

COUNCIL

At a special meeting of the Council on Wednesday, 6 March 2013 in the Council Chamber, Runcorn Town Hall

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

Apologies for Absence: Councillors Harris, Hodge, Horabin, K. Loftus and Morley

Absence declared on Council business: None

Officers present: M. Reaney, A. Scott, G. Cook, D. Johnson, I. Leivesley, D. Parr, E. Dawson and S. Baker

Also in attendance: Two members of the public

Action

(N.B. Councillor Baker declared a Disclosable Other Interest in the following item of business as her daughter was employed by Halton Borough Council)

COU78 BUDGET 2013/14 (MINUTE EXB 143 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 2013/14. Since then the Cheshire Fire Authority and the Cheshire Police and Crime Commissioner 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 2012/13 Budget;
- 2013/14 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 £115,114m and the Band D Council Tax for Halton (before Parish, Police and Fire precepts) of £1,159.53.

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 Trade Unions for their pragmatic approach in dealing with the budget proposals.

The following observations were made:

- Councillor Ratcliffe confirmed that the Liberal Democrat Group fully supported the budget proposals, had voiced their concerns to colleagues at Westminster and congratulated Councillor Wharton, Members of the Executive Board and Officers in producing this budget;
- Councillor C Loftus commented on the increase in demand and applications for assistance under the Discretionary Crisis Loans, Community Care Grants and the impact of the welfare reforms;
- Councillor J Bradshaw confirmed that the Conservative Group fully endorsed and supported the budget proposals;
- Councillor McDermott thanked colleagues and Officers for their work on setting the budget and thanked the Leaders of all the Groups for their support.

RESOLVED: That

- 1) the policies outlined in this paper be adopted, including the Budget for 2013/14, 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 2012 the Council agreed the following:
 - (a) The Council Tax Base 2013/14 for the whole Council area is 31,189 (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	644
Daresbury	149
Moore	318
Preston Brook	316
Halebank	477
Sandymoor	959

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 2013/14 (excluding Parish precepts) is £36,164,590.
- 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 2013/14 and agreed as follows:
 - (a) £301,442,028 – 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) £265,216,130 – being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 31A(3) of the Act.
 - (c) £36,225,898 – 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) £1,161.50 – 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) £61,308 – 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	15,400
Daresbury	4,093
Moore	4,200
Preston Brook	7,260
Halebank	14,755
Sandymoor	15,600

(f) £1,159.53 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	1,183.44
Daresbury	1,187.00
Moore	1,172.74
Preston Brook	1,182.50
Halebank	1,190.46
Sandymoor	1,175.80

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	788.96	791.33	781.83	788.33	793.64	783.87	773.02
B	920.46	923.23	912.13	919.73	925.92	914.51	901.86
C	1,051.94	1,055.11	1,042.43	1,051.11	1,058.18	1,045.15	1,030.69
D	1,183.44	1,187.00	1,172.74	1,182.50	1,190.46	1,175.80	1,159.53
E	1,446.42	1,450.77	1,433.35	1,445.27	1,455.00	1,437.09	1,417.20
F	1,709.42	1,714.56	1,693.96	1,708.06	1,719.56	1,698.38	1,674.88
G	1,972.40	1,978.33	1,954.57	1,970.83	1,984.10	1,959.67	1,932.55
H	2,366.88	2,374.00	2,345.48	2,365.00	2,380.92	2,351.60	2,319.06

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 2013/14 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	102.14
B	119.16
C	136.19
D	153.21
E	187.26
F	221.30
G	255.35
H	306.42

- 6) it is further noted that for the year 2013/14 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	45.17
B	52.69
C	60.22
D	67.75
E	82.81
F	97.86
G	112.92
H	135.50

7) 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 2013/14 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	936.27	938.64	929.14	935.64	940.95	931.18	920.33
B	1,092.31	1,095.08	1,083.98	1,091.58	1,097.77	1,086.36	1,073.71
C	1,248.35	1,251.52	1,238.84	1,247.52	1,254.59	1,241.56	1,227.10
D	1,404.40	1,407.96	1,393.70	1,403.46	1,411.42	1,396.76	1,380.49
E	1,716.49	1,720.84	1,703.42	1,715.34	1,725.07	1,707.16	1,687.27
F	2,028.58	2,033.72	2,013.12	2,027.22	2,038.72	2,017.54	1,994.04
G	2,340.67	2,346.60	2,322.84	2,339.10	2,352.37	2,327.94	2,300.82
H	2,808.80	2,815.92	2,787.40	2,806.92	2,822.84	2,793.52	2,760.98

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 (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 2013/14 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.

COU79 TREASURY MANAGEMENT STRATEGY STATEMENT
2013/14 (MINUTE EXB 144 REFERS)

The Executive Board had considered a report which proposed the Treasury Management Strategy for 2013/14, appended to the report and which detailed the following:

- Treasury limits in force which will limit the treasury risk and activities of the Council
- The current treasury position
- Prospects for interest rates
- The borrowing strategy
- Policy on borrowing in advance of need
- The investment strategy
- Debt rescheduling
- The investment strategy
- Creditworthiness policy
- Policy on use of external service providers
- Prudential and Treasury Indicators

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

Operational
Director
Finance

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COU80 2012/13 QUARTER 3 SPENDING (MINUTE EXB 165
REFERS)

The Executive Board had considered a report of the Operational Director, Finance, on the 2012/13 revised Capital Programme.

The Council's Capital Programme had been revised to reflect a number of changes in spending profiles and funding, as schemes developed. These were detailed in Appendix 1.

RESOLVED: That the revisions to the Council's 2012/13 Capital Programme set out in paragraph 3.2 of the report be approved.

Operational
Director
Finance

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Meeting ended at 7.07 p.m.