

**MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL BUDGET COUNCIL MEETING
HELD AT NELSON TOWN HALL
ON 26th FEBRUARY 2024**

PRESENT –

His Worship the Mayor (Councillor B. Newman – in the Chair)

Councillors

<i>M. Adnan</i>	<i>M. Iqbal</i>
<i>N. Ahmed</i>	<i>Y. Iqbal</i>
<i>S. Ahmed</i>	<i>M. Kaleem</i>
<i>D. Albin</i>	<i>S. Land</i>
<i>Z. Ali</i>	<i>D. Lord</i>
<i>M. Ammer</i>	<i>K. McGladdery</i>
<i>R. Anwar</i>	<i>A. Mahmood</i>
<i>N. Ashraf</i>	<i>K. Salter</i>
<i>N. Butterworth</i>	<i>M. Stone</i>
<i>C. Church</i>	<i>A. Sutcliffe</i>
<i>D. Cockburn-Price</i>	<i>Y. Tennant</i>
<i>S. Cockburn-Price</i>	<i>D. Whipp</i>
<i>D. Gallear</i>	<i>T. Whipp</i>
<i>M. Hanif</i>	

(Apologies for absence were received from Councillors F. Ahmad, M. Aslam, T. Ormerod and M. Strickland.)



66. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

67. RECORDED VOTES

Members were reminded that in accordance with Rule 19.4 of the Procedure at Full Council all votes on budget issues would be recorded. This included all motions and amendments.

68. STANDING ORDERS

In accordance with normal practice the Council suspended Rule 16.3 of the Procedure at Full Council to allow Group Leaders to speak on minute numbers 69 and 70 for longer than five minutes.

**69. MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL FORECAST (2024/25 TO 2026/27) WITH
REVENUE AND CAPITAL BUDGETS FOR 2024/25**

The Director of Resources (Interim) submitted a report which considered the Medium-Term Financial Forecast for 2024/25 to 2026/27 along with the proposed General Fund Revenue and Capital budgets, and other related matters for 2024/25.

Attached at Appendix B was a report on the robustness of the Council's budget estimates for 2024/25 and the adequacy of financial reserves in accordance with Section 25 of the Local Government Act 2003.

Members were advised to take this report into account when making decisions on the 2024/25 budget and associated level of Council Tax. Statements from the Director of Resources (Interim) (as the Council's Section 151 Officer) were set out in the report.

MOTION

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

- (1) That the Statements from the Director of Resources (Interim) (as the Council's Section 151 Officer), as set out in Appendix G to the report, be taken into account when determining the Budget (Revenue Budget and Capital Programme) and level of Council Tax for 2024/25.
- (2) That the Medium-Term Forecast position for 2024/25 to 2026/27 and the savings required over the period of the forecast be approved.
- (3) That the Liberal Democrat Group's General Fund Revenue Budget for 2024/25 be approved, attached as Appendix 1(a) to these minutes.
- (4) That the proposed Fees and Charges for 2024/25, as attached to the report at Appendix C, be approved subject to:
 - No introduction of charges for bulky waste.
 - No introduction of charges for Domestic Replacement Wheeled Bins
 - An increase in cemetery fees of £64,000.
 - An increase in the income target for commercial pest control £60,000.
 - Leisure Trust energy charges novation of £70,000.
- (5) That a Band D Council Tax for 2024/25 of £289.92 be approved, being an increase of £8.67 (2.99%) on the current level of Council Tax.
- (6) That each Service be required to operate within its budget for 2024/25 once approved, and that these budgets be cash limited and subject to regular monitoring and control.
- (7) That the proposed capital programme for 2024/25 as shown in Appendix F, attached to the report, be approved with the exception of the £1m for the Halifax Road Cemetery Site and an additional £1m for energy conservation/essential work at sports centres.
- (8) That delegated authority be granted to the Chief Finance Officer, to determine the most appropriate method of financing the capital programme for 2024/25 to ensure the use of resources is optimised by the Council.

AMENDMENT

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

That the Liberal Democrat Group's General Fund Revenue Budget for 2024/25 be approved subject to there being no increase in cemetery fees and £1m remaining in the capital programme for the Halifax Road Cemetery Site.

In accordance with Rule 16.6 of the Procedure at Full Council, Councillor D. Whipp accepted the amendment and altered the motion accordingly.

FURTHER AMENDMENT

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

- (1) That the Statements from the Director of Resources (Interim) (as the Council's Section 151 Officer), as set out in Appendix G to the report, be taken into account when determining the Budget (Revenue Budget and Capital Programme) and level of Council Tax for 2024/25.
- (2) That the Medium-Term Forecast position for 2024/25 to 2026/27 and the savings required over the period of the forecast be approved.
- (3) That the Conservative Group's General Fund Revenue Budget and Capital Programme for 2024/25 be approved, attached as Appendix 1(b) to these minutes.
- (4) That the proposed Fees and Charges for 2024/25, as attached to the report at Appendix C, be approved.
- (5) That a Band D Council Tax for 2024/25 of £289.92 be approved, being an increase of £8.67 (2.99%) on the current level of Council Tax.
- (6) That each Service be required to operate within its budget for 2024/25 once approved, and that these budgets be cash limited and subject to regular monitoring and control.
- (7) That delegated authority be granted to the Chief Finance Officer, to determine the most appropriate method of financing the capital programme for 2024/25 to ensure the use of resources is optimised by the Council.

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 67 above a recorded vote was taken on this issue.

Those Members voting in favour of the amendment were Councillors:

N. Ahmed, D. Albin, N. Butterworth, D. Cockburn-Price, S. Cockburn-Price, D. Gallear, M. Kaleem, K. McGladdery, K. Salter, M. Stone and A. Sutcliffe.

Those Members voting against the amendment were Councillors:

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

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

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

RESOLVED

- (1) That the Statements from the Director of Resources (Interim) (as the Council's Section 151 Officer), as set out in Appendix G to the report, be taken into account when determining the Budget (Revenue Budget and Capital Programme) and level of Council Tax for 2024/25.
- (2) That the Medium-Term Forecast position for 2024/25 to 2026/27 and the savings required over the period of the forecast be approved.
- (3) That the General Fund Revenue Budget for 2024/25, attached as Appendix 1(c) to these minutes be approved.
- (4) That the proposed Fees and Charges for 2024/25, as attached to the report at Appendix C, be approved subject to:
 - No introduction of charges for Bulky Waste
 - No introduction charges for Domestic Replacement Wheeled Bins
 - No increase in cemetery fees
 - An increase in the income target for commercial pest control £60,000
 - Leisure Trust energy charges novation of £70,000
- (5) That a Band D Council Tax for 2024/25 of £289.92 be approved, being an increase of £8.67 (2.99%) on the current level of Council Tax.
- (6) That each Service be required to operate within its budget for 2024/25 once approved, and that these budgets be cash limited and subject to regular monitoring and control.
- (7) That the proposed capital programme for 2024/25 as shown in Appendix 2 attached to these Minutes be approved including an additional £1m funding for energy conservation/essential work at sports centres, and £1m for the Halifax Road Cemetery Site.
- (8) That delegated authority be granted to the Chief Finance Officer, to determine the most appropriate method of financing the capital programme for 2024/25 to ensure the use of resources is optimised by the Council.

In accordance with minute 67 above a recorded vote was taken on this issue.

Those Members voting in favour of the motion were Councillors:

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

Those Members voting against the amendment were Councillors:

N. Ahmed, D. Albin, N. Butterworth, D. Cockburn-Price, S. Cockburn-Price, D. Gallear, M. Kaleem, K. McGladdery, K. Salter, M. Stone and A. Sutcliffe.

There were two abstentions – Councillors N. Ashraf and Y. Iqbal.

70. COUNCIL TAX RESOLUTION

The Director of Resources (Interim) submitted a report on the Council Tax Resolution.

MOTION

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

That the Council Tax calculations 2024/25 and the Council Declaration, as set out in Appendix 3 attached to these Minutes be approved.

Upon being put to the vote it was –

RESOLVED

Accordingly.

In accordance with minute 67 above a recorded vote was taken on this issue.

Those Members voting in favour of the amendment were Councillors:

M. Adnan, N. Ahmed, S. Ahmed, D. Albin, Z. Ali, M. Ammer, R. Anwar, N. Butterworth, C. Church, D. Cockburn-Price, S. Cockburn-Price, D. Gallear, M. Hanif, M. Iqbal, M. Kaleem, S. Land, D. Lord, A. Mahmood, K. McGladdery, B. Newman, K. Salter, M. Stone, A. Sutcliffe, Y. Tennant, D. Whipp and T. Whipp.

*The following Councillors abstained from voting on this issue:
N. Ashraf and Y. Iqbal.*

**71. LOCALISATION OF SUPPORT FOR COUNCIL TAX AND
OTHER POLICIES FOR 2024/25**

The Director of Resources (Interim) submitted a report on the Localised Scheme of Support for Council Tax and other Collection Fund Policies for 2024/25.

MOTION

It was moved by Councillor A. Mahmood 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 2024.
- (2) That War Pensions be fully disregarded as income when calculating entitlement to Housing Benefit.

- (3) That the Council Tax and Non-Domestic Rates Enforcement Policies (attached to the report as Appendices D and E) be approved from 1st April 2024.

Upon being put to the vote it was –

RESOLVED

Accordingly.

In accordance with minute 67 above a recorded vote was taken on this issue.

Those Members voting in favour of the motion were Councillors:

M. Adnan, N. Ahmed, S. Ahmed, D. Albin, Z. Ali, M. Ammer, R. Anwar, N. Ashraf, N. Butterworth, C. Church, D. Cockburn-Price, S. Cockburn-Price, D. Gallear, M. Iqbal, Y. Iqbal, M. Kaleem, S. Land, D. Lord, A. Mahmood, K. McGladdery, B. Newman, K. Salter, M. Stone, A. Sutcliffe, Y. Tennant, D. Whipp and T. Whipp.

**72. EARBY FLOOD ALLEVIATION SCHEME PHASE 3
FLOOD STORAGE AREA AT WENTCLIFFE BROOK**

At a meeting of the Executive on 19th December 2023 it was resolved “that Council be recommended to agree that the Environment Agency grant funding of £200,000 be used for flood modelling, scheme design and business case development, and subject to the scheme being deliverable, the Council adopt the new asset and be responsible for all future revenue costs associated with inspections and maintenance.”

MOTION

It was moved by Councillor D. Whipp and seconded by Councillor S. Land:

That the Environment Agency grant funding of £200,000 be used for flood modelling, scheme design and business case development, and subject to the scheme being deliverable, the Council adopt the new asset and be responsible for all future revenue costs associated with inspections and maintenance.

Upon being put to the vote it was –

RESOLVED

Accordingly.

In accordance with Rule 19.4 of the Procedure at Full Council a recorded vote was taken on this issue.

Those Members voting in favour of the amendment were Councillors:

M. Adnan, N. Ahmed, S. Ahmed, D. Albin, Z. Ali, M. Ammer, R. Anwar, N. Ashraf, N. Butterworth, C. Church, D. Cockburn-Price, S. Cockburn-Price, D. Gallear, M. Iqbal, Y. Iqbal, M. Kaleem, S. Land, D. Lord, A. Mahmood, K. McGladdery, B. Newman, K. Salter, M. Stone, A. Sutcliffe, Y. Tennant, D. Whipp and T. Whipp.

73. ACCOUNTS AND AUDIT COMMITTEE

Council were asked for nominations for the appointment of a Chair of the Accounts and Audit Committee for the remainder of the 2023/24 municipal year.

MOTION

It was moved by Councillor M. Ammer and seconded by Councillor N. Ahmed:

That Councillor R. Anwar be appointed Chair of the Accounts and Audit Committee for the remainder of the 2023/24 municipal year.

Upon being put to the vote it was –

RESOLVED

Accordingly.

His Worship the Mayor _____

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