



BUDGET COUNCIL

7.30pm to 10.20pm

19 February 2013

Present: Councillors Gayton (Lord Mayor), Ackroyd, Arthur, Barker, Blunt, Bradford, Bremner, Brimblecombe, Brociek-Coulton, Button, Carlo, Driver, Galvin, Gee, Gihawi, Grahame, Grenville, Harris, Haynes, Henderson, Howard, Kendrick, Little, Lubbock, MacDonald, Manning, Maxwell, Neale, Price, Sands (M), Sands (S), Stammers, Stephenson, Stonard, Storie, Thomas, Waters and Wright.

Apologies: Mr John Jennings (Sheriff) and Councillor Boswell

1. LORD MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Lord Mayor announced that the Chinese New Year charity dinner, which had been held the previous evening, had raised around £4,700 for this year's civic charity, Future Projects. He expressed his gratitude to the staff and owners of the Riverbank Chinese Buffet Restaurant, for the donations from local businesses and organisations and the guests and members who had attended the event and made it a success.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

The Lord Mayor announced that the monitoring officer had granted dispensation to members who paid council tax or were council house rent payers, or both, to remain, take part in the debate and vote in relation to item 6, below, General fund revenue budget and capital programme, and item 7, below, Housing rents and budgets. Members therefore were not required to declare an interest in these items.

There were no further declarations of interest.

3. MINUTES

RESOLVED to agree the accuracy of the minutes of the meeting held on 29 January 2013.

4. PUBLIC QUESTIONS

No public questions had been received.

5. CORPORATE PLAN 2012-2015

The Lord Mayor announced that Councillor Arthur had accepted an amendment which had been agreed at cabinet, at its meeting on 13 February 2013, in response to recommendations from the scrutiny committee and circulated at the meeting; and with no other member objecting the following amendment became part of the substantive motion:

“To incorporate the following amendments into the corporate plan 2012 – 2015:

- (1) the wording be amended to state that the council seeks to achieve 20mph zones across the city;
- (2) a reference to the Healthy City programme be included;
- (3) add context on how the wider economic position is impacting on new house building.”

Councillor Arthur then moved and Councillor Waters seconded the recommendations contained in the report, as amended above.

The Lord Mayor said that amendments from Councillors Stephenson and Howard had been received and circulated. Councillor Arthur said that she was unwilling to accept these amendments.

Councillor Stephenson moved and Councillor Brimblecombe seconded the following amendment:

“To include in the corporate plan 2012 – 15:

- a performance measure based on the reduction of tonnage of residual waste, instead of the percentage of waste that is recycled:
- the number of people using community centres as a performance measure under the heading “City of character and culture”.

On being put to the vote, with 17 members voting in favour and 21 members voting against, the amendment was declared lost.

Councillor Howard moved and Councillor Stammers seconded the following amendment:

“to add the words ‘low carbon’ to the council priority to read: ‘to provide low carbon, value for money services’”

On being put to the vote, with 17 members voting in favour and 21 members voting against, the amendment was declared lost.

Discussion ensued on the substantive motion.

RESOLVED with 24 members voting in favour, 11 members against and 3 members abstaining:

- (1) to agree the proposed amendments to the corporate plan 2012-2015, as set out in the report and incorporate the following amendments as recommended to cabinet by the scrutiny committee:
 - (a) the wording be amended to state that the council seeks to achieve 20mph zones across the city;
 - (b) a reference to the Healthy City programme be included;
 - (c) add context on how the wider economic position is impacting on new house building.”
- (2) that the corporate plan, as amended above, be adopted as the overarching policy framework for 2013-14.

6. GENERAL FUND REVENUE BUDGET AND CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2013 – 14

Councillor Arthur moved and Councillor Brociek-Coulton seconded that council and committee procedure rule 14.5 (appendix 1 of the council’s constitution, relating to length of speeches during debate) should be suspended to allow for a full debate on this item.

On being put to the vote, with 20 members voting in favour, 16 members against, and 2 abstentions, the motion was carried.

The Lord Mayor advised members that a revised appendix 3 to the report, “statutory council tax resolution” had been circulated at the meeting.

Councillor Waters moved, with the aid of a PowerPoint presentation, and Councillor Kendrick seconded the recommendations in the report.

The Lord Mayor said that an amendment had been received from Councillor Little. Councillor Waters said that he was unwilling to accept this amendment.

Councillor Little moved and Councillor Galvin seconded the following amendment:

“To approve the following additional growth and savings items:-

Growth items		Savings	
Commissioning of generalist advice service	£25K	Professional advice/fees	(£50K)
Restore selected planting of trees outside conservation areas	£12K	Civic Expenses	(£5K)
Extra staff resource for revenues and benefits	£15K	Communications	(£12.5K)
One off item - Purchase and maintenance of approximately 50 grit bins	£15.5K		
Total	£67.5K	Total	(£67.5K)

The effect of the above would be to amend recommendation a) to read :-

‘that the council’s budgetary requirement be set to £20,616,854 and that the budgets set out in paragraph 6.3, as amended above, are approved, taking into account the savings, income and other budget movements set out in the report’;

and to amend recommendation e) to read:-

‘that the precept of the collection fund for 2012/13 is calculated in accordance with Sections 32-36 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 as amended by the Localism Act 2011 as per the statutory determination at appendix 3, be amended as minuted above.’”

On being put to the vote with 17 members voting in favour, and 21 against, the amendment was declared lost.

Discussion ensued on the substantive motion.

RESOLVED with 21 in favour, 3 against and 14 abstentions, that:

- (1) the council’s budgetary requirement be set to £20,616,854 and that the budgets set out in paragraph 6.3 are approved, taking into account the savings, income and other budget movements set out in the report;
- (2) the prudent level of reserves for the council is set at £4.35 million in accordance with the recommendation of the chief finance officer;
- (3) the council’s council tax requirement is set at £7,477,494 (para 7.1);
- (4) council tax should be set at £230.27 for band D, which is an increase of 1.95%;

- (5) the precept of the collection fund for 2012- 13 is calculated in accordance with Sections 32-36 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, as amended by the Localism Act 2011, as per the statutory determination (attached to these minutes at appendix A);
- (6) the non-housing capital plan 2013 -14 to 2017 -18 should be as set out in paragraph 9.6, and the non-housing capital programme 2013 -14 should be as set out in paragraph 10.3 of the report

(The Lord Mayor announced that more than two hours had passed since the start of the meeting. There was no unopposed business.)

7. HOUSING RENTS AND BUDGETS 2013- 2014

The Lord Mayor said that an amendment from Councillor Haynes had been received and circulated. Councillor MacDonald said that she was unwilling to accept the amendment.

Councillor MacDonald moved and Councillor Storie seconded the recommendations in the report.

Councillor Haynes moved and Councillor Neale seconded the following amendment:

“To amend recommendation a) by adding at the end ‘following incorporation of information from paragraph 34; and b) by substituting paragraph 34 for paragraph 26 and substituting paragraph 47 for appendix 3.

Therefore the first two recommendations become:

- a) that the Housing Revenue Account budgets set out in paragraph 3 and appendices 1 and 2 are approved, following incorporation of information from paragraph 34;
- b) that the council housing rent increase set out in paragraph 34 and paragraph 47 is approved.

Therefore the effect of this amendment is to recommend an average rent increase of 3.8% instead of the 5.1% recommended in the report.”

On being put to the vote, with 17 members voting in favour, and 21 members against, the amendment was declared lost.

Discussion ensued on the substantive motion.

RESOLVED with 21 members voting in favour, 7 members voting against, and 10 abstentions, to approve:

- (1) the housing revenue account budgets as set out in paragraph 3 and appendices 1 and 2 of the report;

- (2) the council housing rent increase as set out in paragraph 26 and appendix 3 of the report;
- (3) the prudent minimum level of housing reserves as set out in paragraph 63 and appendix 4 of the report;
- (4) the housing capital plan 2013-14-2017 - 18 as set out in paragraph 69 of the report , and the housing capital programme 2013-14 as set out in paragraph 71 of the report.

8. TREASURY MANAGEMENT STRATEGY 2013 - 2014

Councillor Waters moved and Councillor Kendrick seconded the recommendations as set out in the report.

Discussion ensued.

RESOLVED with 37 members voting in favour and 1 abstention to approve:

- (1) the capital prudential indicators and limits for 2013 - 14 to 2015 - 16 contained as set out in section 5 of the report;
- (2) the borrowing strategy 2013 -14 to 2015 -16, as set out in section 7 of the report;
- (3) the treasury prudential indicators as set out in section 8 of the report, including the authorised limit (contained in paragraph 8.2);
- (4) the minimum revenue provision (MRP) policy statement as set out in section 9 of the report; and,
- (5) the investment strategy 2013 -14, as set out in section 10, and the detailed criteria included in appendix 3, of the report.

LORD MAYOR

GENERAL FUND REVENUE BUDGET AND CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2013 – 14
Appendix A (revised statutory council tax resolution)

(Council resolved the following under item 6, resolution (5) the precept of the collection fund for 2012 - 13 is calculated in accordance with Sections 32-36 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, as amended by the Localism Act 2011, as per the statutory determination attached to these minutes at appendix A)

Statutory Council Tax Resolution

- 1 That it be noted that on 29 January 2013 the Council calculated the Council Tax Base 2013/14 for the whole Council area as 32,473.0 [Item T in the formula in Section 31(B) of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, as amended (the 'Act')] and,
- 2 To calculate that the Council Tax requirement for the Council's own purposes for 2013/14 (excluding Parish precepts) is £7,477,494.
- 3 That the following amounts be calculated for the year 2013/14 in accordance with Sections 31 to 36 of the Act:
 - (a) £202,671,374 being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 31A(2) of the Act taking into account all precepts issued to it by Parish Councils.
 - (b) £195,193,880 being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 31A(3) of the Act.
 - (c) £7,477,494 being the amount by which the aggregate at 3(a) above exceeds the aggregate at 3(b) above, calculated by the Council in accordance with Section 31A(4) of the Act as its Council Tax requirement for the year. (Item R in the formula in Section 31A(4) of the Act).
 - (d) £230.27 being the amount at 3(c) above (Item R), all divided by Item T (2 above), calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 31B of the Act, as the basic amount of its Council Tax for the year (including Parish precepts).
 - (e) £0 being the aggregate amount of all special items (Parish precepts) referred to in Section 34(1) of the Act.
 - (f) £230.27 being the amount at 3(d) above less the result given by dividing the amount at 3(e) above by Item T (1 above),

calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 34(2) of the Act, as the basic amount of its Council Tax for the year for dwellings in those parts of its area to which no Parish precept relates.

- (g) Being the amounts given by multiplying the amount at paragraph (d) above by the number which, in the proportion set out in Section 5 (1) of the Act, is applicable to dwellings listed in a particular valuation band divided by the number which in that proportion is applicable to dwellings listed in Valuation Band D, calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 36 (1) of the Act, as the amounts to be taken into account for the year 2013/14 in respect of categories of dwellings listed in different valuation bands:

Band	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
City	£153.51	£179.10	£204.68	£230.27	£281.44	£332.61	£383.78	£460.54

- 4 That it be noted that for the year 2013/14 the Norfolk County Council and the Police & Crime Commissioner for Norfolk have issued precepts to the Council, in accordance with Section 40 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, for each category of dwellings in the Council's area as indicated in the table below:

Band	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
County	£763.38	£890.61	£1,017.84	£1,145.07	£1,399.53	£1,653.99	£1,908.45	£2,290.14
PCC	£133.86	£156.17	£178.48	£200.79	£245.41	£290.03	£334.65	£401.58

- 5 That the Council, in accordance with Sections 30 and 36 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, hereby sets the aggregate amounts shown in the tables below as the amounts of Council Tax for 2013/14 for each part of its area and for each of the categories of dwellings:

Band	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
City	£153.51	£179.10	£204.68	£230.27	£281.44	£332.61	£383.78	£460.54
County	£763.38	£890.61	£1,017.84	£1,145.07	£1,399.53	£1,653.99	£1,908.45	£2,290.14
PCC	£133.86	£156.17	£178.48	£200.79	£245.41	£290.03	£334.65	£401.58
Total	£1,050.75	£1,225.88	£1,401.00	£1,576.13	£1,926.38	£2,276.63	£2,626.88	£3,152.26

- 6 To determine in accordance with Section 52ZB Local Government Finance Act 1992 that the Council's basic amount of Council Tax for 2013/14 is not excessive in accordance with the principles approved by the Secretary of State under Section 52ZC.