

**MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL BUDGET COUNCIL MEETING
HELD AT NELSON TOWN HALL
ON 27th FEBRUARY, 2020**

PRESENT –

His Worship the Mayor (Councillor K. Hartley – in the Chair)

Councillors

G. Adam
M. Adams
N. Ahmed
Z. Ali
M. Ammer
E. Ansar
Mohammed Arshad
N. H. Ashraf
M. Aslam
N. Butterworth
R. E. Carroll
C. Carter
D. Clegg
S. E. Cockburn-Price
T. A. Cooney
L. M. Crossley
V. A. Fletcher
M. S. Foxley
M. Goulthorp
A. R. Greaves

J. M. P. Henderson
M. Iqbal
Y. Iqbal
D. E. Lord
N. McGowan
A. Mahmood
A. R. Mann
J. M. Mills
B. Newman
J. A. Nixon
J. Purcell
M. Sakib
Q. Shazad
K. E. Shore
Y. M. Tennant
K. Turner
G. Waugh
D. M. Whipp
T. Whipp
S. Wicks

(Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Musawar Arshad, P. J. Foxley, M. Hanif, C. Lioni, N. T. McCollum, S. Petty and C. Wakeford).



56. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Members were reminded of the legal requirements concerning the declaration of interests.

57. 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.

58. STANDING ORDERS

In accordance with normal practice Council suspended Standing Order 14.3 to allow Group Leaders to speak on minute numbers 60 and 61 for longer than 5 minutes.

59. ROBUSTNESS OF ESTIMATES 2020/21 AND ADEQUACY OF RESERVES

The Chief Executive (as S151 Officer) submitted a report on the robustness of the Council's budget estimates for 2020/21 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 2020/21 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 Chief Executive were set out in Appendix A attached to the report and it was pointed out that these statements were predicated on the 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 Chief Executive to amend these statements.

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

RESOLVED

That the Statements from the Chief Executive (as S151 Officer) as set out in Appendix A attached to the report, be taken into account when determining the budget and level of Council Tax for 2020/21.

60. CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2020 – 2023

Council considered a report from Management Team on the proposed Capital Programme for 2020/21. The report also provided an overview of the Medium Term Capital Programme for the period 2020/23 along with various prudential indicators which were also submitted for consideration.

MOTION

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

RESOLVED

- (1) That the forecast outturn position on the Council's Capital Programme for 2019/20, as shown at Appendix A attached to the report and detailed in the report, be noted.
- (2) That the proposed Capital Programme for 2020/21, attached to the report as Appendix C, be approved.
- (3) That delegated authority be granted to the Chief Executive, as the Council's Chief Finance Officer, to determine the most appropriate method of financing the Capital Programme for 2020/21 to ensure the use of resources was optimised by the Council.
- (4) That the indicative programmes for 2021/22 and 2022/23, as shown in Appendix C attached to the report, be noted and it be acknowledged that these would be subject to further review as part of the development of future years capital programmes.
- (5) That the Prudential Indicators as shown in Appendix D attached to the report, be approved.

In accordance with minute 57 above a recorded vote was taken on this issue.

Those Members voting in favour of the motion were Councillors:

G. Adam, M. Adams, N. Ahmed, Z. Ali, M. Ammer, E. Ansar, Mohammed Arshad, N. H. Ashraf, M. Aslam, N. Butterworth, R. E. Carroll, C. Carter, 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. Iqbal, Y. Iqbal, D. E. Lord, N. McGowan, A. Mahmood, A. R. Mann, J. M. Mills, B. Newman, J. A. Nixon, J. Purcell, M. Sakib, Q. Shazad, K. E. Shore, Y. M. Tennant, K. Turner, G. Waugh, D. M. Whipp, T. Whipp and S. Wicks.

Councillor V. A. Fletcher voted against the motion.

61. GENERAL FUND REVENUE BUDGET 2020/21

Council considered a report from Management Team which informed them of the Local Government Finance Settlement (LGFS) for 2020/21 and the implications for the Council; set out the proposed General Fund Revenue budget and other related matters for 2020/21; provided details of the Council's Medium Term Financial Plan for the period 2020/21 to 2022/23 which highlighted the significant budget deficit and the need to take further action to reduce expenditure to a sustainable level.

MOTION

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

RESOLVED

- (1) That the proposal to maintain the General Fund Minimum Working Balance at £1.0m for 2020/21 be approved.
- (2) That the projected outturn position in the current financial year be noted.
- (3) That the Labour/Liberal Democrat Groups General Fund Revenue Budget for 2019/20, as set out in Appendix 1 to these Minutes, be approved.
- (4) That in relation to Pendle Leisure Trust, subject to consideration of the residual saving proposals for 2020/21, a grant to the Trust of £1,442,360 in 2020/21 be approved.
- (5) That a Band D Council Tax for 2020/21 of £270.62, being an increase of £5.28 (1.99%) on the current level of Council Tax be approved.

A copy of the motion was circulated at the meeting.

In accordance with minute 57 above a recorded vote was taken on this issue.

Those Members voting in favour of the motion were Councillors:

G. Adam, M. Adams, N. Ahmed, Z. Ali, M. Ammer, E. Ansar, Mohammed Arshad, N. H. Ashraf, M. Aslam, N. Butterworth, R. E. Carroll, C. Carter, 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,

Special Budget Council (27.02.2020)

M. Iqbal, Y. Iqbal, D. E. Lord, N. McGowan, A. Mahmood, A. R. Mann, J. M. Mills, B. Newman, J. A. Nixon, J. Purcell, M. Sakib, Q. Shazad, K. E. Shore, Y. M. Tennant, K. Turner, G. Waugh, D. M. Whipp, T. Whipp and S. Wicks.

Councillor V. A. Fletcher voted against the motion.

62. COUNCIL TAX RESOLUTION 2020/21

The Chief Executive (as S151 Officer) submitted a report on the Council Tax Resolutions for consideration. This was a technical requirement predicated on the Council's approval of the General Fund Revenue Budget for 2020/21 (minute 61 above refers).

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

RESOLVED

That the Council Tax Resolutions provided in Appendix 3 attached to the report be agreed.

In accordance with minute 57 above a recorded vote was taken on this issue.

Those Members voting in favour of the motion were Councillors:

G. Adam, M. Adams, N. Ahmed, Z. Ali, M. Ammer, E. Ansar, Mohammed Arshad, N. H. Ashraf, M. Aslam, N. Butterworth, R. E. Carroll, C. Carter, 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. Iqbal, Y. Iqbal, D. E. Lord, N. McGowan, A. Mahmood, A. R. Mann, J. M. Mills, B. Newman, J. A. Nixon, J. Purcell, M. Sakib, Q. Shazad, K. E. Shore, Y. M. Tennant, K. Turner, G. Waugh, D. M. Whipp, T. Whipp and S. Wicks.

Councillor V. A. Fletcher voted against the motion.

63. LOCALISATION OF SUPPORT FOR COUNCIL TAX SCHEME FOR 2020/21

At a meeting of the Special Budget Policy and Resources Committee on 13th February, 2020 it was resolved "that Council be recommended to approve the Council Tax Support Scheme, attached to the report at Appendix B, for implementation from 1st April, 2020.

A report from the Chief Executive was also submitted for consideration. The Council was required to approve its local schemes of support annually and no later than 11th March for the following financial year.

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

RESOLVED

That the updated Council Tax Support Scheme for 2020/21, as attached to the report at Appendix B, be approved.

64. PENDLE ARTS AND CULTURE STRATEGY

At a meeting of the Policy and Resources Committee on 16th January, 2020 it was resolved “that Council be recommended to support the Pendle Arts and Culture Strategy and the partnership approach to its development and implementation.”

A report from the Chief Executive was also submitted for consideration.

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

RESOLVED

That the Council supports the Pendle Arts and Culture Strategy and the partnership approach to its development and implementation.

65. NOTICES OF MOTION

(a) Flooding

It was moved by Councillor D. M. Whipp and seconded by Councillor D. E. Lord –

Council thanks all the volunteers, council staff and emergency services for their work in protecting people, homes and businesses during recent storms, together with their help with recovery work.

Council also thanks those engaged with carrying out flood alleviation projects, such as at Ghyll Meadows, Barnoldswick for their work in reducing the risk of flooding.

Council notes that despite the combined effort of these teams, many homes and businesses in Pendle suffered flooding with sometimes devastating repeat damage to the properties concerned.

Accordingly, Council resolves to put on record it’s thanks to those involved with fighting flooding and its sympathy for people affected by flooding.

Council also resolves to urgently request Pendle MP Andrew Stephenson to continue to support measures and seek additional extra funding for the area that would provide automatic financial support from Government to people whose homes and businesses are flooded, whenever such flooding occurs. And, that the MP is also requested to secure flood alleviation funding for areas in Pendle that are repeatedly at risk from flooding.

RESOLVED

Accordingly.

(b) PEARL

It was moved by Councillor D. Clegg and seconded by Councillor B. Newman –

This Council notes the success of the joint venture Pendle Enterprise and Regeneration Ltd., (PEARL) since its establishment just over 10 years ago following an open tendering procurement.

In a decade that has seen the axing of Government regeneration programmes and cuts of over two thirds in Government funding, the PEARL initiative (with all party support) has seen:

- 252 homes built or refurbished (mainly on brownfield land);
- Over 16,000 square meters of new or refurbished business floor space;
- Provided over 1,000 construction jobs, with nearly three quarters (over 73%) being Pendle based;
- £83,000, 000 invested in Pendle through PEARL projects.

Council further notes that, as of March 2019, the investment from Pendle Council into the company was £2,243,000 giving a 37 fold return for the people of Pendle.

Pendle Council resolves to continue to provide support to the PEARL joint venture and looks forward to further investment in jobs, homes and business space in future years.

RESOLVED

Accordingly.

(c) Littering

It was moved by Councillor A. Mann and seconded by Councillor J. Mills –

Council notes the decision of Policy and Resources Committee to have a further contract with District Enforcement for litter enforcement which is to be extended to include further issues such as serving Fixed Penalty Notices for dogs without leads.

Council believes that the most effective way of reducing the level of littering is to win the 'hearts and minds' of people so that everyone takes personal responsibility for their actions and that the council can help to create a positive litter-free culture through a sustained anti-litter campaign and providing appropriate receptacles for frequently littered items.

Accordingly, Council resolves that income from litter FPNs is invested in a litter reduction campaign including the provision of 'stub it out' equipment, such as cigarette butt pouches, stub out boards and bins, gum disposal facilities and further dog waste bins linked to a wider initiative to reduce the amount of litter.

Council also resolves to request retailers, fast food outlets, venues and other businesses to participate in such a litter reduction campaign involving further investment in education and 'nudge' initiatives to positively reinforce anti-littering through indirect suggestions as ways to influence the behaviour and decision making of groups or individuals prone to littering.

Council resolves to establish a member led task group in order to take this initiative forward.

AMENDMENT

It was moved by Councillor S. E. Cockburn-Price and seconded by Councillor N. Ahmed –

- (1) That the second word of the first paragraph be changed to "welcomes".
- (2) That the second paragraph be amended to read "Council believes that the most effective

way of reducing the level of littering is, like Britain Tidy believes, via Education, Engagement and Enforcement, because this would deliver behavioural change and help decrease littering and fly tipping in Pendle.”

Upon being put to the vote the amendment was **LOST** and it was –

RESOLVED

Council notes the decision of Policy and Resources Committee to have a further contract with District Enforcement for litter enforcement which is to be extended to include further issues such as serving Fixed Penalty Notices for dogs without leads.

Council believes that the most effective way of reducing the level of littering is to win the ‘hearts and minds’ of people so that everyone takes personal responsibility for their actions and that the council can help to create a positive litter-free culture through a sustained anti-litter campaign and providing appropriate receptacles for frequently littered items.

Accordingly, Council resolves that income from litter FPNs is invested in a litter reduction campaign including the provision of ‘stub it out’ equipment, such as cigarette butt pouches, stub out boards and bins, gum disposal facilities and further dog waste bins linked to a wider initiative to reduce the amount of litter.

Council also resolves to request retailers, fast food outlets, venues and other businesses to participate in such a litter reduction campaign involving further investment in education and ‘nudge’ initiatives to positively reinforce anti-littering through indirect suggestions as ways to influence the behaviour and decision making of groups or individuals prone to littering.

Council resolves to establish a member led task group in order to take this initiative forward.

(d) Tree Planting

It was moved by Councillor T. Whipp and seconded by Councillor A. R. Greaves –

Council notes the launch of the Ribble Rivers Trust campaign ‘Woodland Connect’ which was a 10 year programme to plant huge numbers of trees in the river catchments of the county.

Council also notes the emerging recommendations of the Climate Emergency Working Group of this authority calling for a massive tree planting initiative in Pendle.

Pendle Council resolves to make land available for extensive tree planting projects; requests town and parish councils in Pendle to do likewise; requests other public sector and private sector landowners to support the programme; and work closely with the Ribble Rivers Trust on the implementation of their tree planting campaign.

Council also resolves that designation of land for tree planting and the inclusion of tree planting within developments is given high priority when land use allocations were considered as part of the next stage of the Local Plan process.

RESOLVED

Accordingly.

(e) Rail Minister

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

Pendle Council congratulates Andrew Stephenson, MP for Pendle, on his appointment as a Minister of State in the Department of Transport with responsibility for railways. It also notes that the Department for Transport was terminating the contract of Arriva Rail North Ltd., and taking direct responsibility from 1st March for the operation of the north of England rail services badged as Northern Trains.

It urges Mr. Stephenson to use all his influence to improve the existing service on the Preston to Colne Line; and to move the project to re-open the Colne to Skipton line, providing a modern rail service between East Lancashire and Leeds and Bradford, to the next planning stage.

It requests Mr. Stephenson to meet an all-party delegation from Pendle Council to discuss public transport services in Pendle.

RESOLVED

Accordingly.

(f) M65

It was moved by Councillor B. Newman and seconded by Councillor T. Whipp –

Council welcomes drainage work being carried out on the M65 and hopes that this would result in no more flooding on the motorway.

Council reiterates its concern that this urban motorway remains unlit and considers that this was a contributory factor in several recent crashes.

Council also notes that the central concrete barrier was, according to the County Council, installed because modern regulations required end of life metal barriers to be replaced with concrete. Council also notes that the Highway England stretch of the M65 was having new metal barriers installed along the central reservation beyond Burnley.

Therefore, Pendle Council resolves to ask Lancashire County Council to reinstate lighting on the M65 between Colne and Burnley and that Highway England be requested to switch the lights back on along the rest of the motorway.

RESOLVED

Accordingly.

(g) Legislative Arrangements Post Brexit

In view of the uncertainty of the current position regarding Brexit this motion was withdrawn at the meeting.

His Worship the Mayor _____

Appendix 1 Labour/Lib Dem Groups General Fund Revenue Budget for 2020/21

Appendix 2 Leader's Budget Speech

Appendix 3 Council Tax Resolution 2020/21

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