

DUDLEY METROPOLITAN BOROUGH

**MINUTES OF THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE COUNCIL
AT THE MEETING HELD ON MONDAY, 3RD MARCH, 2014
AT 6.00 PM AT THE COUNCIL HOUSE, DUDLEY**

PRESENT:-

Councillor A Finch (Mayor)
Councillor M Aston (Deputy Mayor)
Councillors A Ahmed, K Ahmed, Ali, Mrs Ameson, Arshad, A Aston, Attwood, Baugh, Mrs Billingham, Bills, Blood, Body, Boleyn, Branwood, Burston, Casey, Caunt, Cotterill, Cowell, Crumpton, Duckworth, Elcock, Evans, K Finch, Foster, Hale, Hanif, Harley, Harris, Hemingsley, Herbert, Hill, Islam, James, J Jones, Jordan, Kettle, Lowe, Marrey, J Martin, Miller, Ms Nicholls, Partridge, Perks, Ridney, Mrs Rogers, Russell, Mrs Shakespeare, Mrs Simms, Sparks, Sykes, Taylor, Mrs H Turner, K Turner, S Turner, Tyler, Vickers, Mrs Walker, Waltho, Mrs Westwood, C Wilson, M Wilson, Wood, Wright and Zada, together with the Chief Executive and other Officers.

PRAYERS

The Mayor's Chaplain led the Council in prayer.

57 **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence from the meeting were received on behalf of Councillors L Jones, Mrs P Martin, Mottram, Roberts and Woodall.

58 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Declarations of interests, in accordance with the Members' Code of Conduct, were made by the following Members in relation to Minute No. 61 (Revenue Budget Strategy and Setting the Council Tax 2014/15):

Councillor Wright - Any references to Midland Heart - Non-pecuniary interest as a tenant of Midland Heart.

Councillor Crumpton - All matters affecting schools - Non-pecuniary interest as a relative worked as a supply teacher.

Councillor A Aston - Any references to matters affecting West Midlands Ambulance Service (WMAS) - Pecuniary interest as an employee of WMAS.

Councillor S Turner - Any references to matters concerning Dudley College - Pecuniary interest in view of his employment as a Lecturer.

Councillor M Aston - Any references to Priory Children's Centre - Non-pecuniary interest as a Member on the Committee.

Councillor Taylor - Any references to Children's Centres - Pecuniary interest as his daughter was employed in a Children's Centre.

Councillors Evans and Caunt - Any references to Queen Victoria's Children's Centre - Non-pecuniary interests as members of the Advisory Board.

Councillor Boleyn - Any reference to the British Glass Foundation - Pecuniary interest in view of her employment as Secretary to the Trustees.

Councillor K Turner - Any reference to Day Care Places for Adults - Non-pecuniary interest as Chair of Age Concern Stourbridge.

59 MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mayor's Charity Appeal

The Mayor thanked UNISON for a donation of £500 and the Rotary Club of Halesowen and Rowley Regis for a donation of £2,000 towards the Mayor's Charity Appeal.

60 SUSPENSION OF COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULES

It was moved by Councillor Sparks, seconded by Councillor Lowe 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 Spokesperson for the main Opposition Group to speak for longer than five minutes on Minute No. 61 below and to enable the Cabinet Member for Finance to speak for longer than five minutes to exercise his right of reply to the debate.

61 REVENUE BUDGET STRATEGY AND SETTING THE COUNCIL TAX 2014/15

A joint report of the Chief Executive and the Treasurer 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 1st April, 2014 to 31st March, 2015.

It was moved by Councillor Lowe and seconded by Councillor Sparks, that the recommendations in paragraphs 84 to 92 (inclusive) in the report on the Revenue Budget Strategy and Setting the Council Tax for 2014/15, be approved and adopted.

Following the debate, Councillor Lowe was afforded and exercised his right of reply pursuant to Council Procedure Rule 14.11(b). The motion was then put to the vote and it was

RESOLVED

- (1) That the budget for 2014/15 and service allocations, as set out in the report, be approved as follows:

Service	£m
Children's Services	70.585
Adult, Community and Housing Services	102.780
Urban Environment	56.163
Corporate Resources	10.652
Chief Executive's	3.858
Total Service Budget	244.038

- (2) That the statutory amounts required to be calculated for the Council's spending, contingencies and contributions to reserves; income and use of reserves; transfers to and from its collection fund; and council tax requirement, as referred to in Section 67(2)(b) be now calculated by the Council for the year 2014/15 in accordance with Sections 31A, 31B and 34 to 36 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 as shown below:-

- (a) £692.322000m being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 31A (2) of the Act (*The Council's spending, contingencies, contribution to reserves and specified transfers from the general fund to the collection fund*).
- (b) £597.693000m being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in Sections 31A (3) of the Act (*The Council's income, use of reserves, and specified transfers from the collection fund to the general fund*).
- (c) £94.629000m being the amount by which the aggregate at (a) above exceeds the aggregate at (b) above, calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 31A(4) of the Act, as its Council Tax requirement for the year.

(d) £1125.3609 being the amount at (c) above divided by the Council Tax base of 84087.69 calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 31B (1) of the Act, as the basic amount of its Council Tax for the year.

(e) Dudley Council Tax for each Valuation Band

A £	B £	C £	D £	E £	F £	G £	H £
750.24	875.28	1000.32	1125.36	1375.44	1625.52	1875.60	2250.72

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

(f) Precepts for each Valuation Band

That it be noted for the year 2014/15, that 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	69.65	81.25	92.86	104.47	127.69	150.90	174.12	208.94
West Midlands Fire and Rescue	35.91	41.90	47.88	53.87	65.84	77.81	89.78	107.73

- (4) That, having calculated the aggregate in each case of the amounts in Appendix 9 to the report, the Council, in accordance with Section 30(2) of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, agrees the following levels of Council Tax for 2014/15:

Valuation Bands

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
855.80	998.43	1141.06	1283.70	1568.97	1854.23	2139.50	2567.39

- (5) That the 2013/14 budgets be revised to reflect the variances set out in paragraph 15 of the report.
- (6) That the Chief Executive, in consultation with the Director of Public Health and the Cabinet Member for Health and Wellbeing, be authorised to determine the allocation of the available public health grant funding for 2014/15.
- (7) That the Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS), as set out in the report, be approved.
- (8) That the Council determines that a referendum relating to Council Tax increases is not required in accordance with Chapter 4ZA of Part 1 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992.
- (9) That Cabinet Members, the Chief Executive and Directors be authorised to take all necessary steps to implement the proposals contained in the report, in accordance with the Council's Financial Management Regime.
- (10) That the Chief Executive and Directors be reminded to exercise strict budgetary control in accordance with the Financial Management Regime and care and caution in managing the 2014/15 budget, particularly in the context of commitments into later years and the impact that any overspending in 2014/15 will have on the availability of resources to meet future budgetary demands.
- (11) That the Chief Executive and Directors, in consultation with the Leader, Deputy Leader and relevant Cabinet Members be authorised to explore the areas set out in paragraph 55 of the report and report back with specific proposals to the Cabinet in July, 2014.

- (12) That the Council notes the arrangements for Local Government Pension Scheme employer contributions, as set out in paragraph 31 of the report, including the implications for the Council's budgets for 2017/18 – 2019/20; in particular, both Future Service employer contributions and Past Service Deficit contributions being stepped up over the period 2014/15 – 2016/17; the difference between stepped contributions and un-stepped contributions which would then be added to the contributions certified by the Fund actuary for the period 2017/18 to 2019/20 (ie: an additional £2.5m per annum).
- (13) That the Pay Policy Statement 2014, as set out in Appendix 11 to the report, be approved.
- (14) That the Director of Corporate Resources be authorised to make any necessary revisions to the Constitution to include the provisions of the Local Authorities (Standing Orders) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2014.

Under the provisions of the Local Authorities (Standing Orders) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2014, the voting on the above motion was recorded as follows:

For (42): Councillors A Ahmed, K Ahmed, Ali, Arshad, A Aston, M Aston, Baugh, Bills, Body, Boleyn, Branwood, Casey, Cotterill, Cowell, Crumpton, A Finch, K Finch, Foster, Hale, Hanif, Harris, Hemingsley, Herbert, Islam, Jordan, Lowe, Marrey, J Martin, Partridge, Perks, Ridley, Russell, Sparks, Sykes, Mrs H Turner, K Turner, S Turner, Tyler, Waltho, M Wilson, Wood and Zada

Against (25): Councillors Mrs Ameson, Attwood, Mrs Billingham, Blood, Burston, Caunt, Duckworth, Elcock, Evans, Harley, Hill, James, J Jones, Kettle, Miller, Ms Nicholls, Mrs Rogers, Mrs Shakespeare, Mrs Simms, Taylor, Vickers, Mrs Walker, Mrs Westwood, C Wilson and Wright

The meeting ended at 9.00 p.m.

MAYOR