

**DUDLEY METROPOLITAN BOROUGH**

**MINUTES OF THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE COUNCIL**  
**AT THE MEETING HELD ON MONDAY, 7<sup>TH</sup> MARCH, 2011**  
**AT 6.00 PM AT THE COUNCIL HOUSE, DUDLEY**

**PRESENT:-**

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

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**DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Declarations of personal interests, in accordance with the Members' Code of Conduct, were made by the following Members in respect of Minute No. 68 below as follows:

Councillor Mrs Faulkner - as an appointed Governor - Dudley Group of Hospitals Foundation Trust.

Councillor Knowles - in view a relative being an employee of Dudley Performing Arts.

Councillor Ms Harris - as a Governor of Hawbush Primary School.

Councillor J Woodall - as a Member of the Friends of Leasowes Park.

Councillor Crumpton – as a relative was employed as a supply teacher in the Borough.

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MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENT

The Mayor reported on the death of former Councillor Arthur Fisher, who had been an elected representative in the Wordsley and Stourbridge areas. The Council observed a period of silence as a token of respect to his memory.

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SUSPENSION OF COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULES

It was moved by Councillor Mrs. Millward, seconded by Councillor L Jones 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 Opposition Group to speak for longer than five minutes on Minute No. 68 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.

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REVENUE BUDGET STRATEGY AND SETTING THE COUNCIL TAX 2011/12

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 the 1<sup>st</sup> April, 2011 to 31<sup>st</sup> March, 2012.

It was moved by Councillor D Blood and seconded by Councillor L Jones, that the recommendations in paragraphs 47 to 50 (inclusive) in the report on the Revenue Budget Strategy and Setting the Council Tax for 2011/12, be approved and adopted.

In his presentation, Councillor D Blood reported that a further petition concerning Prospects/Connexions had been submitted to the Petitions Officer, which was received and noted as part of the Council's deliberations on the budget strategy.

Following the speech by the Lead Spokesperson for the Opposition Group (Councillor Lowe), the meeting was adjourned at 6.50 p.m. in view of general disruption from the public gallery. The meeting recommenced at 7.35 p.m. whereupon the report was the subject of general debate by Members.

At the conclusion of speeches by individual Members, a closure motion pursuant to Council Procedure Rule 14.11(a)(i) was moved by Councillor Caunt and duly seconded. The Mayor, being of the opinion that the original motion had been sufficiently discussed, put the closure motion to the meeting and it was

RESOLVED

That the question be now put.

Pursuant to Council Procedure Rule 14.11(b), Councillor D Blood was afforded and exercised his right of reply to the debate. The original motion was thereupon put to the vote and it was

RESOLVED

- (1) That the budget requirement for 2011/12 and allocations to services be approved as follows:

<b>Service</b>	<b>£m</b>
Children's Services	61.058
Adult, Community and Housing Services	92.540
Urban Environment	54.244
Corporate Resources	29.070
Chief Executive's	4.610
<b>Total Service Allocations</b>	<b>241.522</b>
Less: Council Tax Freeze Grant	-2.766
<b>BUDGET REQUIREMENT</b>	<b>238.756</b>

- (2) That the following amounts be now calculated by the Council for the year 2011/12 in accordance with Sections 32 to 36 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 (the Act):

- (a) £712.045000m 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 and contribution to reserves*)
- (b) £473.289000m 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) £238.756000m 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) £128.114901m 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) £1125.3854 being the amount at (c) above less the amount at (d) above i.e. £110.641099m all divided by the Council Tax base of 98313.96, 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

<b>A</b>	<b>B</b>	<b>C</b>	<b>D</b>	<b>E</b>	<b>F</b>	<b>G</b>	<b>H</b>
<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
750.26	875.30	1000.34	1125.39	1375.47	1625.56	1875.64	2250.77

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.

(g) Precepts for each Valuation Band

That it be noted that for the year 2011/12, 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:

	<b>A</b>	<b>B</b>	<b>C</b>	<b>D</b>	<b>E</b>	<b>F</b>	<b>G</b>	<b>H</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
West Midlands Police	66.30	77.35	88.40	99.45	121.54	143.64	165.74	198.89
West Midlands Fire & Rescue	31.89	37.20	42.52	47.83	58.46	69.09	79.72	95.66

- (3) 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 2011/12:

Valuation Bands

<b>A</b>	<b>B</b>	<b>C</b>	<b>D</b>	<b>E</b>	<b>F</b>	<b>G</b>	<b>H</b>
<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
848.45	989.85	1131.26	1272.67	1555.47	1838.29	2121.10	2545.32

- (4) That the Cabinet, 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.
- (5) 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 2011/12 budget, particularly in the context of commitments into later years and the impact that overspending in 2011/12 will have on the availability of resources to meet future budgetary demands.
- (6) That the Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) set out as Attachment A to the report submitted to the meeting be approved, including the revised budget for 2010/11 summarised in paragraph 18 of the Council's Medium Term Financial Strategy.

Pursuant to Council Procedure Rule 16.4, at the demand of in excess of six members present at the meeting, the voting on the above resolution was recorded as follows:

For the resolution (42)

Councillors Adams, Mrs Ameson, Attwood, Banks, Barlow, D Blood, Mrs E Blood, Burston, Caunt, Mrs Cowell, J D Davies, Mrs Dunn, Evans, Mrs Faulkner, Mrs Greenaway, Mrs D Harley, P Harley, Hill, James, J Jones, L Jones, Kettle, Knowles, Mrs P Martin, Mrs Millward, Ms Nicholls, Mrs Rogers, Ryder, Mrs Shakespeare, Simms, Southall, Stanley, Taylor, A Turner, Mrs H Turner, K Turner, Vickers, Mrs Walker, Mrs Westwood, J Woodall, P Woodall and Wright.

Against the resolution (21)

Councillors Ahmed, Ali, Mrs Aston, Body, Cotterill, G H Davies, A J Finch, K Finch, Hanif, Ms Harris, Islam, Mrs Jordan, Lowe, J R Martin, Mottram, Ms Partridge, Mrs Ridley, Mrs Roberts, Sparks, Tyler and Waltho.

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The meeting ended at 9.10 p.m.

MAYOR