

## COUNCIL

*At a meeting of the Council on Wednesday, 7 March 2012 in the Council Chamber, Runcorn Town Hall*

Present: Councillors Morley, Austin, Baker, Balmer, J. Bradshaw, Browne, D. Cargill, E. Cargill, Carlin, A.Cole, Dennett, Edge, Fry, J. Gerrard, Gilligan, Hignett, Hodge, Hodgkinson, Horabin, Howard, Jones, M Lloyd Jones, P. Lloyd Jones, C. Loftus, K. Loftus, A. Lowe, J. Lowe, Macmanus, McDermott, A.McInerney, T. McInerney, Nelson, Nolan, Osborne, Parker, Philbin, Polhill, C. Plumpton Walsh, N.Plumpton Walsh, M. Ratcliffe, Roberts, Rowe, Shepherd, Stockton, Thompson, Wainwright, Wallace, Wharton, Wright and Zygadlo

Apologies for Absence: Councillors M. Bradshaw, Fraser, Harris, Leadbetter and Redhead

Absence declared on Council business: None

Officers present: M. Reaney, A. Scott, B. Dodd, D. Johnson, I. Leivesley, D. Parr, A. McIntyre and E. Dawson

Also in attendance: Four members of the public

*Action*

### COU78 MINUTE'S SILENCE

The Mayor reported on the sad passing of Councillor John Swain. He expressed the Council's deepest sympathy be extended to his wife and family at this time. Representatives from each of the Groups paid tribute to his dedication, commitment and hard work as a Councillor and former Mayor of the Borough.

The Council stood in silence for one minute as a mark of respect.

It was reported that the funeral and Civic Service would take place on Monday 19 March 2012 at St Michael and All Angels Church, Greenway Road, Runcorn at 12.15pm.

*(NB: the following Councillors declared personal interests in the following item of business for the reasons stated:*

*S Baker – daughter employed by Halton Borough Council;  
D Cargill – daughter employed by Halton Borough Council;  
E Cargill - family member employed by Halton Borough Council;*

*Hignett –daughter employed by Halton Borough Council;,  
Nolan – wife employed by Halton Borough Council;  
Osborne – wife employed by Halton Borough Council;  
R Polhill – daughter employed by Halton Borough Council;  
M Ratcliffe – family member employed by Halton Borough Council and as  
an employee of Cheshire Fire Service;  
Wright – family members employed by Halton Borough Council)*

#### COU79 BUDGET 2012/13 (MINUTE EXB 100 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 2012/13. 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;
- Budget Consultation
- Review of the 2011/12 Budget;
- 2012/13 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 £106.305m and the Band D Council Tax for Halton (before Parish, Police and Fire precepts) of £1,137.91.

The Resources Portfolio Holder thanked all the officers involved for their support in producing this budget.

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

RESOLVED: That

1. the policies outlined in this paper be adopted, including the Budget for 2012/13, 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 15<sup>th</sup> December 2011 the Council agreed the following:

- (a) The Council Tax Base 2012/13 for the whole Council area is 38,200 (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	729
Daresbury	146
Moore	345
Preston Brook	347
Halebank	590
Sandymoor	985

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 2012/13 (excluding Parish precepts) is £43,468,162
- 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 2012/13 and agreed as follows:
  - (a) £319,674,250 – 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) £276,147,483 – being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 31A(3) of the Act.
  - (c) £43,526,767 – 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) £1,139.44 – 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) £58,605 – 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	16,600
Daresbury	3,705
Moore	4,200
Preston Brook	6,600
Halebank	11,900
Sandymoor	15,600

- (f) £1,137.91 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	1,160.68
Daresbury	1,163.29
Moore	1,150.08
Preston Brook	1,156.93
Halebank	1,158.08
Sandymoor	1,153.75

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	Sandymoor	All other Parts of the Council's Area
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
A	773.79	775.53	766.72	771.29	772.06	769.17	758.61
B	902.75	904.78	894.51	899.83	900.73	897.36	885.04
C	1,031.72	1,034.04	1,022.30	1,028.39	1,029.41	1,025.56	1,011.48
<b>D</b>	<b>1,160.68</b>	<b>1,163.29</b>	<b>1,150.08</b>	<b>1,156.93</b>	<b>1,158.08</b>	<b>1,153.75</b>	<b>1,137.91</b>
E	1,418.61	1,421.80	1,405.65	1,414.03	1,415.43	1,410.14	1,390.78
F	1,676.54	1,680.31	1,661.23	1,671.12	1,672.78	1,666.53	1,643.65
G	1,934.47	1,938.82	1,916.80	1,928.22	1,930.14	1,922.92	1,896.52
H	2,321.36	2,326.58	2,300.16	2,313.86	2,316.16	2,307.50	2,275.82

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 be further noted that for the year 2012/13 the Police Authority had 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	100.15
B	116.84
C	133.53
<b>D</b>	<b>150.22</b>
E	183.60
F	216.98
G	250.37
H	300.44

6. It be further noted that for the year 2012/13 the Fire Authority had 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	44.29
B	51.67
C	59.05
<b>D</b>	<b>66.43</b>
E	81.19
F	95.95
G	110.72
H	132.86

7. 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 2012/13 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	918.23	919.97	911.16	915.73	916.50	913.61	903.05
B	1,071.26	1,073.29	1,063.02	1,068.34	1,069.24	1,065.87	1,053.55
C	1,224.30	1,226.62	1,214.88	1,220.97	1,221.99	1,218.14	1,204.06
<b>D</b>	<b>1,377.33</b>	<b>1,379.94</b>	<b>1,366.73</b>	<b>1,373.58</b>	<b>1,374.73</b>	<b>1,370.40</b>	<b>1,354.56</b>
E	1,683.40	1,686.59	1,670.44	1,678.82	1,680.22	1,674.93	1,655.57
F	1,989.47	1,993.24	1,974.16	1,984.05	1,985.71	1,979.46	1,956.58
G	2,295.56	2,299.91	2,277.89	2,289.31	2,291.23	2,284.01	2,257.61
H	2,754.66	2,759.88	2,733.46	2,747.16	2,749.46	2,740.80	2,709.12

being satisfied that:

- (a) The total amount yielded by its Council Taxes for the said financial year would be sufficient, so far as is practicable, to provide for items mentioned at 3(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 2012/13 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.

COU80 TREASURY MANAGEMENT STRATEGY STATEMENT 2012/13  
(MINUTE EXB 102 REFERS)

The Executive Board had considered a report which proposed the Treasury Management Strategy for 2012/13, appended to the report and which detailed the following:

- treasury limits for 2012/13 to 2014/15;
- current treasury portfolio position;
- borrowing requirements for 2012/13 to 2013/14;
- prospects for interest rates;
- borrowing strategy;
- policy on borrowing in advance of need;
- annual investment strategy;
- debt re-scheduling;
- extraordinary items;
- minimum revenue provision policy statement 2012/13;
- creditworthiness policy;
- policy on the use of external service providers;
- treasury management indicators for 2012/13 to 2014/15;
- adopting the CIPFA code of practice on treasury management;
- and
- roles and responsibilities for treasury management.

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

COU81 PAY POLICY STATEMENT 2012-2013

Council considered a report of the Strategic Director, Policy and Resources which contained details of the Council's recommended Pay Policy Statement for 2012/13 (the Statement).

Under Section 112 of the Local Government Act 1972, the Council had the power " to appoint officers on such reasonable terms and conditions as the authority sees fit". The Statement set out the Council's approach to pay in accordance with Section 38 of the Localism Act 2011.

The purpose of the Statement was to provide transparency with regard to the Council's approach to setting the pay of its employees

(excluding teaching staff working in local authority schools). The Statement would be effective immediately and be reviewed on an annual basis, although it could be amended in-year, by reference back to full Council.

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 2012/13 be approved.

*Meeting ended at 7.20 p.m.*