

## COUNCIL

*At a meeting of the Council on Wednesday, 6 March 2019 in the Council Chamber, Runcorn Town Hall*

Present: Councillors J. Bradshaw, Abbott, Baker, M. Bradshaw, D. Cargill, E. Cargill, Carlin, Cassidy, Dennett, Dourley, Fry, Gilligan, Harris, P. Hignett, R. Hignett, S. Hill, V. Hill, Horabin, Howard, Jones, Leck, C. Loftus, K. Loftus, Logan, A. Lowe, J. Lowe, MacManus, McDermott, A. McInerney, T. McInerney, Morley, Nelson, Nolan, Philbin, Polhill, C. Plumpton Walsh, N. Plumpton Walsh, June Roberts, Rowe, Sinnott, G. Stockton, J. Stockton, Teeling, Thompson, Wainwright, Wall, Wallace, Wharton, Whitley, Woolfall, Wright and Zygadlo

Apologies for Absence: Councillors M. Lloyd Jones, P. Lloyd Jones and Joe Roberts

Absence declared on Council business: None

Officers present: D. Parr, I. Leivesley, M. Vasic, M. Reaney, A. Scott, A. Jones, G. Cook, E. Dawson and K. Mackenzie

Also in attendance: One member of the press

### *Action*

#### COU61 COUNCIL MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting of Council held on 6 February 2019, were taken as read and signed as a correct record.

#### COU62 THE MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Mayor made the following announcements:-

- The Mayor and Mayoress thanked everyone that had attended or been responsible for organising their Civic Ball on 8 February 2019 which was a very successful event in the Mayoral calendar.

#### COU63 LEADER'S REPORT

The Leader made the following announcements:-

- He thanked colleagues and Officers for their work in balancing the budget;
- Reported that the Boundary Commission's report and recommendations on the Boundary Review for Halton was expected at the end of March 2019.

#### COU64 MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE BOARD

The Council considered the minutes of the Executive Board meetings held on 13 December 2018, 17 January 2019 and 21 February 2019.

RESOLVED: That the minutes be received.

#### COU65 QUESTIONS ASKED UNDER STANDING ORDER 8

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

#### COU66 BUDGET 2019/20 - KEY DECISION (MINUTE EXB 92 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 2019/20. Since then Cheshire Fire Authority had set its budget and council tax precept and this had been included in the report to full Council.

The Executive Board had recommended that Council adopt the resolution set out in Appendix A of the report, which included setting the budget at £108,621m, the Council Tax requirement of £49,597m (before Parish, Police, Fire and LCR Combined Authority precepts), and the Band D Council Tax for Halton of £1,419.08.

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. In addition, he thanked the Leader for his help and support in delivering this budget.

In accordance with Standing Order 16(3), a recorded vote was taken.

The following Members voted FOR the motion:

Councillors Abbott, Baker, M. Bradshaw, J. Bradshaw, D. Cargill, E. Cargill, Carlin, Cassidy, Dennett, Dourley, Fry, Gilligan, Harris, P. Hignett, R. Hignett, S. Hill, V. Hill, Horabin, Howard, Jones, Leck, C. Loftus, K. Loftus, Logan, A. Lowe, J. Lowe, MacManus, McDermott, A. McInerney, T. McInerney, Morley, Nelson, Nolan, Philbin, Polhill, C. Plumpton Walsh, N. Plumpton Walsh, June Roberts, Rowe, Sinnott, G. Stockton, J. Stockton, Teeling, Thompson, Wainwright, Wall, Wallace, Wharton, Whitley, Woolfall, Wright and Zygadlo.

There were no votes against the motion.

There were no abstentions.

RESOLVED: That Council adopt the following resolution:-

Operational  
Director -  
Finance

- 1) The policies outlined in this paper be adopted, including the budget and council tax for 2019/20, the savings set out in Appendix B and the Capital Programme set out in Appendix F.
- 2) That it be noted that at the meeting on 12 December 2018 the Council agreed the following:
  - (a) the Council Tax Base 2019/20 for the whole Council area is 34,950 (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	660
Daresbury	173
Moore	329
Preston Brook	359
Halebank	526
Sandymoor	1,216

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 2019/20 (excluding Parish precepts) is £49,596,846.
- 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 2019/20 and agreed as follows:
  - (a) £384,739,650 – 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) £335,024,640 – being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 31A(3) of the Act.
- (c) £49,715,010 – 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) £1,422.46 – 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) £118,164 – 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	43,225
Daresbury	4,935
Moore	4,752
Preston Brook	11,788
Halebank	20,905
Sandymoor	32,559

- (f) £1,419.08 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	65.49
Daresbury	28.53
Moore	14.44
Preston Brook	32.84
Halebank	39.74
Sandymoor	26.78

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	Sandy moor	All other Parts of the Council's Area
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
A	989.71	965.07	955.68	967.94	972.55	963.90	946.05
B	1,154.67	1,125.92	1,114.96	1,129.27	1,134.64	1,124.55	1,103.73
C	1,319.62	1,286.76	1,274.24	1,290.59	1,296.73	1,285.20	1,261.40
<b>D</b>	<b>1,484.57</b>	<b>1,447.61</b>	<b>1,433.52</b>	<b>1,451.92</b>	<b>1,458.82</b>	<b>1,445.86</b>	<b>1,419.08</b>
E	1,814.48	1,769.30	1,752.08	1,774.56	1,783.01	1,767.16	1,734.43
F	2,144.38	2,090.99	2,070.65	2,097.21	2,107.19	2,088.46	2,049.78
G	2,474.29	2,412.68	2,389.21	2,419.86	2,431.37	2,409.76	2,365.13
H	2,969.14	2,895.21	2,867.05	2,903.83	2,917.65	2,891.71	2,838.16

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 2019/20 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:

	£
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A	133.63
B	155.90
C	178.17
<b>D</b>	<b>200.44</b>
E	244.98
F	289.52
G	334.07
H	400.88

- 6) It is further noted that for the year 2019/20 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:

	£
A	51.83
B	60.46
C	69.10
<b>D</b>	<b>77.74</b>
E	95.02
F	112.29
G	129.57
H	155.48

- 7) It is further noted that for the year 2019/20 the Liverpool City Region Combined 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:

	£
A	12.67
B	14.78
C	16.89
<b>D</b>	<b>19.00</b>
E	23.22
F	27.44
G	31.67
H	38.00

- 8) That, having calculated the aggregate in each case of the amounts at 4h, 5, 6 and 7 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 2019/20 for each of the categories of dwellings shown below:

Band	Hale	Dares bury	Moore	Preston Brook	Hale bank	Sandy moor	All other Parts of the Council's Area
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
A	1,187.84	1,163.20	1,153.81	1,166.07	1,170.67	1,162.03	1,144.18
B	1,385.81	1,357.06	1,346.10	1,360.41	1,365.78	1,355.70	1,334.87
C	1,583.77	1,550.92	1,538.40	1,554.75	1,560.88	1,549.36	1,525.56
<b>D</b>	<b>1,781.75</b>	<b>1,744.79</b>	<b>1,730.70</b>	<b>1,749.10</b>	<b>1,756.00</b>	<b>1,783.04</b>	<b>1,716.26</b>
E	2,177.69	2,132.52	2,115.30	2,137.79	2,146.22	2,130.38	2,097.65
F	2,573.63	2,520.24	2,499.89	2,526.47	2,536.43	2,517.71	2,479.03
G	2,969.59	2,907.99	2,884.51	2,915.17	2,926.67	2,905.07	2,860.44
H	3,563.50	3,489.58	3,461.40	3,498.20	3,512.00	3,486.08	3,432.52

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 4(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.
- 9) The Operational Director Finance be authorised at any time during the financial year 2019/20 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 on an individual bank account (£0.5m net across all bank accounts) as the Council may temporarily require.

(MINUTE EXB 93 REFERS)

The Council considered a report of the Operational Director, Finance, on the Treasury Management Statement, which incorporated the Annual Investment Strategy and the Minimum Revenue Provision Strategy for 2019/20.

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

Operational  
Director -  
Finance

COU68 CAPITAL STRATEGY 2019/20 (MINUTE EXB 94 REFERS)

The Council considered a report of the Operational Director, Finance, on the Council's Capital Strategy for 2019/20.

Members noted that the Capital Strategy should be read in conjunction with the Treasury Management Statement, also considered at this meeting. The successful delivery of the Capital Strategy would assist the Council in planning and funding its capital expenditure over the next three years.

RESOLVED: That Council approve the 2019/20 Capital Strategy, as presented in the Appendix attached to the report.

Operational  
Director -  
Finance

COU69 CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2019/20 - KEY DECISION (MINUTE EXB 80 REFERS)

The Council considered a report of the Strategic Director, People, which provided a summary of the Capital Programmes for 2019/20 for the People Directorate.

RESOLVED: That the Capital Allocations, included in the Budget report, be approved.

Strategic  
Director -  
People

*(N.B. Councillor Ron Hignett declared a Disclosable Other Interest in the following item of business as he was a Board member of the Sci-Tech Daresbury Private Sector Joint Venture Board)*

COU70 2018/19 REVISED CAPITAL PROGRAMME (MINUTE EXB 95 REFERS)

The Council considered a report of the Operational Director, Finance, which sought approval to a number of revisions to the Council's 2018/19 Capital Programme.

RESOLVED: That the revisions to the Council's 2018/19 Capital Programme, as set out in paragraph 3.2 of the report, be approved.

Operational  
Director -  
Finance

COU71 CALENDAR OF MEETINGS 2019/20 (MINUTE EXB 96 REFERS)



The Council considered a report of the Strategic Director, Enterprise, Community and Resources, on a calendar of meetings for the 2019/20 Municipal Year.

Strategic Director -  
Enterprise,  
Community  
and  
Resources

RESOLVED: That the calendar of meetings for the 2019/20 Municipal Year, as appended to the report, be approved.

COU72 UNISON'S END VIOLENCE AT WORK CHARTER (MINUTE EXB 97 REFERS)

The Council considered a report of the Strategic Director, Enterprise, Community and Resources, which set out details of Unison's End Violence at Work Charter.

The Council had been approached by Unison seeking support and to adopt their End Violence at Work Charter. The Charter reflected the Council's own philosophy and practices and had established policies and practices in place designed to protect its employees.

RESOLVED: That Council adopt the Unison "End Violence at Work Charter", and works with Unison representatives to ensure the standards within the Charter are adhered to.

Strategic Director -  
Enterprise,  
Community  
and  
Resources

COU73 INTERNATIONAL HOLOCAUST REMEMBRANCE ALLIANCE WORKING DEFINITION OF ANTI-SEMITISM (MINUTE EXB 98 REFERS)

The Council considered a report of the Strategic Director, Enterprise, Community and Resources, on the adoption of the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA) and working definition of Anti-Semitism.

The IHRA was an intergovernmental organisation which strengthened, advanced and promoted Holocaust education worldwide. The Council had been approached by the Jewish Leadership Council to adopt this definition.

RESOLVED: That Council adopt the IHRA working definition of Anti-Semitism.

Strategic Director -  
Enterprise,  
Community  
and  
Resources

COU74 MEMBERS' ALLOWANCE SCHEME - TRI-ANNUAL REVIEW

The Council considered a report of the Independent Remuneration Panel following the Triannual Review of the Scheme of Members' Allowances.

Under the Local Authority (Members' Allowances) Regulations

2003, the Scheme of Members' Allowances must be reviewed tri-annually. Three independent private sector representatives were invited to sit as an Independent Panel to review the Council's Scheme of Members' Allowances and to make recommendations to the Council.

The Panel were provided with, and appraised of, the Council's current Scheme of Allowances, as set out in the report. The Panel met and corresponded on a number of occasions, considered papers supplied in advance of their meetings and received a briefing by the Chief Executive. In addition, the Panel invited comments from the Leaders of the three Political Groups, considered written representations submitted by Councillors and considered information which had been shared with the Local Government Boundary Commission on the role of Councillors in Halton. The Panel's conclusions and recommendations were set out in the report for information.

RESOLVED: That Council

- 1) note and agree the recommendations of the Independent Remuneration Panel;
- 2) agree that the current Members' Allowance Scheme is 'fit for purpose' and represents excellent value for money as concluded by the Independent Remuneration Panel; and
- 3) make and adopt a Members' Allowance Scheme in the form contained in the Appendix attached to the report, to be effective from 1 April 2019 for a period of three years.

Chief  
Executive

#### COU75 MINUTES OF THE POLICY AND PERFORMANCE BOARDS

The Council considered the reports of the following Boards in the period since the meeting of Council on 12 December 2018:-

- Children, Young People and Families;
- Employment, Learning and Skills and Community;
- Safer; and
- Corporate Services.

In moving the minutes of the Children, Young People and Families Policy and Performance Board, Councillor Dennett encouraged all Members to read the Annual Headteacher's report of the attainment progress of Halton's Children in Care, given their Corporate Parenting role (Minute CYP 33 referred).

#### COU76 COMMITTEE MINUTES

The Council considered the reports of the following Committees in the period since the meeting of Council on 12 December 2018:-

- Development Control;
- Regulatory; and
- Standards.

#### COU77 REPORT OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT OMBUDSMAN

The Council considered a report of the Local Government Ombudsman, following an investigation into a complaint against the Council.

The complaint was about a Highways and Transport matter relating to the Mersey Gateway, a copy of which was appended to the report. The Ombudsman made no fault finding on the part of the Council and found no injustice. No recommendations were made.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

#### COU78 RECOMMENDATION FROM THE MAYORAL COMMITTEE

The Mayoral Committee had considered a Part II item which made recommendations for the appointment of Mayor and Deputy Mayor for the 2019/20 Municipal Year.

Formal confirmation would be sought at the Annual Meeting of Council.

RESOLVED: That Council note that

- 1) Councillor Margaret Horabin be appointed as Mayor; and
- 2) Councillor Christopher Rowe be appointed as Deputy Mayor.

*Meeting ended at 7.17 p.m.*