

**MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL BUDGET COUNCIL MEETING
HELD AT NELSON TOWN HALL
ON 23rd FEBRUARY, 2023**

PRESENT –

His Worship the Mayor (Councillor Y. Iqbal – in the Chair)

Councillors

*M. Adnan
F. Ahmad
N. Ahmed
S/ Ahmed
D. Albin
Z. Ali
M. Ammer
R. Anwar
N. Ashraf
M. Aslam
N. Butterworth
R. Carroll
C. Church
D. Cockburn-Price
S. Cockburn-Price
D. Gallear*

*M. Goulthorp
M. Hanif
M. Iqbal
M. Kaleem
D. Lord
K. McGladdery
N. McGowan
A. Mahmood
B. Newman
J. Purcell
K. Salter
M. Stone
A. Sutcliffe
D. Whipp
T. Whipp*

(Apologies for absence were received from Councillor P. McGladdery).

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77. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

78. 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.

79. STANDING ORDERS

In accordance with normal practice Council suspended Standing Order 14.3 to allow group Leaders to speak on minute numbers 80 and 81 for longer than 5 minutes.

**80. MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL FORECAST (2023/24 to 2025/26) WITH
REVENUE AND CAPITAL BUDGETS FOR 2023/24**

The Director of Resources submitted a report which considered the Medium Term Financial Forecast for 2023/24 to 2025/26. A number of scenarios were included in the report which ranged from the 'status quo' position to a 'do minimum' position and finally actions required to achieve a balanced budget over the medium term and beyond.

The report also considered the Revenue and Capital budget position for 2023/24 and highlighted the existing revenue gap between expenditure and income and the need to draw down from general reserves. The report focused on the Council's financial strategy towards the agreed transformation programme whilst also covering the themes of growing, charging, saving and stopping.

MOTION

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

- (1) That the Medium Term Forecast position for 2023/24 to 2025/26 and the savings required over the period of the forecast be approved.
- (2) That the Conservative Group's General Fund Budget for 2023/24, circulated prior to the meeting, be approved and attached as **Appendix 1(a)** to these minutes.
- (3) That subject to there being no increase in fees and charges for cemeteries the proposed Fees and Charges for 2023/24 (attached to the report as Appendix C) be approved.
- (4) That the statement from the Director of Resources on the robustness of estimates and adequacy of the Council's reserves and balances (set out at paragraph 58 of the report) when determining the budget and level of Council Tax for 2023/24 be noted.
- (5) That each Service be required to operate within its budget for 2023/24 once approved and that these budgets be cash limited and subject to regular monitoring and control.
- (6) That subject to the reinstatement of the Brownfield Development Fund the proposed Capital Programme for 2023/24 (attached to the report as Appendix F) be approved and attached as **Appendix 1(b)** to these minutes.
- (7) That delegated authority be granted to the Director of Resources to determine the most appropriate method of financing the Capital Programme 2023/24 to ensure the use of resources is optimised by the Council.

AMENDMENT

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

- (1) That the Liberal Democrat Group's General Fund Revenue Budget for 2023/24, as set out in **Appendix 2** to these minutes, be approved.
- (2) That the proposed fees and charges for 2023/24 (attached to the report as Appendix C) be approved subject to:-
 - No charge for bulky waste;
 - No charge for domestic replacement wheeled bins;

A copy of the amendment had been circulated prior to the meeting.

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

Council (23.02.2023)

In accordance with minute 78 above a recorded vote was taken on this issue:

Those Members voting in favour of the amendment were Councillors:

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

Those Members voting against the amendment were Councillors:

M. Adnan, F. Ahmad, N. Ahmed, S. Ahmed, D. Albin, Z. Ali, M. Ammer, R. Anwar, N. Ashraf, M. Aslam, N. Butterworth, R. Carroll, D. Cockburn-Price, S. Cockburn-Price, D. Gallear, M. Goulthorp, M. Hanif, Y. Iqbal, M. Kaleem, K. McGladdery, M. McGowan, A. Mahmood, J. Purcell, K. Salter, M. Stone and A. Sutcliffe.

Councillor M. Iqbal abstained from voting.

FURTHER AMENDMENT

It was moved by Councillor A. Mahmood and seconded by Councillor Z. Ali –

- (1) That the Labour Group's General Fund Revenue Budget for 2023/24, as set out in **Appendix 3** to these minutes, be approved.
- (2) That the proposed fees and charges for 2023/24 (attached to the report as Appendix C) be approved subject to:
 - No increase in fees and charges for taxi licensing;
 - No increase in fees and charges for pest control;
 - No increase in fees and charges for cemeteries;
 - No charge for bulky waste;
 - No charge for domestic replacement wheeled bins.

A copy of the amendment had been circulated prior to the meeting.

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

In accordance with minute 78 above a recorded vote was taken on this issue:

Those Members voting in favour of the amendment were Councillors:

M. Adnan, F. Ahmad, S. Ahmed, Z. Ali, M. Ammer, R. Anwar, N. Ashraf, M. Hanif, M. Iqbal, Y. Iqbal and A. Mahmood.

Those Members voting against the amendment were Councillors:

N. Ahmed, D. Albin, M. Aslam, N. Butterworth, R. Carroll, C. Church, D. Cockburn-Price, S. Cockburn-Price, D. Gallear, M. Goulthorp, M. Kaleem, D. Lord, K. McGladdery, N. McGowan, B. Newman, J. Purcell, K. Salter, M. Stone, A. Sutcliffe, D. Whipp and T. Whipp.

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

Council (23.02.2023)

- (1) That the Medium term Forecast position for 2023/24 to 2025/26 and the savings required over the period of the forecast be approved.
- (2) That the Conservative Group's General Fund Budget for 2023/24, circulated prior to the meeting, be approved and attached as **Appendix 1(a)** to these minutes.
- (3) That subject to there being no increase in fees and charges for cemeteries the proposed Fees and Charges for 2023/24 (attached to the report as Appendix C) be approved.
- (4) That the statement from the Director of Resources on the robustness of estimates and adequacy of the Council's reserves and balances (set out at paragraph 58 of the report) when determining the budget and level of Council Tax for 2023/24 be noted.
- (5) That each Service be required to operate within its budget for 2023/24 once approved and that these budgets be cash limited and subject to regular monitoring and control.
- (6) That subject to the reinstatement of the Brownfield Development Fund the proposed Capital Programme for 2023/24 (attached to the report as Appendix F) be approved and attached as **Appendix 1(b)** to these minutes.
- (7) That delegated authority be granted to the Director of Resources to determine the most appropriate method of financing the Capital Programme 2023/24 to ensure the use of resources is optimised by the Council.

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

In accordance with minute 78 above a recorded vote was taken on this issue:

Those Members voting in favour of the motion were Councillors:

N. Ahmed, D. Albin, M. Aslam, N. Butterworth, R. Carroll, D. Cockburn-Price, S. Cockburn-Price, D. Gallear, M. Goulthorp, M. Kaleem, K. McGladdery, N. McGowan, J. Purcell, K. Salter, M. Stone and A. Sutcliffe.

Those Members voting against the motion were Councillors:

M. Adnan, F. Ahmad, S. Ahmed, Z. Ali, M. Ammer, R. Anwar, N. Ashraf, C. Church, M. Hanif, M. Iqbal, Y. Iqbal, D. Lord, A. Mahmood, B. Newman, D. Whipp and T. Whipp.

This resulted in 16 votes for and 16 votes against the motion. In accordance with Rule 17.2 His Worship the Mayor exercised his right to a second or casting vote which resulted in there being 16 votes for and 17 votes against the motion.



As there was now no further amendments to consider in relation to this item His Worship the Mayor suspended Rule 12.4 of the Procedure at Full Council to allow representatives from the three political groups to agree a way forward with the budget for 2023/24.

The meeting was therefore adjourned at 8.40 p.m. and reconvened at 10.20 p.m.



FURTHER AMENDMENT

It was moved by Councillor D. Whipp and seconded by Councillor A. Mahmood –

- (1) That the Medium term Forecast position for 2023/24 to 2025/26 and the savings required over the period of the forecast be approved.
- (2) That the General Fund Revenue Budget for 2023/24, circulated at the meeting, be approved and attached as **Appendix 4** to these minutes.
- (3) That the proposed Fees and Charges for 2023/24 (attached to the report as Appendix C) be approved subject to:
 - No increase in fees and charges for taxi licensing;
 - No increase in fees and charges for pest control;
 - No increase in fees and charges for cemeteries;
 - No charge for the collection of bulky waste;
 - No charge for domestic replacement wheeled bins
- (4) That the statement from the Director of Resources on the robustness of estimates and adequacy of the Council's reserves and balances (set out at paragraph 58 of the report) when determining the budget and level of Council Tax for 2023/24 be noted.
- (5) That each Service be required to operate within its budget for 2023/24 once approved and that these budgets be cash limited and subject to regular monitoring and control.
- (6) That subject to the reinstatement of the Brownfield Development Fund the proposed Capital Programme for 2023/24 (attached to the report as Appendix F) be approved and attached as **Appendix 5** to these minutes.
- (7) That delegated authority be granted to the Director of Resources to determine the most appropriate method of financing the Capital Programme 2023/24 to ensure the use of resources is optimised by the Council.

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

RESOLVED

- (1) That the Medium term Forecast position for 2023/24 to 2025/26 and the savings required over the period of the forecast be approved.
- (2) That the General Fund Budget for 2023/24, circulated at the meeting, be approved and attached as **Appendix 4** to these minutes.
- (3) That the proposed Fees and Charges for 2023/24 (attached to the report as Appendix C) be approved subject to:
 - No increase in fees and charges for taxi licensing;
 - No increase in fees and charges for pest control;
 - No increase in fees and charges for cemeteries;

Council (23.02.2023)

- No charge for the collection of bulky waste;
 - No charge for domestic replacement wheeled bins.
- (4) That the statement from the Director of Resources on the robustness of estimates and adequacy of the Council's reserves and balances (set out at paragraph 58 of the report) when determining the budget and level of Council Tax for 2023/24 be noted.
- (5) That each Service be required to operate within its budget for 2023/24 once approved and that these budgets be cash limited and subject to regular monitoring and control.
- (6) That subject to the reinstatement of the Brownfield Development Fund the proposed Capital Programme for 2023/24 (attached to the report as Appendix F) be approved and attached as **Appendix 5** to these minutes.
- (7) That delegated authority be granted to the Director of Resources to determine the most appropriate method of financing the Capital Programme 2023/24 to ensure the use of resources is optimised by the Council.

In accordance with minute 78 above a recorded vote was taken on this issue:

Those Members voting in favour of the amendment were Councillors:

M. Adnan, F. Ahmad, S. Ahmed, Z. Ali, M. Ammer, R. Anwar, N. Ashraf, C. Church, M. Hanif, M. Iqbal, Y. Iqbal, D. Lord, A. Mahmood, B. Newman, D. Whipp and T. Whipp.

Those Members voting against the amendment were Councillors:

N. Ahmed, D. Albin, M. Aslam, N. Butterworth, R. Carroll, D. Cockburn-Price, S. Cockburn-Price, D. Gallear, M. Goulthorp, M. Kaleem, K. McGladdery, N. McGowan, J. Purcell, K. Salter, M. Stone and A. Sutcliffe.

This resulted in 16 votes for and 16 votes against the motion. In accordance with Rule 17.2 His Worship the Mayor exercised his right to a second or casting vote which resulted in there being 17 votes for and 16 votes against the motion.

81. COUNCIL TAX RESOLUTION

The Director of Resources submitted a report on the Council Tax Resolution which was set out in Appendix A attached to the report.

MOTION

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

That subject to a Band D Council Tax for 2023/24 of £289.92, being an increase of £8.42 (2.99%) on the current level of Council Tax the Council Tax Resolutions for 2023/24, as set out in **Appendix A** attached to the report, be agreed.

AMENDMENT

It was moved by Councillor A. Mahmood and seconded by Councillor Z. Ali –

Council (23.02.2023)

That there be no increase in the level of Council Tax for 2023/24.

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

In accordance with minute 78 above a recorded vote was taken on this issue:

Those Members voting in favour of the amendment were Councillors:

M. Adnan, F. Ahmad, S. Ahmed, Z. Ali, M. Ammer, R. Anwar, N. Ashraf, M. Hanif, M. Iqbal, Y. Iqbal and A. Mahmood.

Those Members voting against the amendment were Councillors:

N. Ahmed, D. Albin, M. Aslam, N. Butterworth, R. Carroll, D. Cockburn-Price, S. Cockburn-Price, D. Gallear, M. Goulthorp, M. Kaleem, D. Lord, K. McGladdery, N. McGowan, B. Newman, J. Purcell, K. Salter, M. Stone, A. Sutcliffe, D. Whipp and T. Whipp.

Councillor C. Church abstained from voting.

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

RESOLVED

That subject to a Band D Council Tax for 2023/24 of £289.92, being an increase of £8.42 (2.99%) on the current level of Council Tax the Council Tax Resolutions for 2023/24, as set out in **Appendix A** attached to these minutes, be agreed.

In accordance with minute 78 above a recorded vote was taken on this issue:

Those Members voting in favour of the amendment were Councillors:

N. Ahmed, D. Albin, M. Aslam, N. Butterworth, R. Carroll, D. Cockburn-Price, S. Cockburn-Price, D. Gallear, M. Goulthorp, M. Kaleem, K. McGladdery, N. McGowan, J. Purcell, K. Salter, M. Stone and A. Sutcliffe.

Those Members voting against the amendment were Councillors:

M. Adnan, F. Ahmad, S. Ahmed, Z. Ali, M. Ammer, R. Anwar, N. Ashraf, C. Church, M. Hanif, Y. Iqbal, D. Lord, A. Mahmood, B. Newman, D. Whipp and T. Whipp.

Councillor M. Iqbal abstained from voting.

82. LOCALISATION OF SUPPORT FOR COUNCIL TAX AND OTHER POLICIES FOR 2023/24

The Director of Resources submitted a report which sought approval of the Localised Scheme of Support for Council Tax, Housing Benefit and other Collection Fund Policies for 2023/24.

MOTION

It was moved by Councillor N. Ahmed and seconded by Councillor D. Whipp –

- (1) That the Council Tax Support Scheme (attached to the report as Appendix A) and the Reduction in Council Tax Liability Policy (attached to the report as Appendix B) be approved for implementation from 1st April, 2023.
- (2) That it be approved that War Pensions be disregarded as income when calculating entitlement to Housing Benefit (attached to the report as Appendix C).
- (3) That the Discretionary Non-Domestic Rate Relief Policy be approved from 1st April, 2023 (attached to the report as Appendix D).
- (4) That the Council Tax and Non Domestic Rates Billing, Collection and Enforcement Policies be approved from 1st April, 2023 (attached to the report as Appendices E and F).

Upon being put to the vote it was –

RESOLVED

Accordingly.

In accordance with minute 78 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, S. Ahmed, D. Albin, Z. Ali, M. Ammer, R. Anwar, N. Ashraf, M. Aslam, N. Butterworth, R. Carroll, C. Church, D. Cockburn-Price, S. Cockburn-Price, D. Gallear, M. Goulthorp, M. Hanif, M. Iqbal, Y. Iqbal, M. Kaleem, D. Lord, K. McGladdery, N. McGowan, A. Mahmood, B. Newman, J. Purcell, K. Salter, M. Stone, A. Sutcliffe, D. Whipp and T. Whipp.

83. CORPORATE PLAN 2023/27

The Director of Resources submitted the Corporate Plan for 2023 to 2027 for consideration.

MOTION

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

That the Corporate Plan for 2023/2027 be deferred for further consideration at the next Full Council meeting.

Upon being put to the vote it was –

RESOLVED

Accordingly.

84. PENDLE RISE SHOPPING CENTRE, NELSON

At a meeting of the Special Budget Policy and Resources Committee on 9th February, 2023 it was resolved:

“That Council be recommended to give approval for the Chief Executive to purchase the Pendle Rise shopping centre (subject to Government approval and financial envelope of the Revitalised Nelson Business Case).”

MOTION

It was moved by Councillor N. Ahmed and seconded by Councillor M. Iqbal –

That the Chief Executive be granted authority to purchase the Pendle Rise shopping centre (subject to Government approval and financial envelope of the Revitalised Nelson Business Case).

Upon being put to the vote it was –

RESOLVED

Accordingly.

85. DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Council were asked to consider appointing a Chairman for the Development Management Committee for the remainder of the municipal year 2022/23.

MOTION

It was moved by Councillor N. Ahmed and seconded by Councillor K. Salter –

That Councillor D. Cockburn-Price be appointed as Chairman of the Development Management Committee for the remainder of the municipal year 2022/23.

AMENDMENT

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

That Councillor M. Ammer be appointed as Chairman of the Development Management Committee for the remainder of the municipal year 2022/23.

Upon being put the vote the amendment was **CARRIED** and it was –

RESOLVED

That Councillor M. Ammer be appointed as Chairman of the Development Management Committee for the remainder of the municipal year 2022/23.

86. REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE BODIES

Council were asked to consider the appointment of a representative onto the LEP Joint Scrutiny Committee for the remainder of the municipal year 2022/23.

Council were advised that the terms of reference of this Body did not permit the Leader of the Council to be the Council's representative.

MOTION

It was moved by Councillor N. Ahmed, seconded by Councillor J. Purcell and –

That Councillor M. Goulthorp be appointed as the Council's representative on the LEP Joint Scrutiny Committee for the remainder of the municipal year 2022/23.

Upon being put to the vote it was –

RESOLVED

Accordingly.

His Worship the Mayor _____

- Appendix 1(a) – Conservative Budget
- Appendix 1(b) – Conservative Capital Programme
- Appendix 2 – Liberal Democrat Budget
- Appendix 3 – Labour Budget
- Appendix 4 – Lib Dem/Labour Budget
- Appendix 5 – Final Capital Programme
- Appendix A – Council Tax Resolution