

DUDLEY METROPOLITAN BOROUGH

MINUTES OF THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE COUNCIL
AT THE MEETING HELD ON MONDAY, 2ND MARCH, 2009
AT 6.00 PM AT THE COUNCIL HOUSE, DUDLEY

PRESENT:-

Councillor Burston (Mayor)
Councillor Mrs. P. Martin (Deputy Mayor)
Councillors Adams, Ali, Mrs. Ameson, Mrs. Aston, Attwood, Banks, Barlow, D. Blood, Mrs. E. Blood, Body, Ms. Boleyn, Caunt, Cotterill, Mrs. Coulter, Mrs. Cowell, Crumpton, G.H. Davies, J.D. Davies, J.R. Davies, Davis, Mrs. Dunn, Mrs. Faulkner, J. Finch, K. Finch, Foster, Greenaway, Hanif, Mrs. Harley, P. Harley, Ms. Harris, Hill, Islam, James, Jones, Mrs. Jordan, Kettle, Knowles, Lowe, J.R. Martin, Miller, Mrs. Millward, Mottram, Ms. Nicholls, Nottingham, Ms. Partridge, Perry, Mrs. Ridley, Mrs. Rogers, Ryder, Mrs. Shakespeare, Simms, Southall, Sparks, Stanley, Taylor, A. Turner, Mrs. H. Turner, K. Turner, Tyler, Vickers, Mrs. Walker, Waltho, Ms. While-Cooper, C. Wilson, Woodall and Wright, together with the Interim Chief Executive and other Officers.

PRAYERS

The Mayor's Chaplain led the Council in prayer.

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APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence from the meeting were received on behalf of Councillors Ahmed, Evans, Mrs. Roberts and Mrs. Wilson.

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DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Declarations of Personal and Prejudicial Interests, in accordance with the Members' Code of Conduct, were made by the following Members in respect of the matters indicated:

Councillor Mrs. Coulter - paragraph 14 of the report on the Revenue Budget Strategy and Setting the Council Tax at Agenda Item No. 4, in relation to the extra funding package proposed for Adult, Community and Housing Services regarding adults with learning difficulties - personal and prejudicial interest as her son receives a financial allowance from the Directorate of Adult, Community and Housing Services as a contribution towards the cost of taking her son out.

Councillor Mrs. Coulter – Appendix 1 of the report on the Revenue Budget Strategy and Setting the Council Tax at Agenda Item No. 4 in relation to the provisional budget for 2009/10 for Adult, Community and Housing Services regarding the proposed contribution to the Housing Revenue Account for Community Expenditure - Personal and Prejudicial Interest in view of Councillor Mrs. Coulter's family renting a Council garage.

Councillor J.R. Davies - all references in the report on the Revenue Budget Strategy and Setting the Council Tax at Agenda Item No. 4 in relation to the grant proposed for the Citizen's Advice Bureau - Personal Interest in view of colleagues of Councillor Davies who work for the Dudley Citizen's Advice Bureau.

Councillor Foster - any references in the Agenda Papers to the West Midlands Fire Service - Personal and Prejudicial Interest as an employee of the West Midlands Fire Service.

Councillor Ms. Harris - any references in the Agenda Papers to matters relating to Health and Social Care insofar as they related to the business of Dudley Primary Care Trust as partners, co-commissioners and co-providers of services in the Borough - Personal and Prejudicial Interest as Chair of Dudley Primary Care Trust.

Councillors G.H. Davies, Ryder and K. Turner - any references in the Agenda Papers to the West Midlands Fire Service and the West Midlands Fire Authority - Personal Interest as Members of the West Midlands Fire Authority.

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SUSPENSION OF COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULES

It was moved by Councillor Caunt, seconded by Councillor Mrs. Millward and

RESOLVED

That, under Council Procedure Rule 22.1, the time restriction of five minutes referred to in Council Procedure Rule 14.4, be suspended to enable the Cabinet Member for Finance and the Lead Spokespersons for the other political groups to speak for longer than five minutes on the report and supplementary report referred to in Minute 73 below and to enable the Cabinet Member for Finance to speak for longer than five minutes to exercise her right of reply to the debate.

REVENUE BUDGET STRATEGY AND SETTING THE COUNCIL TAX, 2009/10

(Having declared a personal and prejudicial interest regarding certain aspects of this item, Councillors Mrs Coulter, Foster and Ms Harris left the meeting room when those aspects of the report were under consideration).

A joint report of the Interim Chief Executive and Director of Finance was submitted, setting out recommendations concerning the deployment of General Fund Revenue Resources, a number of statutory calculations that had to be made by the Council and the Council Tax to be levied for the period from the 1st April, 2009 to the 31st March, 2010.

A supplementary report of the Interim Chief Executive and Director of Finance, seeking consideration of the budget for the Ethnic Minority Achievement Service for 2009/10, containing three options, and setting out the recommendation of the Cabinet thereon, was also submitted.

It was moved by Councillor Mrs. Millward, seconded by Councillor Caunt, that Option A in paragraph 13 of the Supplementary Report on the funding of the Ethnic Minority Achievement Service for 2009/10 and the recommendations in paragraphs 45 to 48 (inclusive) in the report on the Revenue Budget Strategy and Setting the Council Tax for 2009/10, be approved and adopted.

Following speeches by the Lead Opposition spokespersons, the report and supplementary report were the subject of general debate by Members.

At the conclusion of the debate, the motion moved by Councillor Mrs. Millward was put to the meeting and it was accordingly:-

RESOLVED

- (1) That Option A in paragraph 13 of the Supplementary Report be approved as the central budget for the Ethnic Minority Achievement Service for the financial year 2009/10.
- (2) That the budget requirement for 2009/10 and allocations to services be approved as follows:

Service	£m
Children's Services	63.402
Adult, Community and Housing Services	101.973
Urban Environment	54.583
Chief Executive's	11.941

Finance, ICT and Procurement	22.091
Law and Property	1.915
Total Service Allocations	255.905
Less: Area Based Grant	-21.211
Use of General Fund	-4.600
Balances	
BUDGET REQUIREMENT	230.094

(3) That the following amounts be now calculated by the Council for the year 2009/10 in accordance with Sections 32 to 36 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 (the Act):

- (a) £675.876000m being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 32(2)(a) to (e) of the Act (*The Council's Spending*)
- (b) £445.782000m being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in Sections 32(3)(a) to (c) of the Act (*The Council's income and use of reserves*)
- (c) £230.094000m being the amount by which the aggregate at (a) above exceeds the aggregate at (b) above, calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 32(4) of the Act, as its budget requirement for the year (*The Council's budget requirement*)
- (d) £121.911753m being the aggregate of the sums which the Council estimates will be payable for the year into its general fund in respect of redistributed non-domestic rates or revenue support grant [increased by the amount of the sums which the Council estimates will be transferred in the year from its collection

fund to its general fund in accordance with Section 97(3) of the Local Government Finance Act 1988] or [reduced by the amount of the sums which the Council estimates will be transferred in the year from its General Fund to its Collection Fund in accordance with Section 97(4) of the Local Government Finance Act 1988] and [increased by the amount of any relevant sum which the Council estimates will be transferred from its collection fund to its general fund pursuant to the directions under section 98(4) of the Local Government Finance Act 1988] or [reduced by the amount of any relevant sum which the Council estimates will be transferred from its general fund to its collection fund pursuant to the directions under section 98(5) of the Local Government Finance Act 1988].

(e) £1108.6515 being the amount at (c) above less the amount at (d) above i.e. £108.182247m all divided by the Council Tax base of 97580.03, calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 33(1) of the Act, as the basic amount of its council tax for the year (*The Council's basic amount of tax*)

(f) Dudley Council Tax for each Valuation Band

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
£							
739.10	862.28	985.47	1108.65	1355.02	1601.39	1847.75	2217.30

being the rounded amounts given by multiplying the amount at (e) 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 in respect of categories of dwellings listed in different bands.

(4) Precepts for each Valuation Band

That it be noted that for the year 2009/10, the major precepting authorities have issued the following amounts in precepts to the Council, in accordance with Section 40 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, for each of the categories of the dwellings shown below:

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
	£							
West Midlands Police	65.32	76.20	87.09	97.98	119.75	141.52	163.30	195.96
West Midlands Fire	31.27	36.48	41.69	46.90	57.32	67.74	78.17	93.80

- (5) That, having calculated the aggregate in each case of the amounts in Appendix 2 to the report submitted to the meeting, the Council, in accordance with Section 30(2) of the Local Government Finance Act, 1992, agrees the following levels of Council Tax for 2009/10:

Valuation Bands

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
£							
835.69	974.96	1114.25	1253.53	1532.09	1810.65	2089.22	2507.06

- (6) That the Chief Executive and Directors be authorised to take all necessary steps to implement the proposals contained in the report submitted to the meeting, in accordance with the Council's Financial Management Regime.

- (7) That the Council reminds the Chief Executive and Directors to exercise strict budgetary control in accordance with the Financial Management Regime and care and caution in managing the 2009/10 budget, particularly in the context of commitments into later years and the impact that overspending in 2009/10 will have on the availability of general balances to support spending in 2010/11 and 2011/12.
- (8) That the Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) set out in appendix 6 to the report submitted to the meeting be approved, and that 2008/09 service budgets be revised to reflect the variances set out in paragraph 11 of the MTFS.

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MR. MIKE WILLIAMS AND MR. STEVE WOODALL

This being the last meeting of the Council they would be attending in their capacities as Director of Finance and Head of Personnel and Support Services, respectively, the Mayor, Leader of the Council, Opposition Leaders and other Members, paid tribute to those officers and wished them a long and happy retirement.

The meeting ended at 8.25 p.m.

MAYOR