

**MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL BUDGET COUNCIL MEETING
HELD AT NELSON TOWN HALL
ON 22nd FEBRUARY, 2018**

PRESENT –

His Worship the Mayor Councillor D. Whalley (in the chair)

Councillors

G. Adam
M. Adams
Nadeem Ahmed
Nawaz Ahmed
M. Ammer
Mohammed Arshad
N. H. Ashraf
W. Blackburn
N. Butterworth
R. E. Carroll
D. Clegg
S. E. Cockburn-Price
T. A. Cooney
L. M. Crossley
M. S. Foxley
M. Goulthorp
A. R. Greaves
K. Hartley
J. M. P. Henderson
M. Horsfield

M. Iqbal
Y. Iqbal
D. E. Lord
N. McEvoy
A. Mahmood
B. Newman
J. A. Nixon
B. N. Parker
G. Roach
M. Sakib
K. E. Shore
J. K. Starkie
C. Teall
K. Turner
C. Wakeford
G. Waugh
D. M. Whipp
P. White
S. Wicks
N. Younis

(Apologies for absence were received from Councillors E. Ansar, Musawar Arshad, J. Cooney, L. Davy, N. T. McCollum, P. A. McCormick, S. Petty and J. Purcell).



59. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Members were reminded of the requirement to declare any pecuniary or substantial non-pecuniary items of business.

60. RECORDED VOTES

Members were reminded that in accordance with Rule 17 of the Procedure at Full Council all votes on budget issues would be recorded. This included all motions and amendments.

61. STANDING ORDERS

In accordance with normal practice Council suspended Standing Order 14.3 to allow Group leaders to speak on minute numbers 63 and 64 for longer than 5 minutes.

**62. ROBUSTNESS OF ESTIMATES 2018/19
AND ADEQUACY OF RESERVES**

The Financial Services Manager submitted a report on the robustness of the Council's budget estimates for 2018/19 and the adequacy of financial reserves in accordance with Section 25 of the Local Government Act, 2003.

The report pointed out, that the Council should have regard to the report when making decisions on the 2018/19 budget and the associated level of Council Tax. The Council was required to consider the report in order to acknowledge the risks and uncertainties faced by the Council and determine that adequate provision had been made for these, both as part of the budget estimates and also in determining the adequacy of reserves.

Statements from the Financial Services Manager were set out in Appendix A to the report and it was pointed out that these statements were predicated on Management Team's proposed budget which was presented elsewhere on the agenda. It was noted that should there be material changes to the proposed budget that impacted on the robustness of the estimates or the adequacy of reserves, it may be necessary for the Financial Services Manager to amend the statements provided at Appendix A attached to the report.

It was moved by Councillor M. Iqbal, seconded by Councillor A. R. Greaves –

RESOLVED

That the statements from the Financial Services Manager set out in Appendix A attached to the report be taken into account when determining the budget and level of Council Tax for 2018/19.

63. CAPITAL PROGRAMME AND STRATEGY 2018/21

Council considered a report from Management Team on the proposed Capital Programme for 2018/21. Details of the Medium-Term Capital Programme for the same period along with various prudential indicators were also submitted for consideration.

MOTION

It was moved by Councillor M. Iqbal, seconded by Councillor A. R. Greaves –

- (1) That the forecast outturn position on the Council's Capital Programme for 2017/18, as shown at Appendix A and detailed in the report be noted.
- (2) That the corporate capital strategy, attached as Appendix B to the report, be approved, including the flexible use of capital receipts strategy for 2018/19.
- (3) That the proposed Capital Programme for 2018/19, as shown as Appendix C attached to the report, be approved.
- (4) That the change of approach with regard to the funding of Area Committee Capital Programme allocations, as outlined in paragraph 20 of the report, be acknowledged and a report be submitted to each Area Committee to inform them of the implications of this for 2018/19.

- (5) That the Financial Services Manager be granted delegated authority to determine the most appropriate method of financing the Capital Programme for 2018/19 to ensure the use of resources was optimised by the Council.
- (6) That the indicative programmes for 2019/20 and 2020/21, as shown in Appendix C attached to the report, be noted and it be acknowledged that these will be subject to further review as part of the development of future years capital programmes.
- (7) That the Prudential Indicators, show in Appendix D attached to the report, be approved.

AMENDMENT

It was moved by Councillor P. White, seconded by Councillor G. Waugh –

That £25,000 from the residual budget in relation to Number 1 Market Street, Nelson be transferred to fund drainage works to football pitches within the Borough.

Upon being put to the vote the amendment was **LOST**.

In accordance with minute 60 above a recorded vote was taken on this issue.

Those Members voting in favour of the amendment were Councillors:

Nadeem Ahmed, Nawaz Ahmed, N. Butterworth, S. E. Cockburn-Price, T. A. Cooney, L. M. Crossley, M. Goulthorp, M. Horsfield, N. McEvoy, J. Nixon, J. Purcell, J. K. Starkie, K. Turner, C. Wakeford, G. Waugh and P. White.

Those Members voting against the amendment were Councillors:

G. Adam, M. Adams, M. Ammer, Mohammed Arshad, N. H. Ashraf, W. Blackburn, D. Clegg, A. R. Greaves, K. Hartley, J. M. P. Henderson, M. Iqbal, Y. Iqbal, D. E. Lord, A. Mahmood, B. Newman, B. N. Parker, G. Roach, M. Sakib, K. E. shore, C. Teall, D. Whalley, D. M. Whipp, S. Wicks and N. Younis.

Councillor R. E. Carrol abstained from voting.

16 in favour, 24 against and 1 abstention.

RESOLVED

- (1) That the forecast outturn position on the Council's Capital Programme for 2017/18, as shown at Appendix A and detailed in the report be noted.
- (2) That the corporate capital strategy, attached as Appendix B to the report, be approved, including the flexible use of capital receipts strategy for 2018/19.
- (3) That the proposed Capital Programme for 2018/19, as shown as Appendix C attached to the report, be approved.
- (4) That the change of approach with regard to the funding of Area Committee Capital Programme allocations, as outlined in paragraph 20 of the report, be acknowledged and

a report be submitted to each Area Committee to inform them of the implications of this for 2018/19.

- (5) That the Financial Services Manager be granted delegated authority to determine the most appropriate method of financing the Capital Programme for 2018/19 to ensure the use of resources was optimised by the Council.
- (6) That the indicative programmes for 2019/20 and 2020/21, as shown in Appendix C attached to the report, be noted and it be acknowledged that these will be subject to further review as part of the development of future years capital programmes.
- (7) That the Prudential Indicators, show in Appendix D attached to the report, be approved.

In accordance with minute 60 above a recorded vote was taken on this issue.

Those Members voting in favour of the motion were Councillors:

G. Adam, M. Adams, M. Ammer, Mohammed Arshad, N. H. Ashraf, W. Blackburn, D. Clegg, S. E. Cockburn-Price, L. M. Crossley, A. R. Greaves, K. Hartley, J. M. P. Henderson, M. Iqbal, Y. Iqbal, D. E. Lord, A. Mahmood, B. Newman, G. Roach, M. Sakib, K. E. Shore, C. Teall, D. Whalley, D. M. Whipp, S. Wicks and N. Younis.

Those Members voting against the motion were Councillors:

T. A. Cooney and J. K. Starkie.

Those Members who abstained from voting were Councillors:

Nadeem Ahmed, Nawaz Ahmed, N. Butterworth, R. E. Carroll, M. Goulthorp, M. Horsfield, N. McEvoy, J. Nixon, B. N. Parker, J. Purcell, K. Turner, C. Wakeford, G. Waugh and P. White.

25 in favour, 2 against and 14 abstentions.

64. GENERAL FUND REVENUE BUDGET 2018/19

Management Team submitted a report which asked Council to consider the proposed General Fund Revenue Budget for 2018/19; sought agreement on the level of Council Tax to be set for 2018/19; and gave details of the Council's Medium Term Financial Plan for the period 2018/21 to highlight the significant budget deficit and the need to take early action to reduce expenditure to a sustainable level.

MOTION

It was moved by Councillor M. Iqbal, seconded by Councillor A. R. Greaves –

- (1) That the proposal to maintain the General Fund Minimum Working Balance at £1.0m for 2018/19 be approved.
- (2) That the Labour/Liberal Democrat Groups General Fund Revenue Budget for 2018/19, as set out in **Appendix 1** to these Minutes, be approved.

- (3) That a grant of £1,276,200 be approved for Pendle Leisure Trust for 2018/19.
- (4) That it be agreed that a Band D Council Tax for the Borough Council for 2018/19 be set at £257.64 (an increase of £7.48 or 2.99% compared with 2017/18).
- (5) That the budget calculations 2018/19, the Council Tax calculations 2018/19 and the Council Tax Declaration, as set out in **Appendix 2** to these Minutes, be approved.

AMENDMENT

It was moved by Councillor P. White, seconded by Councillor G. Waugh –

That the Conservative Group's General Fund Revenue Budget for 2018/19 as set out in **Appendix 3** to these Minutes, be approved.

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At this point the Conservative Group requested an adjournment. The Worshipful the Mayor then adjourned the meeting for a period of fifteen minutes.

The meeting was reconvened at 8.55 p.m.

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Upon being put to the vote the amendment was **LOST**.

In accordance with minute 60 above a recorded vote was taken on this issue.

Those Members voting in favour of the amendment were Councillors:

Nadeem Ahmed, Nawaz Ahmed, N. Butterworth, S. E. Cockburn-Price, L. M. Crossley, M. Goulthorp, M. Horsfield, N. McEvoy, J. Nixon, B. N. Parker, J. K. Starkie, K. Turner, C. Wakeford, G. Waugh and P. White.

Those Members voting against the amendment were Councillors:

G. Adam, M. Adams, M. Ammer, Mohammed Arshad, N. H. Ashraf, W. Blackburn, D. Clegg, A. R. Greaves, K. Hartley, J. M. P. Henderson, M. Iqbal, Y. Iqbal, D. E. Lord, A. Mahmood, B. Newman, G. Roach, M. Sakib, K. E. Shore, C. Teall, D. Whalley, D. M. Whipp, S. Wicks and N. Younis.

15 in favour and 23 against.

AMENDMENT

It was moved by Councillor P. White, seconded by Councillor M. Iqbal –

That the charge for bulky household waste be removed from the budget.

Upon being put to the vote the amendment was **LOST**.

In accordance with minute 60 above a recorded vote was taken on this issue.

Those Members voting in favour of the amendment were Councillors:

Nadeem Ahmed, Nawaz Ahmed, N. Butterworth, S. E. Cockburn-Price, L. M. Crossley, M. Goulthorp, M. Horsfield, N. McEvoy, J. Nixon, B. N. Parker, J. K. Starkie, K. Turner, C. Wakeford, G. Waugh and P. White.

Those Members voting against the amendment were Councillors:

G. Adam, M. Adams, M. Ammer, Mohammed Arshad, N. H. Ashraf, W. Blackburn, D. Clegg, A. R. Greaves, K. Hartley, J. M. P. Henderson, M. Iqbal, Y. Iqbal, D. E. Lord, A. Mahmood, B. Newman, G. Roach, M. Sakib, K. E. Shore, C. Teall, D. Whalley, D. M. Whipp, S. Wicks and N. Younis.

15 in favour and 23 against.

AMENDMENT

It was moved by Councillor P. White, seconded by Councillor M. Iqbal –

That a growth item of £100k from the Budget Support Reserve be inserted in the budget for contributions towards the Pendle Challenge.

Upon being put to the vote the amendment was **LOST**.

In accordance with minute 60 above a recorded vote was taken on this issue.

Those Members voting in favour of the amendment were Councillors:

Nadeem Ahmed, Nawaz Ahmed, N. Butterworth, S. E. Cockburn-Price, L. M. Crossley, M. Goulthorp, M. Horsfield, N. McEvoy, J. Nixon, J. K. Starkie, K. Turner, C. Wakeford, G. Waugh and P. White.

Those Members voting against the amendment were Councillors:

G. Adam, M. Adams, M. Ammer, Mohammed Arshad, N. H. Ashraf, W. Blackburn, D. Clegg, A. R. Greaves, K. Hartley, J. M. P. Henderson, M. Iqbal, Y. Iqbal, D. E. Lord, A. Mahmood, B. Newman, B. N. Parker, G. Roach, M. Sakib, K. E. shore, C. Teall, D. Whalley, D. M. Whipp, S. Wicks and N. Younis.

RESOLVED

- (1) That the proposal to maintain the General Fund Minimum Working Balance at £1.0m for 2018/19 be approved.
- (2) That the Labour/Liberal Democrat Groups General Fund Revenue Budget for 2018/19, as set out in **Appendix 1** to these Minutes, be approved.
- (3) That a grant of £1,276,200 be approved for Pendle Leisure Trust for 2018/19.
- (4) That it be agreed that a Band D Council Tax for the Borough Council for 2018/19 be set at £257.64 (an increase of £7.48 or 2.99% compared with 2017/18).

- (5) That the budget calculations 2018/19, the Council Tax calculations 2018/19 and the Council Tax Declaration, as set out in **Appendix 2** to these Minutes, be approved.

In accordance with minute 60 above a recorded vote was taken on this issue.

Those Members voting in favour of the motion were Councillors:

G. Adam, M. Adams, M. Ammer, Mohammed Arshad, N. H. Ashraf, W. Blackburn, D. Clegg, A. R. Greaves, K. Hartley, J. M. P. Henderson, M. Iqbal, Y. Iqbal, D. E. Lord, A. Mahmood, B. Newman, G. Roach, M. Sakib, K. E. Shore, C. Teall, D. Whalley, D. M. Whipp, S. Wicks and N. Younis.

Those Members voting against the motion were Councillors:

Nadeem Ahmed, Nawaz Ahmed, N. Butterworth, S. E. Cockburn-Price, L. M. Crossley, M. Goulthorp, M. Horsfield, N. McEvoy, J. Nixon, B. N. Parker, J. K. Starkie, K. Turner, C. Wakeford, G. Waugh and P. White.

23 in favour and 15 against.

65.

DIGITAL STRATEGY

The Council's Digital Strategy was submitted for consideration.

It was reported that the Executive on 7th February, 2018 had considered the Strategy where it was resolved "that the Digital Strategy be approved and recommended to Council for adoption."

It was moved by Councillor M. Iqbal, seconded by Councillor K. Hartley and –

RESOLVED

That the Digital Strategy be agreed and adopted.

66.

PAY POLICY 2018

In accordance with Section 38 of the Localism Act 2011 the annual Pay Policy Statement for 2018 was submitted for approval.

It was moved by Councillor M. Iqbal, seconded by Councillor P. White and –

RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY

That the Council's Pay Policy Statement for the 2018/19 financial year be approved and that it be published on the Council's website.

67.

MEMBERS' ALLOWANCES

A report from the Independent Remuneration Panel on members' allowances was submitted for consideration. A Council decision to move to a Committee system form of governance with effect from the Annual Council meeting on 17th May, 2018 had deemed it necessary for the

scheme to be revised and for it to reflect members' duties and responsibilities under the Council's Constitution. The proposed changes included:

- A basic allowance for all members of £3,000 per year.
- Special responsibility allowances –
 - Leader £4,000 per year
 - Group Leader (x2) £1,200 per year
 - Area Committee Chairman (x5) £1,200 per year
 - Other Committee Chairman (x3 – Accounts and Audit; Licensing and Taxi and Other Licensing) £500 per year
- Dependent carers allowance £3.00 per hour.
- Travel and subsistence at the prescribed national rates for members.

It was moved by Councillor M. Iqbal, seconded by Councillor A. R. Greaves and –

RESOLVED

- (1) That the revised Members' Allowance Scheme be approved.
- (2) That the Members' Allowance Scheme be reviewed after 12 months' experience of the operation of the new Committee system.

68.

NOTICES OF MOTION

(a) Northern Forest

It was moved by Councillor A. R. Greaves, seconded by Councillor B. Newman –

Pendle Council notes the proposal for a new Northern Forest from the Woodland Trust and Community Forests Trust, which was included in "A Green Future" – the Government's 25-year Plan to Improve the Environment. It further noted that, as set out at present, the boundaries of the proposed Northern Forest area which tended "along the M65 from Hull to Liverpool" included most local authority areas in historic Yorkshire and Lancashire but did not include the county of Lancashire.

Pendle Council supports the concept of a new Northern Forest, extending from coast to coast, and including appropriate land in both urban and rural areas. It would like to see the Northern Forest extending to include Lancashire, and in particular the Borough of Pendle and adjoining parts of Pennine Lancashire.

This Council resolves:

- (1) To seek the support of Lancashire County Council and other local authorities (unitary and district) in Lancashire, together with the Lancashire Association of Local Councils.
- (2) To promote the idea within Pendle and to seek the support of the MP for Pendle, Town and Parish Councils, the Forest of Bowland AONB, the Ribble River Trust and other appropriate local bodies together with the Woodland Trust and the Community Forests Trust.

- (3) To bring this resolution to the attention of the Secretary of State for environment, Food and Rural Affairs and to ask for his support.
- (4) To bring this resolution to the attention of neighbouring local authorities in Yorkshire which have been included within the boundary of the Northern Forest.
- (5) To convene a meeting of all the local, regional and national bodies which show an interest in extending the boundary of the Northern Forest to include all or parts of the County of Lancashire to discuss appropriate ways forward.

RESOLVED

Accordingly.

(b) Organ Donor Register

It was moved by Councillor W. Blackburn, seconded by Councillor B. Newman –

This Council notes that around 6,500 people across the UK are waiting for an organ transplant, with three people a day dying in need of a transplant due to the shortage of people being willing to donate organs. This Council supports and praises the role the NHS Blood Transplant Service play in helping families of those who are waiting for a donation, and those of the deceased who may be potential donors, to have the difficult conversations and make those important decisions to donate.

This Council resolves to encourage all Members to sign up to the NHS Organ Donation Register by going to www.organdonation.nhs.uk and sign up to be a donor.

RESOLVED

Accordingly.

(c) Consultation on Leisure and Sports Facilities in the Borough

It was moved by Councillor A. R. Greaves, seconded by Councillor M. Iqbal –

Pendle Council notes with approval the decision of the Executive to reject the proposed changes at Pendle Leisure Centre and the request for funding from the Public Works Loans Board.

It notes the decision of the Council in October 2017 on the future provision of leisure centres and swimming pools in Pendle, and on a consultation with people and organisations in Pendle on the future provision of sports and leisure facilities, and requests the Executive to proceed with this work as a priority.

RESOLVED

Accordingly.

(d) Repairs to the Road Network in the Borough

It was moved by Councillor D. M. Whipp, seconded by Councillor D. Clegg –

Council notes the decision of Lancashire County Council to include the installation of traffic lights on the eastern roundabout of the M65 Junction 13 (Scotland Road) at an estimated cost of £1.7 million.

The Council considers that people in Pendle would much rather see such funding invested in proper road repairs in the Pendle Council area.

Council also notes that the countywide allocation of £3 million road repair funding by LCC resulted in only .39% (£11,676.90) being allocated to a single resurfacing scheme in Pendle.

Council also notes that numerous permanent road repair schemes planned for Pendle in January 2018 were cancelled without explanation by Lancashire County Council.

Council resolves to request that the County Council allocate a fair share of funding to repair local roads and that the County Council addresses the severe deterioration on Pendle's highways.

RESOLVED

Accordingly.

(e) Road and Rail Link

It was moved by Councillor D. E. Lord, seconded by Councillor K. Hartley –

Council notes the consideration being given through the Strategic Transport Plan of improved road and rail links across the watershed from Pendle into Yorkshire with the announcement of a study into reopening the Colne to Skipton rail route and the opportunity to get road improvements on the A56 corridor through to the A59 as part of the current review of the major road network.

Council resolves to reaffirm its support for a bypass from Colne and A56 communities and supports the emerging concept that this should become an M65-A59 link within the central Pennine corridor as set out in the Transport for the North's Strategic Transport Plan.

Council resolves to reaffirm its support for the reopening of the Colne to Skipton railway line as part of an improved service between East Lancashire and North and West Yorkshire, preferably as an electrified double track.

RESOLVED

Accordingly.

(f) Establishing support for a Unitary Authority

It was moved by Councillor P. White, seconded by Councillor G. Waugh –

This Council recognises that the people of Pendle would be better served by one unitary authority, rather than the two-tier County Council and Borough Council we have at present. This could cut bureaucracy, cut the number of Councillors, provide a more joined up approach and make local government and who is responsible for different services less confusing for people and ensure that services currently commissioned in Preston would be delivered locally. There would be particular benefits in services such as highways being delivered on a more local level where there is greater knowledge.

This Council therefore resolves to:

- (1) Refer the matter to the Governance Working Group so that this Council can consider its preferred options for unitary status.
- (2) Write to the Secretary of State requesting information on the processes and requirements for conversion to Unitary status.
- (3) Contact other local councils in East Lancashire and to see what appetite there would be to work together for such a move.

RESOLVED

Accordingly.

(g) Creating a more Transparent Council

It was moved by Councillor P. White, seconded by Councillor S. E. Cockburn-Price –

Many Councils now provide video live streams of Council meetings in the interest of a more open and transparent democracy. The cost of doing this has now reduced significantly and this Council therefore resolves to:

- (1) Provide a live stream of full Council meetings subject to a review by the Executive of costings and practicability.
- (2) Ask the Governance Working Group to consider and report back to Council on the cost and practicability of how other Committee meetings of the Council may be streamed for the public.

RESOLVED

Accordingly.

(h) Colne to Skipton Rail Line and Colne and villages Bypass

It was moved by Councillor J. Starkie, seconded by Councillor P. White –

Pendle Borough Council welcomes the announcement made by the Secretary of State for Transport R. Hon. Chris Grayling that the Department for Transport and Transport for the North are funding a feasibility study into the reopening of the Colne to Skipton railway line. The study, which will report by summer 2018, will take into account the viability and business case for reopening the line.

Council recognises the huge benefit the reopening of the line could have for Pendle both economically and connectivity but Council also recognises there are further opportunities to improve connectivity East to West and will continue to contribute towards a deliverable plan for a Colne and villages bypass that would not only ease congestion but also provide a huge economic boost.

Council therefore resolves to:

- (1) Welcome the study into the reopening of the Colne to Skipton railway line.
- (2) Reaffirm its support for the line to be reopened.
- (3) Contribute and support, as necessary, the Department for Transport and Transport for the North throughout the study.
- (4) Pay tribute to SELRAP for all their work and campaign to have the line reopened.
- (5) Thank Andrew Stephenson MP and Julian Smith MP who both played pivotal roles in securing the funding for the study from the Department of Transport.
- (6) Continue to explore all options for a Colne and villages bypass.

AMENDMENT

It was moved by Councillor M. Iqbal, seconded by Councillor A. R. Greaves –

Council therefore resolves to:

- (1) Welcome the study into the reopening of the Colne to Skipton railway line.
- (2) Reaffirm its support for the line to be reopened.
- (3) Contribute and support, as necessary, the Department for Transport and Transport for the North throughout the study.
- (4) Pay tribute to SELRAP for all their work and campaign to have the line reopened.
- (5) Thank all political parties and other groups and individuals who are playing a pivotal role in the reopening of the Colne to Skipton railway line.
- (6) Continue to explore all options for providing a link between the M65 and A59.
- (7) Be kept fully informed, consulted and involved in future work and announcements on these projects.

Upon being put to the vote the amendment was **CARRIED**.

RESOLVED

That the motion as amended be agreed.

His Worship the Mayor _____

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|------------|---|
| Appendix 1 | Labour/Lib Democrat Groups General Fund Revenue Budget for 2018/19 |
| Appendix 2 | Budget Calculations 2018/19, Council Tax Calculations 2018/19 and Council Tax Declaration |
| Appendix 3 | Conservative Group General Fund Revenue Budget for 2017/18 |