

**MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL BUDGET COUNCIL MEETING
HELD AT NELSON TOWN HALL
ON 27th JANUARY, 2022**

PRESENT –

His Worship the Mayor (Councillor N. Butterworth – in the Chair)

Councillors

M. Adnan
F. Ahmad
N. Ahmed
D. Albin
Z. Ali
R. Anwar
N. Ashraf
M. Aslam
R. Carroll
D. Cockburn-Price
S. Cockburn-Price
M. Goulthorp
M. Hanif
D. Harrison
K. Howarth

M. Iqbal
Y. Iqbal
C. Lioni
D. Lockwood
D. Lord
K. McGladdery
N. McGowan
A. Mahmood
B. Newman
J. Purcell
M. Sakib
A. Sutcliffe
D. Whipp
T. Whipp

(Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Z. Ali and E. Ansar).

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57. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

58. COUNCILLOR LINDA CROSSLEY

Members of the Council paid tribute and observed a minutes silence following the sudden death of Councillor Linda Crossley.

59. 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.

60. STANDING ORDERS

In accordance with normal practice Council suspended Standing Order 14.3 to allow group Leaders to speak on minute numbers 61 and 62 for longer than 5 minutes.

**61. ROBUSTNESS OF THE BUDGET ESTIMATES 2022/23 AND
ADEQUACY OF FINANCIAL RESERVES**

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

RESOLVED

That the Statement from the Chief Finance Officer, as set out at paragraph 29 of the report on the General Fund Revenue Budget 2022/23 (referred to below) be taken into account when determining the budget and level of Council Tax for 2022/23.

62. GENERAL FUND REVENUE BUDGET 2022/23

The Chief Finance Officer submitted a report on the proposed General Fund Revenue Budget and other related matters for 2022/2023.

The report set out the Council's current budget position for 2022/23 and highlighted the existing gap in funding which had been identified at previous meetings. The report focused on the Council's financial strategy towards the agreed transformation programme. The Council's Financial Strategy for 2022/23 to 2024/25 was attached to the report at Appendix A.

MOTION

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

- (1) That the Conservative Group's General Fund Revenue Budget for 2022/23 be approved, attached as Appendix 1 to these minutes.
- (2) That in relation to Pendle Leisure Trust, subject to consideration of the saving proposals for 2022/23, the use of Council Reserves to pay off the outstanding debt owed by Pendle Leisure Trust and the release of the revenue saving back to Pendle Borough Council by reducing the Pendle Leisure Trust Management Fee be approved.
- (3) That a Band D Council tax for 2022/23 of £281.50, being an increase of £5.49 (1.99%) on the current level of Council Tax be approved.
- (4) That each Service be requested to operate within its budget for 2022/23 once approved and that these budgets be cash limited and subject to regular monitoring and control.

AMENDMENT

It was moved by Councillor M. Iqbal and seconded by Councillor A. Mahmood –

That the Labour Group's General Fund Revenue Budget for 2022/23, as set out in Appendix 2 to these minutes, be approved.

A copy of the amendment was circulated prior to the meeting.

In accordance with minute 59 above a recorded vote was taken on this issue.

Those Members voting in favour of the amendment were Councillors:

F. Ahmad, R. Anwar, N. Ashraf, M. Hanif, M. Iqbal, Y. Iqbal, A. Mahmood and M. Sakib.

Those Members voting against the amendment were Councillors:

M. Adnan, N. Ahmed, D. Albin, M. Aslam, N. Butterworth, R. Carroll, D. Cockburn-Price, S. Cockburn-Price, M. Goulthorp, D. Harrison, K. Howarth, D. Lockwood C. Lioni, D. Lord, K. McGladdery, N. McGowan, B. Newman, J. Purcell, A. Sutcliffe, D. Whipp and T. Whipp.

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

FURTHER AMENDMENT

It was moved by Councillor M. Iqbal and seconded by Councillor A. Mahmood –

That £30,000 be approved to reinstate street cleaning cuts.

In accordance with minute 59 above a recorded vote was taken on this issue.

Those Members voting in favour of the amendment were Councillors:

F. Ahmad, R. Anwar, N. Ashraf, M. Hanif, M. Iqbal, Y. Iqbal, A. Mahmood and M. Sakib.

Those Members voting against the amendment were Councillors:

M. Adnan, N. Ahmed, D. Albin, M. Aslam, N. Butterworth, R. Carroll, D. Cockburn-Price, S. Cockburn-Price, M. Goulthorp, D. Harrison, K. Howarth, D. Lockwood, C. Lioni, K. McGladdery, N. McGowan, J. Purcell and A. Sutcliffe.

The following Councillors abstained from voting on this issue:

D. Lord, B. Newman, D. Whipp and T. Whipp.

FURTHER AMENDMENT

It was moved by Councillor M. Iqbal and seconded by Councillor A. Mahmood –

That £45,000 for match funding for public safety measures be approved.

In accordance with minute 59 above a recorded vote was taken on this issue.

Those Members voting in favour of the amendment were Councillors:

F. Ahmed, R. Anwar, N. Ashraf, M. Hanif, M. Iqbal, Y. Iqbal, A. Mahmood and M. Sakib.

Those Members voting against the amendment were Councillors:

M. Adnan, N. Ahmed, D. Albin, M. Aslam, N. Butterworth, R. Carroll, D. Cockburn-Price, S. Cockburn-Price, M. Goulthorp, D. Harrison, K. Howarth, D. Lockwood, C. Lioni, K. McGladdery, N. McGowan, J. Purcell and A. Sutcliffe.

The following Councillors abstained from voting on this issue:

D. Lord, B. Newman, D. Whipp and T. Whipp.

FURTHER AMENDMENT

It was moved by Councillor D. Whipp and seconded by Councillor T. Whipp –

That the Liberal Democrat Group's General Fund Revenue Budget for 2022/23, as set out in Appendix 3 attached to these minutes, be approved.

In accordance with minute 59 above a recorded vote was taken on this issue.

Those Members voting in favour of the amendment were Councillors:

D. Lord, A. Mahmood, B. Newman, D. Whipp and T. Whipp

Those Members voting against the amendment were Councillors:

M. Adnan, F. Ahmad, N. Ahmed, D. Albin, R. Anwar, N. Ashraf, M. Aslam, N. Butterworth, R. Carroll, D. Cockburn-Price, S. Cockburn-Price, M. Goulthorp, D. Harrison, M. Hanif, K. Howarth, M. Iqbal, Y. Iqbal, D. Lockwood, C. Lioni, K. McGladdery, N. McGowan, J. Purcell, M. Sakib and A. Sutcliffe.

No further amendments were moved and the Mayor put forward the motion from the Conservative Group.

The Motion was **CARRIED** and it was –

RESOLVED

- (1) That the Conservative Group's General Fund Revenue Budget for 2022/23 be approved, attached as Appendix 1 to these minutes.
- (2) That in relation to Pendle Leisure Trust, subject to consideration of the saving proposals for 2022/23, the use of Council Reserves to pay off the outstanding debt owed by Pendle Leisure Trust and the release of the revenue saving back to Pendle Borough Council by reducing the Pendle Leisure Trust Management Fee be approved.
- (3) That a Band D Council tax for 2022/23 of £281.50, being an increase of £5.49 (1.99%) on the current level of Council Tax be approved.
- (4) That each Service be requested to operate within its budget for 2022/23 once approved and that these budgets be cash limited and subject to regular monitoring and control.

In accordance with minute 59 above a recorded vote was taken on this issue.

Those Members voting in favour of the motion were Councillors:

M. Adnan, N. Ahmed, D. Albin, M. Aslam, N. Butterworth, R. Carroll, D. Cockburn-Price, S. Cockburn-Price, M. Goulthorp, D. Harrison, K. Howarth, D. Lockwood, C. Lioni, K. McGladdery, N. McGowan, J. Purcell and A. Sutcliffe.

Those Members voting against the motion were Councillors:

F. Ahmad, R. Anwar, N. Ashraf, M. Hanif, M. Iqbal, Y. Iqbal, D. Lord, A. Mahmood, B. Newman, M. Sakib, D. Whipp and T. Whipp.

63. CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2022/23

The Chief Finance Officer submitted a report seeking approval of the proposed Capital Programme for 2022/23.

MOTION

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

- (1) That the forecast outturn position on the Council's Capital Programme for 2021/22, as shown detailed in the report and attached at Appendix A be noted.
- (2) That the Capital Programme for 2022/23, as shown attached to the report in Appendix B, be approved.
- (3) That the Chief Finance Officer be granted delegated authority to determine the most appropriate method of financing the Capital Programme for 2022/23 to ensure the use of resources was optimised by the Council.
- (4) That the Prudential Indicators, as shown attached to the report at Appendix C, be noted.

Upon being put to the vote it was –

RESOLVED

Accordingly.

In accordance with minute 59 above a recorded vote was taken on this issue.

Those Members voting in favour of the motion were Councillors:

M. Adnan, N. Ahmed, D. Albin, M. Aslam, N. Butterworth, R. Carroll, D. Cockburn-Price, S. Cockburn-Price, M. Goulthorp, D. Harrison, K. Howarth, D. Lockwood, C. Lioni, K. McGladdery, N. McGowan, J. Purcell and A. Sutcliffe.

Those Members voting against the motion were Councillors:

D. Lord, B. Newman, D. Whipp and T. Whipp.

The following Councillors abstained from voting on this issue:

F. Ahmad, R. Anwar, N. Ashraf, M. Hanif, M. Iqbal, Y. Iqbal, A. Mahmood and M. Sakib.

64. COUNCIL TAX RESOLUTION

The Chief Finance Officer submitted a report on the Council Tax Resolution which was set out in Appendix A to the report.

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

That the Council Tax calculations 2022/23 and the Council Declaration set out in Appendix A attached to these Minutes be approved.

Upon being put to the vote it was –

RESOLVED

Accordingly.

In accordance with minute 59 above a recorded vote was taken on this issue.

Those Members voting in favour of the motion were Councillors:

M. Adnan, F. Ahmad, N. Ahmed, D. Albin, R. Anwar, N. Ashraf, M. Aslam, N. Butterworth, R. Carroll, D. Cockburn-Price, S. Cockburn-Price, M. Goulthorp, D. Harrison, M. Hanif, K. Howarth, M. Iqbal, Y. Iqbal, D. Lockwood, C. Lioni, K. McGladdery, N. McGowan, A. Mahmood, J. Purcell, M. Sakib and A. Sutcliffe.

Those Members voting against the motion were Councillors:

D. Lord, B. Newman, D. Whipp and T. Whipp.

65. LOCALISATION OF SUPPORT FOR COUNCIL TAX SCHEME FOR 2022/23

The Chief Finance Officer submitted a report which sought approval to the Localised Scheme of Support for Council Tax for 2022/23.

There was a requirement for all Council to approve their local scheme of support annually by 11th March for the following financial year. The proposed Scheme of Local Council Tax Support for 2022/23 included the normal annual updating of allowances and updates for changes to base and supporting legislation whilst retaining the same key policy principles as the existing scheme. This was attached to the report at Appendix A.

The Council was also required to maintain a policy which allowed for taxpayers to apply for a reduction in Council Tax liability under S13A(1)(c) of the Local Government Finance Act 1992. This was attached to the report at Appendix B.

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

RESOLVED

That the Council Tax Support Scheme and the Reduction in Council Tax Liability Policy be approved for implementation from 1st April, 2022.

66.

NOTICES OF MOTION

(a) Cost of Living Crisis

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

Council notes that the 54% increase in domestic energy prices added to the big increases in the cost of food and basic household goods means that households in Pendle are faced with a cost-of-living crisis.

Council also notes that the response to the crisis from Government is inadequate.

Therefore, Council resolves to call on the Prime Minister to take effective steps to address the crisis and instructs the Chief Executive to write to the Prime Minister accordingly.

AMENDMENT

It was moved by Councillor S. Cockburn-Price and seconded by Councillor J. Purcell –

Council notes, and regrets the large increases in domestic energy prices at the same time as other household bills rise and with the increased political instability in Eastern Europe creating further economic uncertainty.

The Council notes the help available from Cosy Homes in Lancashire (CHiL) until June this year, whereby energy efficiency improvements can be made to homes for free, including:

- loft insulation
- cavity wall insulation
- central heating
- replacement boilers

The Council also notes The Warm Home Discount Scheme, which could provide a £140 discount on a household's electricity.

The Council also notes the Domestic Renewable Heat Initiative (RHI) which provides grants towards renewable heating costs, including;

- biomass boilers
- solar water heating
- certain types of heat pumps

Under this scheme, payments are made for seven years and are based on the amount of renewable heat generated.

The Council also notes the Household Support Fund, which provides grants to families and households who need help to pay for food, gas and electric bills this winter. This scheme was open until 31st March and was being run for Pendle Council by Burnley, Pendle and Rossendale CVS.

The Council also notes the forthcoming Energy Bills Rebate worth £150 for all households in Council Tax Bands A-D.

The Council resolves to promote more fully the extra help that was available with domestic energy and other household costs, so that all Pendle residents who qualify could take full advantage of these schemes.

RESOLVED

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

(b) Infrastructure and Levelling Up

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

Council notes that the County Deal bid recently submitted and the Levelling-Up Funds awarded to the Pendle area fall far short of the resources previously available through European and central government for local government, which has been severely out over a decade and more of austerity.

Council also notes that the Government's recent announcements on levelling-up offer little prospect of significant improvements for people in Pendle and that no new funding has been identified for disadvantaged areas such as ours.

Council resolves that the Chief Executive write to the Prime Minister and Andrew Stephenson MP requesting a real transfer of resources to places like Pendle in order to achieve a true levelling-up of the country.

AMENDMENT

It was moved by Councillor A. Sutcliffe and seconded by Councillor K. Howarth –

Council welcomes the £31.5m that has been secured for Pendle, making us the envy of many boroughs.

Council notes £25m of this funding will regenerate Nelson Town Centre, protecting jobs and creating more, as well as giving a much needed boost to the high street.

Council also notes the excellent cultural offer provided by Colne's three local theatres and along with the forthcoming transformation of Colne Market, welcomes the £6.5m investment by the Government, which will protect and create more jobs in the Borough.

Council resolves, encouraged by this Government support for our towns, to bid for further funding to improve and transform other areas of Pendle.

Council also resolves to write to the Secretary of State to thank the Government for the current investment, write to Andrew Stephenson MP thanking him for his support for the successful bids and begin immediate preparations to complete a bid for the next round of Levelling Up funding.

RESOLVED

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

(c) Public Spaces Protection Order Enforcement

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

Council notes with concern persistent problems with the enforcement of Public Spaces Protection Orders (PSPOs) covering dogs in parks and the inappropriate actions of enforcement officers.

Accordingly, Council resolves to review the contract for the provision of enforcement services and requests the Policy and Resources Committee to carry out such a review at the earliest opportunity.

A petition signed by 182 people was handed to the Mayor about various matters relating to the enforcement of public space enforcement orders in Victory Park, Barnoldswick.

AMENDMENT

It was moved by Councillor K. McGladdery and seconded by Councillor M. Goulthorp –

Council notes that in some locations and from certain entrances, to public open space, the signage for Public Space Protection Orders is inadequate. The mechanism already exists for the public to challenge where signage is deemed inadequate and, as a result, one location has already been highlighted.

Council resolves to urgently ask the Environmental Services Manager to carry out a comprehensive review of all signage where PSPOs are in place.

The District Enforcement contract and their terms of operation are subject to periodic review and this will take place in due course.

FURTHER AMENDMENT

It was moved by Councillor D. Whipp and seconded by Councillor T. Whipp –

That in February, 2020 the contract was extended for a further 12 months, therefore the term of the contact has now expired and should properly be terminated forthwith.

That the Parks PSPOs for West Craven are due to be reviewed (following a decision by the Policy and Resources Committee in January, 2022) and that this review should be undertaken immediately.

RESOLVED

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

The first amendment became the substantive motion. When put to the vote it was –

RESOLVED

Council notes that in some locations and from certain entrances, to public open space, the signage for Public Spaces Protection Orders is inadequate. The mechanism already exists for the

public to challenge where signage is deemed inadequate and, as a result, one location has already been highlighted.

Council resolves to urgently ask our Environmental Services Manager to carry out a comprehensive review of all signage where PSPOs are in place.

The District Enforcement contract and their terms of operation are subject to periodic review and this will take place in due course.

His Worship the Mayor _____

Appendix 1 – Conservative Budget

Appendix 2 – Labour Budget

Appendix 3 – Liberal Democrat Budget

Appendix A – Council Tax Resolution