

DUDLEY METROPOLITAN BOROUGH

MINUTES OF THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE COUNCIL
AT THE MEETING HELD ON MONDAY, 4TH MARCH, 2013
AT 6.00 PM AT THE COUNCIL HOUSE, DUDLEY

PRESENT:-

Councillor Mottram (Mayor)
Councillor A Finch (Deputy Mayor)
Councillors A Ahmed, K Ahmed, Ali, Mrs Ameson, Arshad, A Aston, M Aston, Attwood, Mrs Billingham, Bills, Blood, Body, Boleyn, Branwood, Burston, Casey, Caunt, Cowell, Crumpton, Davies, Duckworth, Elcock, Evans, K Finch, Foster, Hale, Hanif, Harley, Harris, Hemingsley, Herbert, Hill, James, J Jones, Jordan, Lowe, Marrey, J Martin, Mrs P Martin, Miller, Ms Nicholls, Partridge, Perks, Ridney, Roberts, Mrs Rogers, Russell, 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.

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APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence from the meeting were received on behalf of Councillors Cotterill, Islam, L Jones, Kettle, Shakespeare and Woodall.

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DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Declarations of interests, in accordance with the Members' Code of Conduct, were made by the following Members in respect of Minute No. 77 below:

Councillor Wright - 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 Boleyn – References to British Glass Foundation - Pecuniary Interest as Secretary to the Trustees.

Councillor Hill – Budget issues impacting on Adult Social Care – Non-pecuniary interest as family members were employed by the service.

Councillor Evans – Any references to Queen Victoria’s Children’s Centre – Non-pecuniary interest as a member of the advisory board.

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MAYOR’S ANNOUNCEMENTS

(a) Mayor’s Charity Indoor Cricket Tournament

The Mayor thanked all those who had participated in the indoor cricket event held on 2nd March, 2013. Approximately £300 had been raised for the Mayor’s Charity Fund.

(b) Mayor’s Attendant - Coast to Coast Challenge in Costa Rica

The Mayor asked that any outstanding sponsorship monies or additional donations be submitted to his Attendant, Mike Crannage. The T-shirt raffle draw would be held shortly.

(c) Mayor’s Ball

The Mayor reported that tickets for the Mayor’s Ball on 22nd March, 2013 were available from the Mayor’s Secretary.

(d) Charity Tandem Ride

The Mayor reported that he, along with the Deputy Mayor, would be undertaking a Charity tandem bike ride from Dudley to Halesowen on a date to be arranged.

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SUSPENSION OF COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULES

It was moved by Councillor Sparks, seconded by Councillor Ali 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. 77 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.

REVENUE BUDGET STRATEGY AND SETTING THE COUNCIL TAX 2013/14

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, 2013 to 31st March, 2014.

It was moved by Councillor Lowe and seconded by Councillor Ali, that the recommendations in paragraphs 67 to 70 (inclusive) in the report on the Revenue Budget Strategy and Setting the Council Tax for 2013/14, 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 put to the vote and it was

RESOLVED

- (1) That the budget for 2013/14 and service allocations, as set out in the report now submitted, be approved as follows:

Service	£m
Children's Services	68.458
Adult, Community and Housing Services	103.487
Urban Environment	56.213
Corporate Resources	15.618
Chief Executive's	3.849
Total Service Budget	247.625

- (2) That the Council Tax Freeze Grant be accepted for 2013/14.

- (3) 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 2013/14 in accordance with Sections 31A, 31B and 34 to 36 of the Local Government and Finance Act 1992 as shown below:-

- (a) £733.233000m 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) £640.414000m 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) £92.819000m 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) £1125.3737 being the amount at (c) above divided by the Council Tax base of 82478.38, 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
£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
750.25	875.29	1000.33	1125.37	1375.46	1625.54	1875.62	2250.75

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 2013/14, 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	68.29	79.67	91.05	102.43	125.19	147.95	170.72	204.86
West Midlands Fire and Rescue	35.21	41.08	46.95	52.82	64.55	76.29	88.03	105.63

- (4) That, having calculated the aggregate in each case of the amounts in Appendix 8 to the report now submitted, the Council, in accordance with Section 30(2) of the Local Government Finance Act, 1992, agrees the following levels of Council Tax for 2013/14:

Valuation Bands

A £	B £	C £	D £	E £	F £	G £	H £
853.75	996.04	1138.33	1280.62	1565.20	1849.78	2134.37	2561.24

- (5) That 2012/13 budgets be revised to reflect the variances set out in paragraph 8 of the report now submitted.
- (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 allocation of the available public health grant funding for 2013/14.
- (7) That the 20% discretionary rates relief currently awarded by the Council to Voluntary Aided (VA) schools be removed from 2014/15.
- (8) That the Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS), as set out in the report now submitted, be approved.

- (9) 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.
- (10) That Cabinet Members, the Chief Executive and Directors be authorised to take all necessary steps to implement the proposals contained in the report now submitted, in accordance with the Council's Financial Management Regime.
- (11) 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 2013/14 budget, particularly in the context of commitments into later years and the impact that any overspending in 2013/14 will have on the availability of resources to meet future budgetary demands.

The meeting ended at 9.15 p.m.

MAYOR