precepts) of £1,079.97.

The Corporate Services Portfolio Holder, officers and Members were all thanked for their work in producing this budget. In addition, the involvement of the Halton 2000 Citizens' Panel, and the comments of each of the Area Forums, a list of which had been tabled for Council's consideration, was noted.

The following motion was moved and seconded by Councillors Wharton and McDermott respectively:

"That:

1. The policies outlined in this paper be adopted, including the Budget for 2008/09, the growth and savings set out in Appendix B, the Capital Programme set out in Appendix C, and Prudential Indicators set out in Appendix D.
2. That it be noted that at the meeting on 12th December 2007 the Council agreed the following:
 - (a) For 2008/09, in accordance with the Local Government Act 2003 and with regulations made under Section 33(5) of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, a Council Tax Base of 37,762 being the amount calculated by the Council, in accordance with Regulation 3 of the Local Authorities (Calculation of Council Tax Base) Regulations 1992, as its Council Tax Base for the year, and
 - (b) For the Parishes, the Council Tax base for each Parish for the year 2008/09 be set as follows:

Parish	Tax Base
Hale	724
Daresbury	140
Moore	349
Preston Brook	339
Halebank	510
Sandymoor	816

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. In accordance with the relevant provisions of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 (Sections 32 to 36), the following amounts be now calculated by the Council for the year 2008/09 and agreed as follows:
- (a) £288,942,717 – being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 32(2)(a) to (e) of the said Act.
 - (b) £187,362,000 – being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 32(3)(a) to (c) of the said Act.
 - (c) £101,580,717 – being the amount calculated by the Council for the year 2008/09 in accordance with Section 32(4) of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 as its budget requirement for the year.
 - (d) £60,762,844 – being the aggregate of the sums which the Council estimates will be payable for the year into its General Fund in respect of redistributed Non-Domestic Rates (£53,337,790) and Revenue Support Grant (£7,425,054).
 - (e) £1,080.92 – being the amount at 3(c) above less the amount at 3(d) above all divided by the amount at 2(a) above, calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 33(1) of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, as the basic amount of its Council Tax for the

year.

- (f) £36,017 – being the aggregate amount of all special items referred to in Section 34(1) of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, each individual Parish precept being:

	£
Hale	15,412
Daresbury	3,000
Moore	4,000
Preston Brook	3,605
Halebank	5,000
Sandymoor	5,000

- (g) £1,079.97 Local Government Finance Act 1992, as the basic amount of Council Tax for the year for dwellings in those parts of its area to which no special item relates.

- (h) Part of the Council's Area

	£
Hale	1,101.26
Daresbury	1,101.40
Moore	1,091.43
Preston Brook	1,090.60
Halebank	1,089.77
Sandymoor	1,086.10

being the amounts given by adding to the amounts at 3(g) 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 Local Government Finance Act 1992, as the basic amounts of its Council Tax for the year for dwellings of its area to which one or more special items relate.

(i) Part of the Council's Area

B a n d	Hale	Daresbury	Moore	Preston Brook	Halebank	Sandymo o r	All other Parts of the Council's Area
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
A	734.17	734.27	727.62	727.07	726.51	724.07	719.98
B	856.54	856.65	848.89	848.25	847.60	844.75	839.98
C	978.89	979.02	970.16	969.42	968.68	965.42	959.97
D	1,101.26	1,101.40	1,091.43	1,090.60	1,089.77	1,086.10	1,079.97
E	1,345.98	1,346.15	1,333.97	1,332.95	1,331.94	1,327.45	1,319.96
F	1,590.71	1,590.91	1,576.51	1,575.31	1,574.12	1,568.81	1,559.96
G	1,835.43	1,835.67	1,819.05	1,817.67	1,816.28	1,810.17	1,799.95
H	2,202.52	2,202.80	2,182.86	2,181.20	2,179.54	2,172.20	2,159.94

being the amounts given by multiplying the amounts at 3(g) and 3(h) above by the number which, in the proportion set out in Section 5(1) of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, 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 Local Government Finance Act 1992, as the amounts to be taken into account for the year in respect of categories of dwellings listed in different valuation bands.

4. It is further noted that for the year 2008/09 the Police Authority have stated the following amounts in precepts issued to the Authority, in accordance with Section 40 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 for each of the categories of dwellings shown below:

	£
A	90.50
B	105.58
C	120.67
D	135.65
E	165.92
F	196.08
G	226.25
H	271.50

5. It is further noted that for the year 2008/09 the Fire Authority have stated the following amounts in precepts issued to the Authority, in accordance with the Local Government Act 2003 for each of the categories of dwellings shown below:

	£
A	41.81
B	48.77
C	55.74
D	62.71
E	76.65
F	90.58
G	104.52
H	125.42

6. 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 2008/09 for each of the categories of dwellings shown below:

B a n d	Hale	Daresbur y	Moore	Preston Brook	Hale- bank	Sandy- moor	All other Parts of the Council's Area
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
A	866.48	866.58	859.93	859.38	858.82	856.38	852.29
B	1,010.89	1,011.00	1,003.24	1,002.60	1,001.95	999.10	994.33
C	1,155.30	1,155.43	1,146.57	1,145.83	1,145.09	1,141.83	1,136.38
D	1,299.72	1,299.86	1,289.89	1,289.06	1,288.23	1,284.56	1,278.43
E	1,588.55	1,588.72	1,576.54	1,575.52	1,574.51	1,570.02	1,562.53
F	1,877.37	1,877.57	1,863.17	1,861.97	1,860.78	1,855.47	1,846.62
G	2,166.20	2,166.44	2,149.82	2,148.44	2,147.05	2,140.94	2,130.72
H	2,599.44	2,599.72	2,579.78	2,578.12	2,576.46	2,569.12	2,556.86

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 (d) 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.

7. The Operational Director – Financial Services be authorised at any time during the financial year 2008/09 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 (£1.5m net) as the Council may temporarily require.”

The following amendment to the substantive motion was moved and seconded by Councillors Redhead and Sly respectively:

“As part of the Budget setting process for 2008/09 we would like to propose the following amendment to item 3 (a) on the Agenda for the full council meeting of 5th March 2008.

These savings were submitted to the Executive Board prior to the budget being set.

Energy Saving Programme – as recommended last year (programme should be in its second year by now)	50,000
Advertising, Marketing and Promotion. – as last year (balance required to deliver a 15% reduction - 11.6% achieved)	12,000
Executive Board (reduction to 6 posts in line with Directorate structure)	57,000
Freeze Councillors allowances for one year	12,000
No special allowance paid to Vice Chairs	30,000
Invest to Save – Productivity target for KPMG Partners	75,000
Voluntary Sector – Do not cut this valuable area	(72,000)
Fund Voluntary Sector spending by reducing Priorities Fund in view of the new LAA shape yet to be agreed.	72,000

TOTAL EXTRA SAVINGS	£237,000
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This would reduce the Council Tax increase from the 3.5% as per the proposal down to 2.9%.”

Following debate, the amendment was put to the vote and defeated. The substantive motion was then put to the meeting and carried:

RESOLVED: That

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7. The Operational Director – Financial Services be authorised at any time during the financial year 2008/09 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 (£1.5m net) as the Council may temporarily require.

COU77 EXECUTIVE BOARD - 21ST FEBRUARY 2008 - NEW PARISHES OF HALEBANK AND SANDYMOOR

The Executive Board had considered a report of the Strategic Director – Corporate and Policy regarding the

Halton (Parishes) Order 2007 and the Halton (Parish Electoral Arrangements) Order 2008. These Orders established the Parish Councils for the new Parishes of Halebank and Sandymoor and provided that elections be held on the ordinary day of election for Councillors in 2008, ie 1st May.

The Council was now required to make the Halebank Parish Council Order 2008 and the Sandymoor Parish Council Order 2008 in order to give effect to the Secretary of State's Orders.

RESOLVED: That the Halebank Parish Council Order 2008 and the Sandymoor Parish Council Order 2008 be made.

COU78 EXECUTIVE BOARD - 21ST FEBRUARY 2008 - CASTLEFIELDS VILLAGE SQUARE

The Executive Board had considered a report of the Strategic Director – Corporate and Policy and the Strategic Director – Environment advising of a change in English Partnerships' funding position and seeking approval for the Council to utilise part of the capital receipts from the disposal of Council owned land at Castlefields to support the development of the proposed Castlefields Village Square.

RESOLVED: That up to a maximum of £3.9m be included within the Council's capital programme to be invested in the delivery of the Castlefields programme, including the Village Square project, funded from future land receipts.

(NB Councillor Hignett declared a personal and prejudicial interest in the following item of business due to being employed by Community Integrated Care (CIC) and left the room for the duration of its consideration.)

COU79 DEPARTMENTAL SERVICE PLANS 2008-2011

The Executive Board had considered a report seeking to progress the adoption of the Council's Departmental Service Plans for 2008-2011 as a basis for action and performance monitoring. A copy of the Service Plans had been circulated to Council Members in CD Rom format for information.

RESOLVED: That

(1) this set of advanced draft Service Plans be received;

and

- (2) the decision of the Executive Board to delegate to the Chief Executive, in consultation with the Leader, authority to make any final amendments and adjustments that may be required, and to approve the final service plans, be supported.

Meeting ended at 7.33 p.m.