

COUNCIL

At a meeting of the Council on Wednesday, 8 March 2017 in the Council Chamber, Runcorn Town Hall

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

Apologies for Absence: Councillors Nolan, Harris, and G. Stockton

Absence declared on Council business: None

Officers present: D. Parr, I. Leivesley, M. Vasic, M. Reaney, A. Scott and E. Dawson

Also in attendance: None

Action

COU58 COUNCIL MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 7 December 2016, having been circulated, were taken as read and signed as a correct record.

COU59 THE MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Mayor made the following announcements:

- The Mayor hosted a reception for Mr Bill Armes who had recently celebrated his 100th birthday and who had been a volunteer at Halton Play Council for 29 years since his retirement;
- An MBE medal and citation, awarded to the late Miss M J Preece had been passed to the Council for safe keeping. This would be on display in the reception area at Runcorn Town Hall; and
- The Mayor had been presented with a pen, the case of which had been carved by local craftsmen, from wooden pews once situated in St John's Church, Weston, Runcorn.

COU60 LEADER'S REPORT

The Leader made the following announcements:

- He reported on the Budget Speech which had been made in Parliament earlier in the day. Confirmation of its contents and how they would affect Halton, were awaited;
- Merseyflow, the web site dedicated to the administration of the tolling system for the new Mersey Gateway Bridge and the Silver Jubilee Bridge, had been launched; and
- He thanked all Council staff and those from other agencies that had helped members of the community in a practical way on the day that 'Storm Doris' arrived.

COU61 MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE BOARD

The Council considered the minutes of the executive Board meetings on 15 December 2016, 19 January 2017 and 23 February 2017.

RESOLVED: That the minutes be received.

COU62 MINUTES OF THE HEALTH AND WELLBEING BOARD

The Council considered the minutes of the Health and Wellbeing Board meeting on 18 January 2017.

RESOLVED: That the minutes be received.

COU63 QUESTIONS ASKED UNDER STANDING ORDER 8

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

COU64 BUDGET 2017/18- KEY DECISION (MINUTE EXB 96 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 2017/18. 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 2016/17 Budget;
- 2017/18 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 £103.249m, the Council Tax requirement of £44.378m (before Parish, Police and Fire precepts) and the Band D Council Tax for Halton of £1,312.27.

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 Philbin, Abbott, S. Baker, M. Bradshaw, J. Bradshaw, D. Cargill, E. Cargill, Cassidy, Cole, Dennett, Edge, Fry, C. Gerrard, J. Gerrard, Gilligan, P. Hignett, R. Hignett, S. Hill, V. Hill, Horabin, Howard, Jones, M. Lloyd Jones, P. Lloyd Jones, C. Loftus, K. Loftus, Logan, A. Lowe, J. Lowe, MacManus, McDermott, A. McInerney, T. McInerney, Morley, Nelson, Osborne, Parker, Polhill, C. Plumpton Walsh, N. Plumpton Walsh, Joe Roberts, June Roberts, Rowe, Sinnott, J. Stockton, Thompson, Wainwright, Wall, Wallace, Wharton, Woolfall, Wright and Zygadlo

There were no votes against the motion.

There were no abstentions.

RESOLVED: That Council adopt the following resolution –

- 1) The policies outlined in this paper be adopted, including the budget and council tax for 2017/18, 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 07 December 2016 the Council agreed the following:
- (a) The Council Tax Base 2017/18 for the whole Council area is 33,818 (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	662
Daresbury	174
Moore	328
Preston Brook	332
Halebank	522
Sandymoor	1,020

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 2017/18 (excluding Parish precepts) is £44,378,347;
- 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 2016/17 and agreed as follows:
- (a) £353,577,866 – 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) £309,111,609– being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 31A(3) of the Act.
- (c) £44,466,257 – 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) £1,314.87– 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) £87,910– 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	26,250
Daresbury	4,596
Moore	4,526
Preston Brook	11,000
Halebank	15,610
Sandymoor	25,928

- (f) £1,312.27 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	1,351.92
Daresbury	1,338.68
Moore	1,326.07
Preston Brook	1,345.40
Halebank	1,342.17
Sandymoor	1,337.69

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	Hale bank	Sandy moor	All other Parts of the Council's Area
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
A	901.27	892.45	884.04	896.93	894.77	891.79	874.84
B	1,051.50	1,041.20	1,031.39	1,046.43	1,043.92	1,040.43	1,020.66
C	1,201.70	1,189.94	1,178.73	1,195.91	1,193.04	1,189.06	1,166.46
D	1,351.92	1,338.68	1,326.07	1,345.40	1,342.17	1,337.69	1,312.27
E	1,652.34	1,636.16	1,620.75	1,644.37	1,640.42	1,634.95	1,603.88
F	1,952.76	1,933.64	1,915.42	1,943.34	1,938.68	1,932.21	1,895.50
G	2,253.19	2,231.13	2,210.11	2,242.33	2,236.94	2,229.48	2,187.11
H	2,703.84	2,677.36	2,652.14	2,690.80	2,684.34	2,675.38	2,624.54

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 2017/18 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:

	£
A	109.63
B	127.90
C	146.17
D	164.44
E	200.98
F	237.52
G	274.07
H	328.88

- 6) It is further noted that for the year 2017/18 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	48.86
B	57.00
C	65.15
D	73.29
E	89.58
F	105.86
G	122.15
H	146.58

- 7) That, having calculated the aggregate in each case of the amounts at 4h, 5 and 6 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 2016/17 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	1,059.76	1,050.94	1,042.53	1,055.42	1,053.26	1,050.28	1,033.33
B	1,236.40	1,226.10	1,216.29	1,231.33	1,228.82	1,225.33	1,205.56
C	1,413.02	1,401.26	1,390.05	1,407.23	1,404.36	1,400.38	1,377.78
D	1,589.65	1,576.41	1,563.80	1,583.13	1,579.90	1,575.42	1,550.00
E	1,942.90	1,926.72	1,911.31	1,934.93	1,930.98	1,925.51	1,894.44
F	2,296.14	2,277.02	2,258.80	2,286.72	2,282.06	2,275.59	2,238.88
G	2,649.41	2,627.35	2,606.33	2,638.55	2,633.16	2,625.70	2,583.33
H	3,179.30	3,152.82	3,127.60	3,166.26	3,159.80	3,150.84	3,100.00

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.

- 8) The Operational Director Finance be authorised at any time during the financial year 2017/18 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.

(N.B. Councillor Martha Lloyd Jones made a Disclosable Other Interest in the following item of business as she was a Governor of St Edward's Catholic Primary School)

COU65 2016/17 REVISED CAPITAL PROGRAMME (MINUTE EXB 94 REFERS)

Executive Board had considered a report of the Operational Director, Finance, on revisions to the 2016/17 Capital Programme.

RESOLVED: That the revisions to the Council's 2016/17 Capital Programme, as set out in paragraph 3.2 of the report, be approved.

Operational
Director -
Finance

COU66 CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2017/18 AND BASIC NEED - KEY DECISION (MINUTE EXB 78 REFERS)

Executive Board had considered a report of the Strategic Director, People, on Capital Programmes for 2017/18 for the People Directorate.

RESOLVED: That the Capital Programme for 2017/18 be approved.

Strategic
Director -
People

COU67 TREASURY MANAGEMENT STRATEGY STATEMENT 2017/18 (MINUTE EXB 95 REFERS)

Executive Board considered a report of the Operational Director, Finance, on the Treasury Management Strategy Statement 2017/18.

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

Operational
Director -
Finance

COU68 SUPPORT TO SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES (MINUTE EXB 99 REFERS)

Executive Board considered a report of the Operational Director, Finance, on the adoption of a scheme to provide financial support to Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs).

RESOLVED: That

- 1) Council approve the introduction of a Scheme of Support for SMEs, in accordance with the circumstances and criteria outlined in the report;
- 2) The award of business loans up to £1m for successful applicants, be delegated to the Operational Director, Finance, in liaison with the Executive Board Portfolio holder for Resources and the Operational Director, Economy, Enterprise and Property;
- 3) The award of business loans of between £1m and £5m for successful applicants, be delegated to the Chief Executive in liaison with the Leader of the Council, the Executive Board Portfolio holder for Resources, the Operational Director, Finance, and the Operational Director, Economy, Enterprise and Property; and
- 4) The award of business loans over £5m for successful applicants, be a matter for decision by Executive Board.

Operational
Director -
Finance

COU69 CALENDAR OF MEETINGS FOR 2017/18 (MINUTE EXB 97 REFERS)

Executive Board considered a report of the Strategic Director, Enterprise, Community and Resources, on a proposed calendar of meetings for the 2017/18 Municipal Year.

RESOLVED: That the calendar of meetings for the 2017/18 Municipal Year, attached at Appendix 1, be approved.

Strategic
Director -
Enterprise,
Community
and
Resources

COU70 APPOINTMENT OF LOCAL RETURNING OFFICER FOR THE COMBINED AUTHORITY ELECTION

Council considered a report of the Strategic Director, Enterprise, Community and Resources, on the appointment of a Local Returning Officer for the Liverpool City Region Combined Authority Mayoral Election to be held on 4 May 2017.

RESOLVED: That the Chief Executive be appointed as the Local Returning Officer for the Combined Authority Mayoral Election on 4 May 2017.

Strategic
Director -
Enterprise,
Community
and
Resources

COU71 PAY POLICY STATEMENT

Council considered a report of the Strategic Director, Enterprise, Community and Resources, on the Pay Policy Statement for 2017/18.

The Localism Act 2011 required every local authority to prepare

a pay policy statement each year, which detailed the Council's approach to a range of issues relating to 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 2017/18 be adopted.

Strategic
Director -
Enterprise,
Community
and
Resources

COU72 PEOPLE'S DIRECTORATE

Council considered a report of the Chief Executive, on revised arrangements within the People Directorate, as required by the legislative framework for Children's, Adults and Public Health Services.

The report set out the administrative and managerial arrangements for the Operational Director for Adults (DASS), the Director of Children's Services (DCS) and the Director of Public Health (DPH).

RESOLVED: That

- 1) the content of the report be noted; and
- 2) the Strategic Director, People, be formally designated as the Council's Statutory Director of Children's Services.

Chief
Executive

COU73 RECOMMENDATION FROM MAYORAL COMMITTEE (MINUTE MYR 2 REFERS)

The Mayoral Committee had considered a Part II item which made recommendations for the appointment of Mayor and Deputy Mayor for the 2017/18 Municipal Year. Formal confirmation would be sought at the Annual Meeting of Council.

RESOLVED: That Council note that

- 1) Councillor Alan Lowe be appointed Mayor; and
- 2) Councillor John Bradshaw be appointed Deputy Mayor.

(N.B. The following Councillors made a Disclosable Other Interest in Minute HEA 35 of the Health Policy and Performance Board for the reasons stated: Councillor Alan Lowe and Councillor Joan Lowe as their sons' partner worked for a provider of domiciliary care in Halton; Councillor Osborne, as his wife was an employee of Halton Borough Council)

COU74 MINUTES OF THE POLICY AND PERFORMANCE BOARDS AND THE BUSINESS EFFICIENCY BOARD

The Council considered the reports of the following Boards in the period since the meeting of Council on 7 December 2016:-

- Children, Young People and Families;
- Employment, Learning and Skills and Community;
- Health;
- Safer;
- Environment and Urban Renewal;
- Corporate Services; and
- Business Efficiency Board.

COU75 COMMITTEE MINUTES

The Council considered the reports of the following Committees in the period since the meeting of Council on 7 December 2016:-

- Development Control;
- Regulatory;
- Appeals Panel;
- Standards; and
- Appointments.

Meeting ended at 7.05 p.m.