

COUNCIL

At a meeting of the Council on Wednesday, 6 December 2023 in the Council Chamber, Runcorn Town Hall

Present: Councillors Abbott, Ball, Baker, Begg, Bramwell, Cargill, Carlin, Dennett, Davidson, Dourley, Fry, Garner, Gilligan, Goodall, Harris, S. Hill, V. Hill, Hutchinson, Jones, C. Loftus, K. Loftus, Logan, A. Lowe, J. Lowe, McDermott, A. McInerney, T. McInerney, Nelson, L. Nolan, P. Nolan, Philbin, Polhill, Ratcliffe, Ryan, Stockton, Skinner, Teeling, Thompson, Thornton, Wainwright, Wall, Wallace, Wharton, Woolfall and Wright

Apologies for Absence: Councillors Bevan, Bradshaw, Leck, M. Lloyd Jones, P. Lloyd Jones, C. Plumpton Walsh, N. Plumpton Walsh and Rowe

Absence declared on Council business: None

Officers present: M. Reaney, S. Young, G. Ferguson and D. Nolan

Also in attendance: One member of the press

Action

COU41 COUNCIL MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting of Council held on 18 October 2023 were taken as read and signed as a correct record.

COU42 THE MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Mayor reported that she was pleased to announce that Councillor Carol Plumpton Walsh had given birth to a baby boy George James, and both mother and baby were doing well. On behalf of the Council the Mayor sent her congratulations to Councillor Carol Plumpton Walsh and Councillor Norman Plumpton Walsh.

The Mayor also thanked everyone who had helped and attended the Town Hall Open Day. The event had raised £1075 towards the Mayor's Fund.

COU43 LEADER'S REPORT

The Leader in his report to Council:

- expressed his disappointment at the lack of acknowledgement from central government in its recent autumn statement, to provide much needed additional funding towards Social Care Services;
- he reported that the Ofsted Inspection of the

Council's SEND service was completed and a report was expected soon; and

- he wished everyone very best wishes for Christmas and the New Year.

COU44 MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE BOARD

The Council considered the minutes of the Executive Board meetings on 19 October 2023 and 16 November 2023.

RESOLVED: That the minutes be received.

COU45 MINUTES OF THE HEALTH AND WELLBEING BOARD

The Council considered the minutes of the Health and Wellbeing Board meeting on 11 October 2023.

RESOLVED: That the minutes be received.

COU46 QUESTIONS ASKED UNDER STANDING ORDER 8

It was noted that no questions had been submitted under Standing Order No. 8.

N.B. Councillors A. Lowe and J. Lowe declared a Registrable Other Interest in the following item of business as they have a family member employed at St Lukes Care Home.

COU47 REVISIONS TO THE 2023/24 CAPITAL PROGRAMME - EXB51

The Council considered a report of the Operational Director, Finance, which set out a number of revisions to the Council's 2023/24 Capital Programme.

RESOLVED: That the revisions to the Council's 2023/24 Capital Programme outlined in paragraph 3.2, be approved.

Operational
Director - Finance

COU48 DETERMINATION OF COUNCIL TAX BASE 2024/25 - EXB53

The Council considered a report of the Operational Director, Finance, on the determination of the Council Tax Base for 2024/25.

The Mayor asked if there were any observations or amendments to the proposals set out in the report and none were received. The recommendation was unanimously

approved by Council as detailed below.

RESOLVED: That

- 1) the Council Tax Base for 2024/25 be set at 36,409 for the Borough, and that the Cheshire Fire Authority, the Cheshire Police & Crime Commissioner, Liverpool City Region Combined Authority and the Environment Agency be so notified; and
- 2) Council set the Council Tax Base for each of the Parishes as follows:

Parish	Tax Base
Hale	667
Halebank	534
Daresbury	212
Moore	341
Preston Brook	370
Sandymoor	1,606

COU49 EAST RUNCORN CONNECTIVITY SCHEME - EXB58

Executive Board had previously considered a report which sought approval to accept funding to complete the full business case in support of the East Runcorn Connectivity Scheme project elements, that were deliverable within the City Region Sustainable Transport Settlement (CRSTS). The report sought Council approval to accept funding from the City Region Sustainable Transport Settlement and to amend the Capital Programme accordingly.

RESOLVED: That

- 1) the funding from the City Region Sustainable Transport Settlement be accepted and the Council be recommended to amend the Capital Programme accordingly;
- 2) Mott MacDonald Ltd are retained as external consultant for the project up to a value of £1.61m, via the Warrington Consultancy Framework; and
- 3) the Operational Director – Policy, Planning and Transportation, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder, Environment and Urban Renewal, be delegated to procure and implement the necessary works to deliver the A56 East Runcorn Connectivity (ERC) Scheme and active travel routes within funding deadlines.

Operational
Director - Finance

Executive Director
Environment &
Regeneration

COU50 STATUTORY POLLING DISTRICT AND POLLING PLACES REVIEW

Council considered a report of the Chief Executive, that sought authority to approve a revised Polling Places Scheme. The Electoral Administration Act 2006 required the Council to carry out a review of all its polling stations every five years. As part of the review process, a consultation exercise had been carried out and comments were required by 13 November 2023. It was noted that those comments received had been taken into account and the recommendations were detailed in the appendix to the report.

It was noted that on page 9 of the report there was a typing error in the electorate figures for the Polling Districts in Daresbury Moore and Sandymoor Wards, DM1 and DM3. The figures should read DM1 - 3110 and DM3 - 296.

RESOLVED: That the Polling Places Scheme as detailed in the appendix to the report for the period 2024-2029 be adopted.

Chief Executive

COU51 MINUTES OF THE POLICY AND PERFORMANCE BOARDS AND THE AUDIT AND GOVERNANCE BOARD

The Council considered the reports of the following Boards in the period since the meeting of Council on 18 October 2023:-

- Children, Young People and Families;
- Employment, Learning and Skills and Community;
- Safer;
- Environment and Urban Renewal;
- Corporate Services; and
- Audit and Governance.

COU52 COMMITTEE MINUTES

The Council considered the reports of the following Committees in the period since the meeting of Council on 18 October 2023:-

- Development Management; and
- Appointments.

Meeting ended at 6.57 p.m.