

COUNTY COUNCILCOUNCIL BUDGET MEETING – 12 FEBRUARY 2013

MINUTES of the Meeting of the County Council held at the County Hall, Kingston upon Thames on Tuesday 12 February 2013 commencing at 10:30am, the Council being constituted as follows:

Mrs Sealy – Chairman
Mr Munro – Vice-Chairman

* Mr Agarwal	Mr Ivison
* Mr Amin	Mrs Kemeny
Mrs Angell	Mr Kington
Mr Barker OBE	Mr Lake
Mr Beardsmore	Mr Lambell
Mr Bennison	Mrs Lay
Mrs Bowes	Ms Le Gal
Mr Brett-Warburton	* Mr MacLeod
* Mr Butcher	Mr Mallett MBE
Mr Carasco	Mrs Marks
Mr Chapman	Mr Marlow
Mrs Clack	Mr Martin
* Mrs Coleman	Mrs Mason
Mr Cooksey	Mrs Moseley
* Mr Cooper	Mrs Nichols
* Mr Cosser	Mr Norman
* Mrs Curran	Mr Orrick
* Mr Elias	Mr Phelps-Penry
Mr Ellwood	Mr Pitt
Mr Few	* Dr Povey
Mr Forster	Mr Renshaw
Mrs Fraser DL	Mrs Ross-Tomlin
Mr Frost	* Mrs Saliagopoulos
* Mrs Frost	Mr Samuels
* Mr Fuller	Mrs Searle
Mr Furey	Mr Skellett CBE
Mr Gimson	Mrs Smith
Mr Goodwin	Mr Sydney
Mr Gosling	Mr Colin Taylor
Dr Grant-Duff	Mr Keith Taylor
Dr Hack	Mr Townsend
* Mr Hall	Mrs Turner-Stewart
Mrs Hammond	* Mr Walsh
Mr Harmer	Mrs Watson
Mr Harrison	Mrs White
Ms Heath	Mr Witham
Mr Hickman	Mr Wood
Mrs Hicks	Mr Young
Mr Hodge	

1/13 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE [Item 1]

Apologies for absence were received from Mr Agarwal, Mr Butcher, Mr Cooper, Mrs Curran, Mrs Coleman, Mr Cosser, Mrs Frost, Mr Fuller, Mr Hall, Mr MacLeod, Dr Povey, Mrs Saliagopoulos and Mr Walsh.

2/13 MINUTES [Item 2]

The Minutes of the meeting of the County Council held on 11 December 2012, were submitted, confirmed and signed.

3/13 CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS [Item 3]

The Chairman made the following announcements:

- (i) Her Majesty the Queen's New Year Honours List.
A list was included within the agenda.
- (ii) The passing of Mrs Frances King, County Councillor for Earlswood and Reigate South.

Also, the passing of one other ex-Member – Mrs M J Marshall (Biddy) – former County Councillor for Woodham and New Haw.

Members stood in silent tribute.

- (iii) Related Party Disclosures – she reminded Members to complete their forms and return them to Finance by the deadline in March.
- (iv) She said that she had attended a number of events, and highlighted the Arts exhibition held at County Hall on 31 January 2013 by women in prison.
- (v) Finally, she reminded Members that Sir Richard Stilgoe was today's lunchtime speaker and he would be talking about the effect of music on young adults with disabilities and the work of Orpheus.

4/13 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST [Item 4]

The Audit and Governance Committee had met prior to this meeting and granted all County Councillors dispensation to enable them to participate in and vote at the Council budget meeting. This was specifically in relation to Members paying council tax in Surrey and this resulting in a potential disclosable pecuniary interest.

5/13 REVENUE AND CAPITAL BUDGET 2013/14 TO 2017/18 / COUNCIL TAX REQUIREMENT / TREASURY MANAGEMENT STRATEGY [Item 5]

The Chairman said that the papers for this item were included in the agenda, together with the revised pages 21 and 22 (Appendix A) and the Addendum (Appendix B) emailed to Members and tabled today. A typo in Annex 1, Appendix 5 on the Moody's FSR figure for Bank / Building Society was amended from 'C' to 'C-'.

On the motion of the Chairman, seconded by the Vice-Chairman, Standing Order 18 was suspended to allow the minority group leaders five minutes each for speeches on the Budget proposals.

The Leader presented the report of the Cabinet on the Revenue and Capital Budget 2013/14 to 2017/18, the Council Tax Requirement and the Treasury Management Strategy and made a statement in support of the proposed budget. A copy of the Leader's statement is attached as Appendix C.

The Chief Finance Officer presented her report to Council. A copy of her statement is attached as Appendix D.

Each of the Minority Group Leaders (Mrs Watson and Mr Harrison) spoke on the budget proposals. Copies of Mrs Watson and Mr Harrison's speeches are attached as Appendices E and F respectively.

Key points made in the debate were:

- A request for the Leader to set out what measures the County Council was taking to reduce the cost of living for residents and whether it would off-set the council tax increase.
- An offer to arrange a Member's seminar on Finance to explain the differences between cash balances and reserves.
- Confirmation that no surplus cash was floating around the organisation.
- Other options for savings could include reducing payments for external legal advice and /or reducing the number of policy staff.
- The electorate would have an opportunity to make their support, or not, for the budget known at the ballot box in May.
- The importance of considering the overall budget when going forward and setting the budget - that two-thirds of the budget was demand led in Adults and Children's Services.
- Residents could register for the Switch and Save Scheme – these savings could be off-set against the council tax increase.
- That the Chief Finance Officer had confirmed that the Council's budget was robust and sustainable. However, Members were mindful of the risks and issues ahead that would need to be dealt with.
- Surrey County Council had been nominated for Council of the Year.
- A reference to the Budget Public Survey which set out the views of Surrey residents.

- Disputing whether residents had been listened to – some residents' earnings were just over the threshold for help with their bills.
- Reference to the increasing number of older people who would require care and whether the £42m savings for next year's Adult Social Care budget were achievable.
- The Government had cut Surrey's Grant by £20m so the Council had to set aside resources to deal with this.
- The modest rise in council tax was necessary.
- Members and officers would need to work hard to achieve more savings in future years.
- Properties may become difficult to let if the superfast Broadband was not rolled out across the county.
- Acknowledgement that the cost of living was going up.
- The Liberal Democrat proposals were a 'wish list' for their election literature.
- Reference to A46 in Annex 1, section A in relation to localisation of council tax support and thanks to the County Council for the assistance made available to District and Borough Councils.
- Since 2009 no extra funding had been given to Children's Services, despite a huge increase in demand for services and specific examples were highlighted.
- A suggestion that the Council cancelled any future off-site awaydays.
- Waste issues were not mentioned in the Leader's Budget speech.
- Emphasising that the County Council was a local government organisation and whilst acknowledging the improvements over the last four years, a recognition that there were more improvements to be made.
- Surprise that the Leader of the Residents' Association / Independent Group did not support the Broadband proposals.
- That the contingency fund was essential.
- Recognition of the Schools Basic Need programme and the provision of additional school places.

After the debate in which 24 Members spoke, the Leader confirmed that the Budget proposals should be taken as one recommendation.

Mrs Watson requested a recorded vote and 10 Members stood in support of this request.

The following Members voted for the Budget proposals:

Mrs Angell, Mr Barker, Mr Bennison, Ms Bowes, Mr Brett-Warburton, Mr Carasco, Mr Chapman, Mrs Clack, Mr Ellwood, Mr Few, Mrs Fraser, Mr Frost, Mr Furey, Mr Gimson, Mr Gosling, Dr Grant-Duff, Dr Hack, Mrs Hammond, Mr Harmer, Ms Heath, Mrs Hicks, Mr Hodge, Mr Ivison, Mrs Kemeny, Mrs Lay, Ms Le Gal, Mrs Marks, Mr Marlow, Mr Martin, Mrs Moseley, Mr Munro, Mr Norman, Mr Pitt, Mr Renshaw, Mrs Ross-Tomlin, Mr Samuels, Mr Skellett, Mr Sydney, Mr Keith Taylor, Mr Townsend, Mrs Turner-Stewart, Mr Witham and Mr Wood.

The following Members voted against the Budget proposals:

Mr Beardsmore, Mr Cooksey, Mr Forster, Mr Goodwin, Mr Lake, Mr Lambell, Mrs Nichols, Mr Orrick, Mrs Searle, Mrs Smith, Mr Colin Taylor, Mrs Watson and Mrs White.

There were six abstentions:

Mr Harrison, Mr Hickman, Mr Kington, Mr Mallett, Mrs Mason and Mr Phelps-Penry.

Therefore it was:

RESOLVED:

1. That the Chief Finance Officer's statutory report on the robustness and sustainability of the estimates and the adequacy of the proposed financial reserves (Annex 2 to the submitted report) be noted.
2. That dispensation had been sought for all county councillors to ensure their eligibility to vote on the recommendations in this report without any risk of non-compliance with the Localism Act 2011.
3. That the council tax requirement for 2013/14 be set at £550.4m; (Annex 3, paragraph 3.5 in the submitted report).
4. That the 2013/14 council tax increase be fixed at 1.99%.
5. That the basic amount for 2013/14 council tax at Band D be set at £1,172.52 (Annex 3, paragraph 3.7 in the submitted report).
6. That the council tax for each category of dwelling in its area will be as follows:

Valuation band	£
A	781.68
B	911.96
C	1,042.24
D	1,172.52
E	1,433.08
F	1,693.64
G	1,954.20

H 2,345.04

7. That the payment for each billing authority including any balances on the collection fund will be as follows:

Billing authority	£
Elmbridge	72,006,449.04
Epsom & Ewell	36,475,032.68
Guildford	62,826,924.47
Mole Valley	45,734,318.52
Reigate & Banstead	67,241,707.44
Runnymede	36,534,059.00
Spelthorne	42,621,728.41
Surrey Heath	42,836,092.97
Tandridge	42,424,545.82
Waverley	60,868,055.95
Woking	45,859,725.46
TOTAL	555,428,639.76

8. That the payment for each billing authority including any balances on the collection fund to be made in ten equal instalments on the dates, already agreed with billing authorities as follows:

29 April 2013	18 October 2013
24 May 2013	22 November 2013
28 June 2013	3 January 2014
2 August 2013	11 February 2014
6 September 2013	14 March 2014

9. That the Council Tax rate set above be maintained and powers be delegated to the Leader and Chief Finance Officer to finalise detailed budget proposals following receipt of the Final Local Government Finance Settlement.
10. That the County Council budget for 2013/14 be approved.
11. That the capital programme proposals be approved, specifically to:
 - fund essential schemes over the five year period, schools and non-schools, to the value of £695m including ring-fenced grants;
 - seek to secure capital receipts over the five year period to 2017/18 of £50m; and
 - make adequate provision in the revenue budget to fund the capital programme.
12. That Strategic Directors and Senior Officers be required to maintain robust budget monitoring procedures that enable Cabinet to monitor the achievement of efficiencies and service reductions through the monthly budget monitoring Cabinet reports, the quarterly Cabinet Member accountability meetings and the monthly scrutiny at the Council's Overview & Scrutiny Committee.
13. That an approved business case for all revenue invest to save proposals and capital schemes be required, before committing expenditure.
14. That the Cabinet will begin the process of reviewing the revenue budget and capital programme set out in the MTFP (2013-18) immediately after the first quarter of 2013/14.
15. That the final detailed MTFP (2013-18) will be considered and approved by Cabinet on 26 March 2013, following scrutiny by Select Committees.

Treasury management and borrowing:

16. That the Treasury Management Strategy for 2013/14 be approved and that their provisions have immediate effect. This strategy includes:
 - a. the investment strategy for short term cash balances;
 - b. the prudential indicators (Annex 1, section B, Appendix B1 to the submitted report);
 - c. the treasury management policy (Annex 1, section B, Appendix B8 to the submitted report);
 - d. the minimum revenue provision policy (Annex 1, section B, Appendix B7 to the submitted report).

6/13 MEMBERS' QUESTION TIME [Item 6]

Notice of one question has been received. The question and reply is attached as Appendix G.

Mr Frost said that since he had submitted his question, the Leader of the Council had offered to discuss his query outside the meeting and that he had taken up this offer.

7/13 STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS [Item 7]

There were no local Members statements.

8/13 REPORT OF THE CABINET [Item 8]

The Leader presented the reports of the Cabinet meetings held on 18 December 2012 and 5 February 2013.

(1) Statements / Updates from Cabinet Members

- The Cabinet Member for Change and Efficiency introduced her statement in relation to the Surrey Switch and Save Scheme which had been included in the agenda. She informed Members that 3760 residents had now signed up.
- The Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care and Health made a statement about the death of Mrs Gloria Foster, a Banstead resident. Copies of the statement were made available at the meeting and is attached as Appendix H to the minutes.

(2) Recommendations on Policy Framework Documents

A Surrey Minerals and Waste Plans – Adoption of the Aggregates Recycling Joint Development Plan Document

The Cabinet Member for Transport and Environment informed Members that the report had been considered by Cabinet at its 18 December 2012 meeting and that the Surrey Minerals and Waste Aggregates Recycling Joint Development Plan Document (incorporating the main modifications recommended by the Inspector and additional modifications and minor amendments) require formal County Council approval.

Members had an opportunity to ask questions and comment on the Plan.

Mr Beardsmore expressed concern about the ambiguity of the phasing on page 17, Annex 3 and requested a note from Legal Services after the meeting.

The recommendation was put to the vote with 44 Members voting for and 3 Members voting against the recommendation. There were 11 absentions.

Therefore it was:

RESOLVED:

That the Surrey Minerals and Waste Aggregates Recycling Joint Development Plan Document (incorporating the main modifications recommended by the Inspector and additional modifications and minor amendments) as attached as **Annex 2**, to the Cabinet (18 December 2012) report, be adopted.

(3) Reports for Information / Discussion

The following reports were received and noted:

- Children, Schools and Families Directorate Annual Report for 2011 – 2012
- Quarterly Report on Decisions taken under Special Urgency Arrangements: 1 October – 31 December 2012

RESOLVED:

That the report of the meeting of the Cabinet held on 18 December 2012 and 5 February 2013 be adopted.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned for lunch at 12.55pm and resumed at 2.15pm, with all those present who had been in attendance in the morning session except for Mr Brett-Warburton, Mr Ellwood, Ms Heath, Mrs Hicks, Mr Lake, Mrs Moseley, Mrs Nichols, Mrs Ross-Tomlin, Mr Colin Taylor and Mr Witham.

9/13 SURREY COUNTY COUNCIL AND EAST SUSSEX COUNTY COUNCIL PARTNERSHIP - SHARED SERVICES [Item 9]

This report was introduced by the Leader of the Council.

RESOLVED:

That the establishment of a partnership agreement between Surrey County Council and East Sussex County Council, under which Surrey County

Council would provide transactional support and IT hosting services to East Sussex County Council be approved.

10/13 ELECTION OF COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN AND VICE-CHAIRMEN [Item 10]

RESOLVED:

- (i) That Mrs Ross-Tomlin be appointed Vice-Chairman of Reigate and Banstead Local Committee for the remainder of the council year 2012/13.
- (ii) That Mr Pitt be appointed Vice-Chairman of Surrey Heath Local Committee for the remainder of the council year 2012/13.

11/13 CRIMINAL RECORDS CHECKS FOR MEMBERS [Item 11]

The Leader of the Council commended the report to Members and the recommendations were put to the vote, with 45 Members voting for and 1 Member voting against them. There was one abstention.

Therefore, it was:

RESOLVED:

1. That the Constitution be amended to make it clear that the following positions which are appointed by the Council will be subject to a valid enhanced criminal records check:
 - Leader of the Council
 - Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Council
 - Chairmen and Vice-Chairmen of Adult Social Care, Children and Families and Education Select Committees
2. All Members be encouraged to undertake an enhanced criminal records check as part of their role as a Corporate Parent.

12/13 MEMBER CONDUCT REPORT [Item 12]

RESOLVED:

That the two reports from the Member Conduct Panel be noted.

13/13 MINUTES OF THE MEETINGS OF CABINET [Item 13]

No notification had been received from Members wishing to raise a question or make a statement on any of the matters in the minutes, by the deadline.

[Meeting ended at: 2.25pm]

Chairman

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