

COUNCIL

At a meeting of the Council on Wednesday, 4 March 2009 in the Council Chamber, Runcorn Town Hall

Present: Councillors Loftus (Chairman), Austin, Balmer, M. Bradshaw, Browne, Shepherd, Hodgkinson, P. Blackmore, S. Blackmore, J. Bradshaw, Bryant, D. Cargill, E. Cargill, Dennett, Drakeley, Edge, Findon, Fraser, Gilligan, Harris, Higginson, Hignett, Horabin, Howard, D. Inch, Jones, Leadbetter, Lloyd Jones, A. Lowe, J. Lowe, McDermott, McInerney, Morley, Murray, Nolan, Norddahl, Osborne, Parker, Philbin, Polhill, E. Ratcliffe, Redhead, Rowe, Stockton, Swain, Swift, Thompson, Wainwright, Wallace, Wharton, Worrall and Wright

Apologies for Absence: Councillors Gerrard, Nelson, M. Ratcliffe and Rowan

Absence declared on Council business: None

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

Also in attendance: 3 members of the public

Action

The Leader reported that the Council had secured £2.5million from the Big Lottery Fund to transform the former Kingsway Health Centre into a youth facility called "Buzz", and would be a fantastic facility for the young people of the Borough.

(NB The Councillors shown below declared personal interests in the following item of business due reasons described

*Bryant – wife being employed by Halton Borough Council;
Murray – wife being employed by Halton Borough Council;
Nolan – wife being employed by Halton Borough Council;
Howard – wife being employed by Halton Borough Council;
Osborne – wife being employed by Halton Borough Council;
Wright – daughter-in-law employed by Halton Borough Council;
Polhill – daughter being employed by Halton Borough Council; and
Hignett – due to being employed by Community Integrated Care.*

COU80 BUDGET, CAPITAL PROGRAMME AND COUNCIL TAX FOR 2009/10 - 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 2009/10. 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:

- medium term financial strategy;
- the Budget consultation;
- review of the 2008/09 Budget;
- the Budget 2009/10;
- the Budget outlook;
- the Local Government Financial Settlement;
- Halton's Council Tax;
- Parish Precepts;
- Average Council Tax;
- Police Precept;
- Fire Precept;
- Total Council Tax;
- Capital Programme;
- the 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 £105.467m and the Band D for Council Tax for Halton (before Parish, Police and Fire precepts) of £1,116.69.

The Corporate Services Portfolio Holder thanked Officers and Members for all their support in producing this budget.

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 2009/10, 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 17th December 2008 the Council agreed the following:
 - (a) For 2009/10, 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 38,200 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 2009/10 be set as follows:

Parish	Tax Base
Hale	729
Daresbury	141
Moore	345
Preston Brook	347
Halebank	569
Sandymoor	913

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 2009/10 and agreed as follows:
- (a) £309,420,856 – 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) £204,260,250 – 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) £105,160,606 – 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) £62,459,271 – 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 (£50,746,357) and Revenue Support Grant (£11,712,914).
 - (e) £1,117.84 – 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) £43,776 – 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	4,200
Preston Brook	4,164
Halebank	7,000
Sandymoor	10,000

(g) £1,116.69 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	1,137.83
Daresbury	1,137.97
Moore	1,128.86
Preston Brook	1,128.69
Halebank	1,128.99
Sandymoor	1,127.64

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

Band	Hale	Daresbury	Moore	Preston Brook	Halebank	Sandymoor	All other Parts of the Council's Area
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
A	758.55	758.65	752.57	752.46	752.66	751.76	744.46
B	884.98	885.09	878.01	877.87	878.11	877.06	868.54
C	1,011.40	1,011.53	1,003.43	1,003.28	1,003.54	1,002.34	992.61
D	1,137.83	1,137.97	1,128.86	1,128.69	1,128.99	1,127.64	1,116.69
E	1,390.68	1,390.85	1,379.71	1,379.51	1,379.87	1,378.22	1,364.84

F	1,643.54	1,643.74	1,630.58	1,630.33	1,630.77	1,628.82	1,613.00
G	1,896.38	1,896.62	1,881.43	1,881.15	1,881.65	1,879.40	1,861.15
H	2,275.66	2,275.94	2,257.72	2,257.38	2,257.98	2,255.28	2,233.38

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 was further noted that for the year 2009/10 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	93.80
B	109.43
C	125.07
D	140.70
E	171.97
F	203.23
G	234.50
H	281.40

5. It was further noted that for the year 2009/10 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	43.02
B	50.19
C	57.36
D	64.53
E	78.87
F	93.21
G	107.55
H	129.06

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 2009/10 for each of the categories of dwellings shown below:

Band	Hale	Daresbury	Moore	Preston Brook	Halebank	Sandymoor	All other Parts of the Council's Area
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
A	895.37	895.47	889.39	889.28	889.48	888.58	881.28
B	1,044.60	1,044.71	1,037.63	1,037.49	1,037.73	1,036.68	1,028.16
C	1,193.83	1,193.96	1,185.86	1,185.71	1,185.97	1,184.77	1,175.04
D	1,343.06	1,343.20	1,334.09	1,333.92	1,334.22	1,332.87	1,321.92
E	1,641.52	1,641.69	1,630.55	1,630.35	1,630.71	1,629.06	1,615.68
F	1,939.98	1,940.18	1,927.02	1,926.77	1,927.21	1,925.26	1,909.44
G	2,238.43	2,238.67	2,223.48	2,223.20	2,223.70	2,221.45	2,203.20
H	2,686.12	2,686.40	2,668.18	2,667.84	2,668.44	2,665.74	2,643.84

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 2009/10 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.

COU81 DEPARTMENTAL SERVICE PLANS 2009-2012 - KEY DECISION

The Executive Board had considered a report seeking to progress the adoption of the Council's Departmental Service Plans for 2009-2012 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.

Councillor Hodgkinson asked the following question in relation to the service plans;

“Improving health is a major priority for Halton and Key Area of Focus No 5 in the Corporate Plan states that we are ‘actively managing the environmental factors detrimental to health.”

“This action is addressed in the Environmental and Regulatory Services Plan, but only contaminated land issues are mentioned. Air pollution which can cause lung and other diseases is not mentioned. Although visible air pollution has decreased significantly in recent decades, problems associated with industry and traffic remain.”

“How is Halton actively managing air pollution?”

In response it was advised that the Local Authority had been required to carry out an investigation regarding the potential effects from air pollution and DEFFRA had published the findings from this on their website.

It was noted that air quality objectives had been achieved and a more detailed assessment was underway in the area of Widnes Town Centre. It was also reported that emission monitoring was the responsibility of the specific plant operators.

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 7.05 p.m.